



# **TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

## **Solid Waste Operations Conference Room**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**June 23, 2004**

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee was held at the Department of Solid Waste Operations Conference Room at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 23, 2004, with the following persons in attendance:

#### **TMC Committee Attendance:**

City of Clearwater	Robert Brumback
City of Dunedin	Tom Percival
City Group A	<del>Bob Cyr</del>
City Group B	<del>Allen Godfrey</del>
City Group C	<del>Richard Raus</del>
City of Largo	Bennie Boyd
City of Pinellas Park	James Walker
City of St. Pete Beach	Connie Kest
City of St. Petersburg	Chuck Schauer
City of St. Petersburg	Steven Smith
City of Tarpon Springs	Tonya Wise
Private Sector	<del>Sandy Sanders</del>
Pinellas County	Mike Sweet

#### **Also Present:**

PCU Finance	Lisa Ledoux
PCU Finance	Melanie Ventimeglia
Solid Waste Operations	Warren Smith
Solid Waste Operations	Judy Lund
Utilities Customer Service	Tim Wiley
Pinellas County Attorney	Don Crowell
Solid Waste Recycling	Jennifer Caldwell
Solid Waste Operations	Bob Hauser
Solid Waste Operations	Brian Armstrong
HDR	Bill Embree
Solid Waste Operations	Sam Parker
Solid Waste Operations	Kelsi Oswald
Grady Pridgen, Inc.	Grady Pridgen/Steve Kurcan

**Call to Order/Opening Remarks** - Chairman Bob Brumback called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Bob welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Steve Kurcan representing the Tarpon Ridge Development, who would be giving a presentation later in the meeting with Mr. Grady Pridgen.

Bob asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting, and in addition to the minutes of the finance sub-committee. James Walker noted that Bob Cyr's name was noted incorrectly.

*The minutes were approved and accepted as written with the correction noted.*

### **Finance Sub-Committee Report – Steven Smith**

Steve stated that the Finance Sub-committee met after the TMC meeting last month. We discussed the budget and Bob Brumback made the motion that the tipping fee remain the same for next year, seconded by James Walker and unanimously approved. Steve recommend, as the Chairman of the Finance Committee, that the TMC confirm that recommendation and request that Bob inform the County Administrator of the TMC's recommendation that the tipping fee remain at \$37.50 per ton.

Bob Brumback read the minutes of the sub-committee meeting into the record and then asked for any comments. Chuck Schauer contended that historically Solid Waste understates revenues and overstates expenditures resulting in several million dollars over budget. Chuck suggested that we lower our rates into the \$30.00 per ton range. He stated that his position is to cut the rate. Lisa Ledoux stated that the reason that is important for the rate to remain at \$37.50 for this next fiscal year is we still have bond covenants that we have to meet and with the budget as we have prepared it, our debt service coverage is only at 1.18. We are not allowed to get below a 1.10 coverage ratio in order for our rating agencies to state that we are fiscally sound.

After some discussion, Warren stated that Bob Hauser is working with Camp, Dresser & McKee, our procurement contract consultant, to look at the financial requirements of a system like ours moving forward, so we can substantively answer these questions in the future. There are a lot of key issues that need to be considered in lowering the tipping fee.

*A motion was made for the tipping fee of \$37.50 to remain the same for the next year with Chuck Schauer, City of St. Petersburg, dissenting.*

### **Operations Report – Bob Hauser**

Bob reported that over 42,000 megawatts were generated in May and boiler availability was 97%. There was only one diversion. The Class III expansion excavation should be completed by mid-June. We have begun hauling dirt from the Sod Farm to the Toytown Landfill for restoration and storm water improvements. We are discussing with the City

of St. Petersburg the possibility to use some of the dredging material from Lake Maggiore in that effort. We received over 89,000 tons of waste in May, 79,000 tons were processed at the WTE plant and approximately 10,000 tons were landfilled.

Bob stated that the HEC<sub>3</sub> collection center received 825 participants in May. Three mobile collections were held during May in Oldsmar, Indian Rocks Beach, and Treasure Island. The events had a total of 804 participants. We have completed all of the mobile collections for Spring, 2004 and the next mobile collection will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Largo Solid Waste Facility.

Bob noted some other recent activities. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is finalizing our permit for the Bridgeway Acres Landfill. We submitted our renewal for the Toytown Landfill long-term care permit in May. We have had some problem with the scales and are presently reviewing the condition of our scales, which are over twenty years old.

Bob reported that at the WTE plant we have had some problems with the control system which injects urea to control nitrogen oxides emissions and that there have been an on-going discussion with Wheelabrator on this issue. We continue to be involved in reviewing the request for construction of residential units within 2,000 feet of the landfill.

Bob reported we have issued an RFQ for the Landfill Engineer of Record contract. We have received proposals and are presently going through the review process. In addition, we have an RFP for Collection and Recycling assistance being advertised with proposals due next week. We have asked CDM to undertake a financial study to update previous work presented to the TMC. In terms of capital improvements, the new landfill contractor's building and truck wash facility should be going out for bid in a couple of weeks. We are finalizing the design of a new maintenance and storage building that will be constructed in the same area. The new hand unload area had to be moved further to the east because of foundation problems due to old trash being buried there. The WTE procurement process is continuing; a detailed schedule has been completed and a presentation to the Oversight Committee will be made in July.

### **Tarpon Ridge Update – Grady Pridgen/Steve Kurcan**

Grady Pridgen and Steve Kurcan presented to the TMC the latest site plan for the commercial/residential/industrial development planned for the property next to the Sod Farm property. After their presentation there was a Question and Answer period.

Warren reported that the Tarpon Ridge Development is continuing with the application for a variance, the first hearing under the new ordinance is scheduled for the Board of Adjustment on June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00 a.m. in the BCC Assembly Room. The BCC will be reviewing the variance request on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **Recycling Update – Jennifer Caldwell**

Jennifer reported that the business/commercial recycling program is going well and Marie will be giving quarterly reports to the SWO supervisors and summarizing results at the next TMC meeting.

Jennifer reported that the Schools Assistance workgroup met and selected Jack Golden to be the educational outreach entertainer for schools. For the past few years we have had the Magic of Recycling program. There was interest in changing to a different performer this year. The "Garbage is my Bag" show was selected and we're looking at Ruth Eckerd Hall as the central location for a student's field trip along with some in-school shows. The Solid Choices curriculum is scheduled for distribution to Middle Schools this year (K-5 was distributed last year). The Public Outreach Workgroup is confirming plans to hold the Pinellas Recycles Day event on October 23rd in conjunction with the annual Country Jubilee Festival.

Other initiatives are the Monofilament Recovery & Recycling program established through the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. We have been trying to establish new sites around the County, and Old Salt, which is a non-profit fishing organization, may be interested in helping locate sites. In the meantime, we have provided updated information to FWCC on the existing sites. A Gift for Teaching has approached us for some support for opening their reuse facility that will capture items from businesses for donation to schools. They have asked us to come and tour their facility on July 8th. Anyone here is invited to go. The Nike Reuse-a-Shoe program is still in the planning stage. Marie has developed an extensive list of potential participants. It will be a voluntary type of arrangement in collecting the shoes. You will hear more on that when we get through the process here.

Don Crowell commented on the Interlocal Recycling Agreement, to implement a revenue sharing structure of tipping fee funds related to recycling and recycling related to education. Don stated that we need more than just an Interlocal Agreement. We need either a Resolution or an Ordinance for the Board of County Commissioners to create the program. Don expects to have the draft completed sometime this week. It will then go back to the Recycling Sub-committee and ultimately to the BCC, at which point we will be able to seek interest from cities to enter into the Interlocal Agreements and participate. There is currently \$500,000 in Aid to Government funds in the FY '04 –'05 Solid Waste budget.

Warren Smith noted that he wanted to clarify that the \$500,000 is in the requested budget, but stated that total consisted of \$350,000 of system revenues and assumed \$150,000 from the tire grants; the tire grant money was not approved for Pinellas County; therefore, the funds allocated would be \$350,000 for this year.

Jennifer stated that the next Recycling Sub-committee meeting will be August 12th @ 9:30.

## **Customer Service – Tim Wiley**

Tim stated that for the month of May we had 304 operating hours, scale hours were 1,208, of which there were 10 instances of lane closings due to the problems with the scales which created 501 manual tickets as a result of that problem. The number of transactions processed during the month was 23,347. There were a total of 345 tares for the month, 38 surcharges, and 130 OPS notices for special handling.

Tim reported that the new software is coming; however, one of the issues is that the software upgrade is a sole source upgrade and there is a high sensitivity to sole source acquisitions around the County - so it is being reviewed much more diligently. We are still working with Metler Toledo, who is the software provider for the existing software and we are going with an upgrade to the existing system. We are hoping that it will be approved within the next sixty days. In the long-term, it will give us some functionality and more flexibility for the traffic to move through the system more quickly.

## **Additional Items for Discussion**

Kelsi Oswald reported that we will not be getting the tire grant money this year; however, the State has decided to fund all the Innovative Grants and we will be funded to do a pilot beach recycling program.

Steven Smith stated that if we went to get a modification to our landfill permit that the development (Tarpon Ridge, Inc.) would be considered in approving a change in the height limitation. Don Crowell noted that not only would they be considered, but they would be able to comment on it. Warren stated that's been one of our big concerns all along, we have 2,800 condos there and even though they sign a disclosure document they can still pick up the phone and complain to DEP or to the County Commission.

Warren requested the TMC's agreement for bi-monthly meetings and requested that we discuss that at our next meeting. After summer break we can address that proposal along with a schedule of meeting dates.

***The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.***