

TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Solid Waste Operations Conference Room Minutes of the Meeting March 24, 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, March 24, 2004, with the following persons in attendance:

TMC Committee Attendance:

City of Clearwater	Robert Brumback
City of Dunedin	Randy Rudd Tom Percival
City Group A	Bob Cyr
City Group B	Allen Godfrey
City Group C	Richard Raus
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	Barbara Hugg
Private Sector	Sandy Sanders
Pinellas County	Mike Sweet

Also Present:

PCU Finance	Lisa Ledoux
PCU Finance	Melanie Ventimeglia
Solid Waste Operations	Warren Smith
Solid Waste Operations	Judy Lund
Solid Waste Operations	Kelsi Oswald
PC Planning Department	Martha Gray
Utilities Customer Service	Tim Wiley
LJK Consultants, Inc.	Luke Koon
Pinellas County Attorney	Don Crowell
Angeles Recycled Materials	Robert Kasper
Dewberry & Davis	Bob Swan
Dewberry & David	Paul Manno
PC Utilities	Chris Staubus
HDR	Bill Embree

Town of Belleair
Solid Waste Recycling
Conservation Resources
City of St. Petersburg
City of Largo

George Hales
Jennifer Caldwell
Dave Baker
Chuck Yehauffer
John Pittman

Call to Order/Opening Remarks - Chairman Bob Brumback called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Bob welcomed Tom Percival to the meeting as temporary replacement for Randy Rudd. Bob asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting.

The minutes were approved and accepted as written.

Operations Report – Kelsi Oswald

Kelsi reported that 40,761 megawatts were sold in February – boiler availability was at 96.3%. There were no diversions. Kelsi stated that in the Class I area our landfill contractor has achieved a compaction rate of 1,570 pounds per cubic yard. The contract requirement is 1,400 pounds per cubic yard and that is a fairly aggressive standard for Onyx to achieve. This is an excellent accomplishment and saves landfill space.

Kelsi stated that the number of vehicles using the Class III area continues to increase and we have activated the next area for Class III waste. The design plans are at 30% completion for the new hand unload facility, which will be located directly west of the present scale house. When that happens, we will close the present hand unload area and redo the roads so our customers will be able to go straight – both to and from the new facility.

In February, Kelsi reported that mobile collections are continuing with increased participation. The Dunedin mobile collection received 382 participants, Seminole had attendance of 445 participants, and the March events were also seeing participants around 400 – we are getting a lot of materials and customers at these events.

Kelsi noted the correction in the written Operations Report that the BCC has authorized negotiations with CH2M/WCG to perform the site water master plan to look at our stormwater, ground water, and gradient management system. That project has now been initiated.

On March 9, 2004 the BCC approved the ordinance requiring a 2,000-ft. setback from the landfill for new residential development. In addition, Kelsi stated that she appreciated everyone's help and comments that supported that effort.

Warren reported that the developer has filed an amended site plan application for that project requesting that the St. Petersburg Environmental Development Commission

approve a site plan change for 2,500 residential multi-dwelling units. Don Crowell noted that the public hearing which is scheduled for April 7th @ 2:00 pm will be held in the St. Petersburg Council Chambers on 5th Street North.

Recycling Update – Jennifer Caldwell

Jennifer noted that we have two new employees; Marie Jacobs and Andy Fairbanks. Marie is heading up the business and commercial program, including waste assessments, which is being well received. We are setting up a website for the business program which will link from the Utilities homepage. Planning for the business awards program is underway and the criteria will be finalized this summer/fall and we hope to have a ceremony in Spring 2005.

Jennifer reported that we have our new flyers, along with our paper-recycling program out to the schools. Our containers are ready to be put in the classrooms after spring break and that should be completed before the end of April. The Green Thumb Festival is having a “yard waste garbage can composting” demonstration and a new brochure is being published for that event.

The Pinellas Recycles guides were distributed in the St. Pete Times and Jennifer reported that the Recycling Sub-committee agreed that Pinellas Recycles Day this year would be a one-day event. Jennifer noted that a new tabletop exhibit is available for use by the municipalities and to give her a call at 464-7545 to reserve the exhibit.

In regards to the tipping fee monies, Jennifer reported that the Recycling Sub-committee’s Municipal Executive Committee (MEC) discussed the options related to help subsidize municipal recycling programs to be modeled after the State Recycling Program. The level of funding would be determined based on population; based on 2002 census figures, 30.4% of residents reside in unincorporated Pinellas County, the total level of funding would be \$558,000 – which equates to approximately \$.56/ton. The Committee agreed that setting the reimbursement level at the bare minimum would not encourage expansion of new recycling programs and suggested the level be set at \$1.00/ton – or some level negotiated between those two figures. Jennifer reported that the MEC requested that the TMC discuss this issue and designate an appropriate amount for future years’ distribution.

Warren stated that Randy Rudd had initially put the tipping fee concept in writing and in the initial FY’ 04/05 budget process we put \$500,000 Aid to Government Agencies in our budget. If that gets approved by the Board of County Commissioners, sometime in August/September, we would have the first \$500,000 to be divided by formula. If there is a desire to consider a higher level of funding by the TMC, at that time we would put the new figure in the next years’ budget. What we need to get that started would be a recommendation in writing to the County Administrator from the TMC.

ACTION ITEMS: After much discussion, it was agreed that Jennifer Caldwell would transit via email the State Grant Special Act to all the TMC members, and the tipping fee concept will be voted on at the next TMC meeting. Don Crowell agreed that he would email the TMC a memorandum of the constraints of using Solid Waste tipping fee dollars to rebate to the cities for recycling.

Jennifer reported that the phone book recycling program is underway being, coordinated through St. Petersburg Recycling and US Green Fiber. The City of St. Petersburg will place phonebook drop-off containers at their mulch sites. The City of Clearwater will begin accepting phonebooks with mixed paper curbside on April 1st. Pinellas County will accept phonebooks in the mixed paper drop-off centers also starting on April 1st.

Jennifer announced that Randy Rudd has accepted the job as Director of Solid Waste with Escambia County. The Recycling Sub-committee congratulated him for his career advancement.

Jennifer noted that the 2004 Pinellas County Recycling Awareness Survey is underway and reported that the results would be delivered in mid-May. Jennifer reported upcoming recycling events as follows; Bobcat Carnival at Cross Bayou Elementary in Pinellas Park on April 17th, EarthFest at Pinewood Cultural Park on April 17th, Recycle Regatta at North Shore Park in St. Petersburg on April 17th, and the Green Thumb Festival in St. Petersburg on April 24th and 25th. The mobile household/business electronics and chemical collections are being held at Palm Harbor University High School in Palm Harbor on March 27th, Largo Home Depot on April 3rd, Tarpon Springs Boys & Girls Club on April 17th, Home Depot on Park Blvd. On April 24th, and Oldsmar Municipal Services Center on May 1st. Jennifer noted that the next subcommittee meeting will be held April 8th in the SWO Training Room.

Customer Service – Tim Wiley

Tim stated that for the month of February we had 280 operating hours, scale hours were 1,120, of which there was 1.0 hour of lane closings, providing a 99.82% service level. The number of transactions processed during the month was 21,457. There were a total of 410 tares for the month, 34 surcharges, 49 surcharges; and 81 OPS notices for special handling.

Hurricane Preparedness Report – Dewberry & Davis/Bob Swan

Bob Brumback introduced Bob Swan from Dewberry & Davis who is working on the new debris clearance plan for unincorporated Pinellas County.

Bob reported that Pinellas County Utilities has retained his firm to design a plan for the County to handle disaster debris produced by up to a Category IV Hurricane - which is equivalent to what hit Miami-Dade about eleven years ago. The problem is what are you

going to do with 23,000,000 cubic yards of debris from a Category IV storm? From our questionnaire sent to the 24 cities, we had 18 responses – out of those 18 responses 14 indicated that they did not have a formalized debris plan. Several indicated that they did have a debris plan, but when we examined the plan, they were actually the contractor’s operational plan on how the contractor would handle the debris – that is not a debris plan. The intent of this study is to establish how the County is going to handle the debris within the unincorporated areas and then where is the final resting place of all this debris going to be?

Bob reported there are a lot of challenges, when you begin to look at the potential quantities of debris and the potential storage sites – there is no way all that debris is going to fit on those parking lots, school grounds, etc. Based on the input from the questionnaire, we have produced a needs assessment called a “Debris Management Plan Template.” Once we complete Pinellas County’s plan, we will use that template as a basis for the entire County on a modified plan. We want to be sure that you have plans in place so that if a hurricane hits Pinellas County you will get reimbursed by FEMA for every dollar that you are entitled to in cleaning up after a storm.

Warren stated that, aside from human health and welfare and getting the streets cleared and getting the utilities operating its’ the reimbursement issue – if you don’t follow precisely the requirements of the Federal Government, you won’t get paid and that’s a major part of what Dewberry & Davis are going to do for us.

CRP/Phase III – Luke Koon

Luke reported that the CRP is complete; we have a few items and renovation of the Control Room to be completed by June. There is an outage on Units 1 and 2 which began on Monday and that will be complete tomorrow night. The other unit will come down next month for its’ spring cleaning. Those are all the planned outages until this fall.

Warren stated that when the Control Room is complete, that would be a great time for a tour of the plant. Also, sometime in May there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate completion of the CRP.

WTE Reprocurement Project – Kelsi Oswald

Kelsi stated that we have been working on evaluating the contract issues and fine-tuning how we handle the procurement process - that will be ongoing. Warren noted that the CDM consultant agreement will hopefully be on the Board’s agenda for their next meeting for the procurement engineer, and shortly after that the HDR Agreement for the continuing engineer-of-record services.

Charities Review – Melanie Ventimiglia

Melanie reported on two new charities requesting waivers of disposal fees. After touring the Northside Baptist Church Thrift store and reviewing their operation, she and Brian Armstrong determined that their organization met the criteria and qualified for “no-charge” disposal fee for 18 tons for the remainder of fiscal year 2004. Melanie reported that they had also considered the Pinellas Association of Retarded Children (PARC) who requested that the 75 tons they had been allocated be raised to 130 tons. Mr. Mazzei explained that this was caused by a major remodel of their store and some changes in how they did business. A review of PARC’s disposal records for this year indicates they will exceed their allocation; the recommendation is to approve the 130 tons.

Warren noted that the waivers have been reduced each year and we are anticipating a lower amount of free tonnage for next year. Warren stated that Brian and Melanie had done extensive research on both applicants in their recommendations.

A motion to approve the waivers was seconded and approved.

Senate Bill 1400 – Warren Smith

Warren stated that Senator Bennett from Manatee County has introduced legislation (SB 1400) that would require all counties to take discards from charitable organizations free of charge. The small counties with a population of 100,000 or less are seeking an exemption. Unfortunately, it appears that Pinellas County may have been the catalyst for this legislation, since we stopped charities with operations in adjacent Counties from bringing their discards to Pinellas for disposal free of charge.

Mike Sweet noted that when he came here in 1988, 34 of 67 had populations less than 50,000, so you are talking about half the counties in the state meeting that exemption.

Warren noted that the legislation is being opposed by the Florida Association of Counties, individual County Attorneys’, and Pinellas County’s Attorney. You should read the bill, then contact your State Representative and ask them to oppose it.

Budget Report – Lisa Ledoux

Lisa stated that she didn’t have anything budget related this month, but did want to share that the Clerk’s office is auditing Solid Waste Operations. There was a kick-off meeting last month with SWO and Utilities Finance staff, and two employees of the Clerk of the Court Internal Auditing Division. Unlike the audits that are done every year by the external auditors that are financially based, the internal audits review operating policies and procedures and compliance with contracts, County Code, and State Statues. Two of the areas that they are specifically looking at are the Consolidated Management Agreement and if Wheelabrator is complying with that agreement. The audit will be

complete in 2-3 months and when complete, the findings will given to Solid Waste for review and response.

Warren stated that this would also include an internal audit of our Reef Construction Program, which is complete, and HEC3 that is very near completion.

Additional Items for Discussion – Jennifer Caldwell

Jennifer stated that she had a request to be on the April 28th TMC Agenda by Gift for Teaching. Alice Carter heads up this non-profit organization and she would like to make a presentation for funding from Solid Waste. They take in mass quantities of office supplies and then redistributes them to low-income schools.

There was consensus that she needs to make her presentation to the Recycling Subcommittee first and if it gets a positive response there, then it would come to the TMC as the next appropriate step.

Bob Brumback also noted that the City of Clearwater has given up recycling glass and will be going into the mixed paper recycling business. Bob stated that glass makes up 5% of the waste stream and mixed paper is 34%.

Steven Smith made a motion to thank Randy Rudd for his services on the TMC. The motion was seconded and approved. A plaque will be presented at the next TMC meeting.

Steven Smith suggested that we need to address the issue of a Chairman for the Budget Sub-committee. Bob asked that we think about who should serve on that sub-committee and we will discuss it at next month's TMC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.

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