



TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Department of Solid Waste Conference Room

Minutes of the Meeting - July 24, 2019

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the Department of Solid Waste (SW) Conference Room, 2:00 pm on Wednesday, July 24, 2019. Members present were Bart Diebold, Earl Gloster, Deb Bush, Willie Joseph, Bob Turner, Andy Butterfield, Bill Pickrum, Tracy Meehan, Michael Gordon, Ray Boler, Scott Witt and Tom Nicholls. Pinellas County employee attendees were Paul Sacco, Linda Larkins, Brendan Mackesey, County Attorney. Also in attendance was Deanna Doss with Pinellas Partners in Recycling. Members absent without an alternate: Dean Scharmen. Deann Baker, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order: Earl Gloster, Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Citizens to be heard: None present.

Minutes: Mr. Gloster entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Ray Boler and seconded by Tracy Meehan to accept the TMC Minutes as written. Motion approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Earl Gloster introduced the newest TMC member, Andy Butterfield from the City of St. Petersburg Beach.

Operations Report: Deb Bush, SW Division Manager

- Deb gave the Operations report for the months of May and June.
- System performance in May was 97,886.33 tons added to the system, sending 77,202.72 to the plant. The 12 month capacity average is increasing again, up to 96.2% in June.
- The enhanced metals project began on May 30th. To date a total of 15,222.96 tons of ash has been delivered to this pilot operation. A total of 116 tons of nonferrous and of 22.11 tons of ferrous metals have been recovered from this operation and sent offsite for marketing.
- TRP project planning continues for preparation of the Fall outage scheduled to start October 23.
- The tire processing area continues to receive 30-60 tons per day. To keep up with the volume, whole tires are transferred directly to the WTE facility combined with the shredded tires. An inventory of shredded tires are currently stock piled on site during hurricane season.
- The NPDES permit renewal application has been submitted as well as the response to RAI #1. The FDEP provided extension of the consent order to allow additional site modifications, building another clarifier to expand management of site water. They have also indicated their intent to renew the permit.
- Our department is evaluating an opportunity to enter into a licensing agreement with Recycle Across America for standardized label artwork for recycling and garbage collection containers. The agreement will allow the municipalities to use the template and print the labels, as well as add their own logo.

- The FDEP released their summary of the 2018 Solid Waste Management Report data for all counties. For overall recycling rate, Charlotte and Lee County tied at 77%. Pinellas is tied with Alachua for second place at 70%. Pinellas County is still “top in the state of Florida for recycling for the last four years.” Links to the 2018 Solid Waste Data Summary webpage, the overall recycling rate report and the traditional recycling rate report were provided in the OPS report. Bill Pickrum asked if the links for the recycling would go down to the City level vs. the State level so we can see how each municipality is doing. Paul stated that if he’s not able to ascertain what he needs, Stephanie Watson would be able to break the data down further for him. Noted was that 2 of the top counties, Charlotte and Alachua don’t have WTE facilities
- Solid Waste has prepared a communication plan for tipping fee increases. Our Marketing and Communications department will be reaching out to municipal Public Information Officers to ensure that the message presented to the public is consistent. Paul Sacco added that when this is finalized with Marketing and Communications, Solid Waste will be working with all of the cities PIO’s, to provide them with the correct information.

Financial Report: Linda Larkins, Pinellas County OMB

- Linda Larkins reviewed the Financial Report of revenues and expenditures for October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.
- Electric and capacity revenue reporting is always one month in arrears from Duke.
- Recovered metals is running more than was budgeted. Difficult to estimate at budget time.
- Interest is doing considerably better than budgeted, due to budgeting interest earnings at a conservative rate.
- Other revenue is hurricane reimbursement which we will likely see in FY20.
- \$102,000 for red tide reimbursement will be realized in FY19.
- Plant and landfill management is running favorable due to the timing of the Clerks posting of the Covanta invoices.

FY20 Schedule of User Fees: Deb Bush

- Deb discussed surcharges for additional handling and how they were previously handled, referred to in the code as “special” handling. There are two waste surcharges. One fee is a pass thru to the contractor, such as requiring the digging of a hole and covering immediately due to an Operational issue such as odor. That fee is \$100. The second fee is if there was something extra that Solid Waste had to do, such as inspections or throwing items directly into the pit. I.e.; evidence or special records. We had moved away from doing this, but we’re now trying to manage the waste better, ensuring that what we’re taking in we handle according to our permit, requirements and Operational plan. There will now be a fee based on calculating the research for additional handling, I.e.; an industrial load which requires a TCLP, ensuring that there’s not hazardous waste and can be accepted. The business that has the load will have to submit information regarding the material and then Solid Waste will have to review it and determine how the waste will be handled. This fee will be \$110. Another example would be fish loads from seafood processors. A hole would need to be dug, then an escort would take the load to the landfill. So, the \$100 to dig the hole would apply and an additional fee of \$110 would also be accessed. Grease loads which need to go directly to the plant would be another example of the additional \$110 fee. An example affecting St. Pete would be the barrels. They can’t go straight to the plant because of the size, so they’ve got to be landfilled. Ray Boler spoke about “dirty” dirt, meaning that it has extra branches, brush and stumps that was coming from their yard. Each load would not need to be tested, a sample from the stockpile at his yard, to ensure the material would pass TCLP would be required before he begins hauling the material.

- There was an “Out of County” surcharge which previously dropped off the user fee list. This will need to be added back in. It was termed as an Out of County tipping fee, however the Code refers to a surcharge, which would be added on to our regular tipping fee. Linda will check to see if the window is still open to make modifications to the schedule prior to this going to the Board. Linda and Deb will work together on this.

Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update: Deanna Doss, PPR Chair

PPR met on July 10th. Each of the three subcommittees formed after the recycling workshop are very active. All subcommittees will be reporting back at the next PPR meeting. A new subcommittee was formed to address the concerns of items that are smaller than a fist which make their way into the recycling stream, contributing to the contamination level. This team will define the terms so that the municipalities will be on the same page with the verbiage moving forward.

Master Plan Update: Deb Bush

The Master Plan draft was received on July 23. There were 70 various strategies at the high level. An implementation plan will need to be documented and the sustainable return on investment plan created, social, economic and environmental impact. Deb will present to the TMC at our next meeting on September 25. The Solid Waste presentation will be given to the Mayor’s Council in November.

- Master Plan updates, schedules and completed documents can be found here:
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/masterplan>

Additional Items:

- Paul discussed the consent order and the NPDES permit. Maintaining the surface water and leachate water onsite and making sure we’re in compliance is important to Solid Waste. The permit was to expire end of year, but working with the FDEP, they decided to extend the permit for another 3 years. They will be monitoring our improvements to the Industrial Water Treatment Facility. In the consent order there are 2 conditions in the permit that are conflicting. One states that we should be discharging water, and the other is that we need to be maintaining the inward gradient water on site. The more we hold the water on site, it applies more hydraulic pressure down, pushing the water towards the slurry wall. We’ve tried to keep the water on site, but due to the heavy rains during the winter months, it was necessary to release some of the water. The FDEP is not as concerned about us discharging, based on the type water we have, but more so with the inward gradient water within the site. We now have clear direction. There may be times where we’ve got to discharge water, but we will do so according to the permit.
- Duke asked us to go back to the table for the Power Purchase Agreement last month. They discussed the 20, 25 or 30 year type of blended extension and going with a 10 year extension instead. That would do nothing for us, as we would still be looking at the present value of money. They did make a change to the discount rate which would be favorable to us. If we can get them to change this even more, then it would put us closer to what we’re asking for in our negotiations. Some items we’re requesting statutorily, Duke Energy’s hands are tied due to the Utilities Commission. If we can get a Corporate change to their discount rate and how they factor in affordable costs for capacity payments, then things will align better. There were changes made by Duke to the Excel spreadsheet regarding the capacity payments that look as though they could have made a mistake. Paul has questioned them and thinks that if this is not a mistake, they may be willing to move. Every year, each company must turn in a 10 year plan with the Commission on their entire utility. Part of the plan talks about renewable energy which Solid Waste falls under as a Waste to Energy facility. We made formal comments through the County Administrator right to the Utilities Commission and a copy was sent to Duke. Feedback was received from Duke, so the pressure is on.

- At the SWANA meeting, Paul requested that Covanta pull together energy providers. Our hope is that every county in the state of Florida that has a Waste to Energy facility will convene on Monday, 7/29 to discuss some of these items. There's still an activist movement to deregulate electrical power in the state of Florida. This would be great for Pinellas County. If we're able to sell Solid Waste power to other county facilities, it would offset anything we would get from the capacity payments.
- Currently, we're pursuing renewable energy credits. We have renewable energy credits that belong to Pinellas County since we have a Waste to Energy facility. The state of Florida isn't big in the renewable energy credit market. However, think of it as mitigation credits that can be sold on the energy side. There needs to be some sort of accreditation or certification to be able to sell on the open market. In Florida they could be worth .30 to .50 a credit per MWh generated. It would cost approximately \$2,500 – \$5,000 to obtain permitting.
- Deb spoke about the recycling workshop held last year. There was a contract transparency committee formed by collectors, processors & municipalities. Deb stressed the importance of Solid Waste talking to anyone that is renewing their contracts for collection and processing of solid waste and recyclables. Recently Solid Waste spoke to N. Redington Beach, as their contract was expiring. There are some new companies trying to get into the business of collecting recyclables for free and then bringing them here to the Waste to Energy facility to be burned. This is recovery and not recycling. The Master Plan indicates that if we don't do anything differently, the **Waste to Energy Facility** will be at capacity by 2026. Deb spoke to the Public Works Director with the City of St. Pete Beach this morning, as they're going out for RFP for their recyclables. He asked her if there was an Ordinance that would prohibit bringing recyclables to the Waste to Energy facility. It's a way for these collectors to get into the market. Paul said that we would be drafting a letter to the City Managers regarding these new haulers wanting to bring their recyclables to the WTE facility.
- Andy Butterfield of St. Pete Beach stated that their contract is up and out for bid. He questioned what happens to the recyclables after leaving the beach. Deb replied that if it's collected as a recyclable material, then they should be processing it as recyclable material at a permitted Material Recovery Facility. That clarifies it better. In our contract, it is written that they look at the present market value. There's a shared risk and reward with this.
- Mike Gordon with the City of Largo is still negotiating for their recycling contract and is continuing to go month to month.
- Brendan thanked Paul and Deb for taking Joe Morrissey and himself to tour the Material Recovery Facility in YBOR city. Bob Turner toured the Sarasota MRF, where they're currently implementing robots for sorting.
- Jimmy Walker will be retiring October 2019.

Adjournment:

Ray Boler made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mike Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 3:01 pm.

The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2019.
Respectfully submitted, Deann Baker, Recording TMC Secretary