



TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Solid Waste Operations Conference Room

Minutes of the Meeting - September 26, 2007

The 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 Wednesday, September 26, 2007. Members present were, Bob Brumback, Shari Rheuble, Ben Shirley, Mike Connors, Bennie Boyd, Diana Hugg, Don Ross, James Walker, Bob Cyr, Don Sopak, Calvin Warren and Mike Sweet. Connie Kest was absent. Assisting with conduct of the meeting was: Pick Talley, Utilities Director, Bob Hauser, SWO Director and Judy Lund, Administrative Coordinator and Recording Secretary.

Call to Order: Bob Brumback called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Bob welcomed everyone to the TMC and thanked them for their participation. Bob introduced Shari Rheuble who will be representing the Private Haulers succeeding Sandy Sanders. Earl Gloster, Assistant Director of Solid Waste for the City of Clearwater, was also in attendance. Bob Hauser introduced Tom Roberts, Solid Waste Technician, who replaces Valerie Lane, in our recycling outreach section.

Minutes: The Chairman asked if everyone had an opportunity to read the minutes and asked if there were any additions or deletions.

A motion was made by Don Sopak and seconded by Bob Cyr to accept the TMC Minutes as written. The vote was unanimous.

Operations Report - Deb Bush

- Deb Bush presented the Operations Report. She reported that the boiler availability was at 90% in May and 91% in June. Deb reported that the new contractor has been very effective in moving the trucks into the plant.
- We finally completed the landfill contractors building and the maintenance building as part of our Master Plan. Soon we will begin demolition of the old landfill contractor's building.
- DEP issued our final permit for the height increase, so we are now permitted up to 150 feet.
- Our current landfill contract with Veolia is going to expire April, 2008. We are working on updating the specs for that contract and will go out to bid sometime in November.
- We did not have any mobile collections this summer, but in September we started off the season. We will have two to three collections each month through May.
- The SWFMD permit has been modified and will cover the dredging of Pond "A" and shoreline stabilization.
- Our HEC₃ program is about to hit 2,000,000 pounds collected for this year, which is up substantially.

- On July 14, 2007, we had an accident which resulted in the death of a temporary Veolia employee at the WTE facility, which is being investigated by Veolia, OSHA, and the Sheriff's Department.
- The results from our stack testing are complete. We are in compliance with all permit conditions regarding our air permit.
- Five of the seven capital projects at the WTE Facility underway.
- The walls on the Ash Processing Building have been removed and a portion of the roof is still in place. We are still processing ash.
- Slurry wall, design and permitting work continues on 118th with FDOT.

Charities Recommendations – Andy Fairbanks

- Andy reviewed the FY 07-08 Charity Disposal Allowance Recommendations for the charities annual review. Included are the staff recommendations to modify existing procedure for awarding free disposal allowances to charities that reuse and recycle waste, which are being used to make the review process consistent for all charities.
- Andy responded to questions and Bob Brumback requested approval of the recommendations.

A motion was made by Robert Cyr and seconded by Don Sopak to accept the recommendations for the FY' 07-08 Charity Disposal Allowance to waive the tipping fees for approved charities. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Report – Lisa Ledoux

- Lisa reviewed the CIP budget and expenditures ending August 31, 2007. Lisa reported that some of the capital improvement projects have been delayed but we anticipate that 60 – 70% of the budget will be spent by the end of this fiscal year; we are presently at 39%.
- Lisa reviewed an updated Financial Status Summary through the third quarter of FY' 07-08 and then responded to questions.

Reef Program Status – Bob Hauser

- Bob provided an update on the Reef Program which will not be funded next year. The Reef Program is not being eliminated; for the present we are maintaining all the facilities, equipment, and the Reef sites. We are conducting a management study, which began late last winter, looking at how we were managing the program. In the State of Florida all the coastal counties have a Reef Program, but Pinellas County is the only one with a barge; most other counties contract out their material placement. After the study is complete, we will be presenting recommendations to the BCC for the future of the program. We are presently maintaining the reefs and the buoys until we get direction from the Board. We will also maintain the Tortuga, which is docked at the Clearwater Marina.

Open/Closed Loop Funding – Pick Talley

- At the request of the Board of County Commissioners, Pick Talley reported that FDOT has requested financial assistance from Pinellas County with the CR 296 road project on 118th Avenue.

They want to relocate the present slurry wall out of the right-of-way. They have made two requests for assistance:

- 1) That Pinellas County pays for the relocation of the slurry wall (*Pick indicates on an aerial map where the proposed construction would impact Solid Waste property*). Initially, the estimates were stated to be one million dollars – more recently, the cost is estimated to be five million dollars. Pick and SWO staff reported to the County Administrator that relocation of the slurry wall would not benefit Solid Waste.
- 2) The second request was related to the old landfill material that would have to be excavated, be placed in the landfill and the tipping fees waived. This service was estimated at \$900,000.00. Staff informed FDOT that Solid Waste does not waive tipping fees and that they would have to make their request to the County Commission.

- In essence, Pick stated that Enterprise Funds could not be used for road transportation projects. He noted that “*Open Loop*” means that we transfer funds out of the Enterprise Funds into the General Fund and “*Closed Loop*” means that you maintain the integrity of the Enterprise Fund and monies are not transferred for any other purpose. These issues were raised with the County Commission who requested a recommendation from the TMC.
- Pick Talley and Bob Hauser responded to numerous questions regarding the location of the proposed road project and the use of Enterprise Funds. Mike Connors, City of St. Petersburg, noted that the Penny for Pinellas funds were earmarked for transportation projects. Pick responded that the FDOT was supposed to build the entire roadway, but since they lack funding, they will only be building the west bound section. Discussion ensued regarding funding and if we approve a single project – where will it end? Pick noted that approval should be based on the fact that – Is this project of benefit to Solid Waste Operations?
- Mike Connors asked staff if this road project would be beneficial to the operations. Bob Hauser responded that our slurry wall is in full compliance with all permits and that Solid Waste would not consider moving the slurry wall if it were not for the transportation project.
- Don Ross suggested that the TMC look at the two issues separately; the closed and open loop system independently from any type of fee waivers.

Don Ross made the motion to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners that we maintain our “Closed Loop” system and maintain the integrity of the current Enterprise Fund. James Walker seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- Don Ross asked to discuss the waiver of tipping fees – How are they going to get the materials to us? Are they going to process it – will it be clean? Bob Hauser responded that they will haul it to us at a cost of \$37.50/ton. Pick noted that it may be cheaper for them to haul it elsewhere. Bob Hauser stated that anything they brought to the landfill would have to meet any TCLP test or any other testing that is used to screen waste.

Don Ross made the motion that we recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to deny the waiver of fees for the CR 296 Transportation Project and not fund the relocation of the slurry wall. Bennie Boyd seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

- Pick Talley noted that the TMC had discussed curbside recycling, beach recycling, and litter pickup in the past and that the BCC will be looking at this in the future and in addition has budgeted funds for these projects. Pick reported that the TMC will be involved every step of the process. Another issue that Pick took to the Board was the financial condition of Solid Waste, which continues to improve. In the future, reserves will become significantly higher and we will be faced with excess revenues. In that case, we will need to find a way to return those funds to the cities. One of the concerns we have with lowering the tipping fees is that if that happens, we invite waste from other counties. This was taken to the Board and they approved hiring experts to come in and help us look at different strategies on how we can equitably return these revenues to the cities. We forecast that by 2010, with our construction program completed, we will be in a position to return excess revenues. We would like the TMC to participate in the study and the strategies.
- Diana Hugg, City of Tarpon Springs, questioned the status of the North County Transfer Station. Bob Hauser responded that the draft report was just received this week. Bob will be meeting with HDR and then we will be bringing our comments to the TMC. Diana requested that Tarpon Springs also be considered for an additional transfer station. Bob Hauser stated that the HDR report will be on the next TMC Agenda.
- Pick Talley reported that Pinellas County has a new Interim County Administrator, Fred Marquis, who will begin work on Monday, October 1, 2007. Ben Shirley, City of St. Petersburg, asked if Fred was aware that the City would like the Landfill to stay open on all holidays.

Additional Items for Discussion

- Bob Hauser noted that the Alternate seat for the City of St. Pete Beach is still vacant.
- Nick DeCeglie has volunteered to serve as the Alternate for the Private Haulers.
- Bob Hauser reported that SWO will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. In addition, he stated that we will be opening one hour earlier the following work day.
- Don Ross asked about the status of the Interlocal Debris Agreement and stated that Don Crowell had informed him that he was still waiting for responses from some of the cities. Bob Hauser noted that the original plan was to get everyone together and make one contract, but that is not working out. At present, Don is finalizing the Interlocal Agreement and as soon as it's ready we will notify all the cities.
- Mike Connors asked about the County building on the closed Toytown Landfill. Pick Talley responded that Economic Development is handling those RFP's. The RFP's are just proposals for them to use the County's land and then they have to go to the City of St. Petersburg for permitting. Bob Hauser noted that Solid Waste is not involved in the selection of the firm; once they select the firm for negotiations, Economic Development will invite Solid Waste to participate.

Adjournment - Chair Bob Brumback The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

[The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28th, 2007 @ 2:00 pm.](#)

Respectfully submitted, Judy Lund, TMC Secretary