



TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Solid Waste Operations Conference Room

Minutes of the Meeting – August 28, 2008

Special Meeting – Curbside Recycling

The *Special Meeting* of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the Department of Solid Waste Operations Conference Room at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 28, 2008. Members and Alternates present were, Earl Gloster, Shari Rheuble, Ben Shirley, Mike Connors, Michael Gordon, Diana Hugg, Bill Pickrum, James Walker, Bob Cyr, Allen Godfrey, Calvin Warren and Mike Sweet. Assisting with conduct of the meeting was Bob Hauser, SWO Director, Don Crowell, County Attorney and Judy Lund, Administrative Coordinator and Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Chairman Jimmy Walker called the Special Meeting to order at 2:04 pm. Jimmy welcomed everyone to the TMC and thanked them for their participation.

Announcements: Jimmy Walker announced the recent passing of Bennie Boyd, TMC member representing the City of Largo. Michael Gordon reported that the viewing would be Friday. Jimmy asked that SWO staff prepare a plaque for Bennie Boyd for his many years of service. He will be sadly missed by all.

Opening Remarks: Jimmy noted that while he was away on vacation, he was voted the new TMC Chairman. He thanked everyone for their confidence. The Chairman stated that he would like to publicly thank Bob Brumback for his many years of service on the TMC. He also thanked Don Ross, City of Dunedin, for his many years of service to the TMC. Jimmy then asked everyone to introduce themselves, since there are so many new faces in attendance.

Curbside Recycling Presentation – Bob Hauser

Bob Hauser reported that at the June TMC meeting, Robin Mitchell, Kessler Consulting, presented the proposed “*Draft*” Curbside Recycling Plan for the unincorporated County. At that time, the TMC requested a Special Meeting so that the presentation for the BCC could be reviewed by the TMC. The BCC Workshop, where the proposed plan will be presented, is scheduled for September 9th, 2008 at 9:30 am. What we are presenting today is the same presentation that will be shown to the BCC.

Bob noted that there have been a few changes and that as he proceeds through the slides; he will bring them to the TMC’s attention. All the TMC members had been provided copies of the Curbside Recycling Plan.

In the presentation overview, we will be covering existing curbside recycling in Pinellas County, curbside recycling in other Florida jurisdictions, and the proposed Pinellas County program. Of the

ten most densely populated counties in Florida, only Pinellas County lacks comprehensive curbside recycling. More than 70% of residents in unincorporated Pinellas County do not subscribe to curbside recycling. Twenty-one of the twenty-four municipalities have curbside recycling, which is approximately 60% of the residents. The average collection cost is \$2.38/HH/month. Bob reviewed various tables including material recovery, collection costs, material recovery rates and recovered material revenue. The important thing to note here is that for those who have curbside collection, the average per household per month is 327 pounds and for those with drop-off collection, it's 53 pounds. There is a significant difference in the amounts of recyclable materials that is collected.

The proposed program element for the unincorporated County program is that we will be issuing an RFP for curbside recycling, assuming we get BCC approval. We are targeting four or fewer units per dwelling as the customers referred to as "single family" households. We will be looking at fiber and a full range of co-mingled containers, weekly dual-stream collection and two curbside collection districts. As we move further along into the program and collect more information, some of this information may change; for example, if a number of cities choose to join with the County, there will be more customers and we may look at more districts. We will also be talking with some of the processors of the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) facilities and pin down specifically what fiber, co-mingled containers we will collect.

In terms of the municipal participation options, cities that currently have their own curbside recycling programs can continue to manage their own recycling programs. The County is proposing to reimburse the "net cost" of that program, which is the collection costs less revenue, up to an amount equal to the County contract rate. Participating cities' programs will have certain minimum criteria to meet. Their program does not necessarily have to be the same as the County's program.

One of changes that is reflected in this plan, since the last presentation, is that previously we were looking at reimbursing a flat monthly household cost. Based upon discussions with the County Attorney's office and in order to make the proposed plan work, it has to be reimbursed at a "net cost."

Once the program is approved, the County will meet with local and regional contractors/vendors to determine capabilities and to evaluate a separate processing contract. One of the reasons we are looking at dual-stream is that all of the "MRF" facilities in this area are dual-stream.

The estimated net program costs countywide are about \$5 - \$7.3 million dollars. The program benefits include simplified and expanded programs for residents, a more efficient public outreach and education program, payment for net curbside recycling collection costs and an avoided tip fee. The environmental benefits is a clear demonstration of the environmental benefits associated with recycling, the conservation of natural resources, reduction in water & air pollution, reduced energy use and emission of greenhouse gases and conserving landfill space.

Summary:

Pinellas County residents have requested curbside recycling; it enhances the County's "green" designation, increases recycling and conserves disposal capacity, and it also supports the Board of County Commission's Strategic Plan. The BCC has directed Solid Waste staff to develop a program to bring back to them for approval.

BCC Action:

After the BCC Workshop on September 9th, we will be going back to the Board for approval of ordinances in support of the program, which is primarily one of the key elements of the plan. As we move along, we will provide Interlocal Agreements with the cities who participate and approval of the program funding.

Recommendation:

Solid Waste staff will be recommending to the BCC that they direct SWO to implement the proposed countywide Curbside Recycling Program.

Bob Hauser responded to questions regarding the presentation. Jimmy Walker then asked for proponents of the proposal to speak – there were none. He then asked for those opposing the proposed plan to speak. Mike Connors commented regarding the program and asked questions regarding the County’s Strategic Plan; to which Bob Hauser responded. As discussions ensued, it was determined that there never was an Interlocal Agreement between the Cities regarding the establishment of the County facilities. Jimmy Walker reported that the City of Pinellas Park is an advocate of recycling, but mirroring St. Petersburg concerns. He stated that he does not feel that the proposal is equitable and suggested that another plan, to share the Solid Waste Enterprise fund balance equitably, be considered. Jimmy stated that their other concern is – is this just another way to spend ten million dollars? The City of Pinellas Park will continue to request that the County use the fund balance more equitably. Lisa Ledoux reported that the fund balance will drop to about \$70 million next year *after* the present construction projects are completed. Jimmy Walker asked that at each TMC meeting the fund balance continue to be stated.

Jimmy Walked announced that the TMC Recycling Subcommittee voted at their meeting to approve the proposed curbside recycling plan at a vote of 12 – 1.

Bob Cyr made a motion to approve the proposed Curbside Recycling Plan. Don Sopak seconded the motion. The Chairman asked the TMC Secretary to take a roll call vote. The vote was 8 yes votes, 3 no’s, 1 absent, 1 abstention.

The following TMC members voted to approve the program; Earl Gloster – City of Clearwater, Michael Gordon – City of Largo, Diana Hugg – City of Tarpon Springs, Bill Pickrum – City of Dunedin, Robert Cyr – Group “A” Cities, Allen Godfrey – Group “B” Cities, Calvin Warren – Group “C” Cities, Mike Sweet – Pinellas County.

The following TMC members voted against the program; James Walker – City of Pinellas Park, Ben Shirley – City of St. Petersburg, and Mike Connors – City of St. Petersburg.

The following TMC member was absent; Jeremy Hockenbury – City of St. Pete Beach, and the following TMC member abstained – Shari Rheuble – Independent Haulers

Additional Items for Discussion:

- Mike Connors thanked the staff, especially Bob Hauser, for putting up with a different view point, and for taking the time to answer dozens of questions in regards to the Kessler report. The City of

St. Petersburg will vehemently pursue changing the County's thoughts on this plan and will exercise their right to do so in the Commission chambers.

- The Chairman thanked Solid Waste staff for all the work that went into the process.
- Bob Hauser reported that the turbine generator rotor is in Miami being refurbished, the rotor for the turbine is in Chicago and then off to Houston and the stator is sitting on a rail car at the corner of 82nd Avenue & 62nd Street in Pinellas Park.
- Bob Hauser thanked everyone for the cooperation during Tropical Storm Fay. Monday was one of the busiest days at the plant; everyone in Pinellas County cleaned up.

A motion was made by Mike Sweet and seconded by Diana Hugg to adjourn the TMC Meeting.

Adjournment – Chair Jimmy Walker The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th, 2008 @ 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Lund, TMC Secretary

Utlsw06/2008TMCSpecial Curbside Recycling Minutes.doc