

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

April 21, 2008

Notes

The April 21, 2008, meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) commenced at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Delaware Recycling Center, 1101 Lambsons Lane, New Castle.

Attendees:

CAB

Thomas Mitten, Chairman
Vincent D'Anna
Deborah Deubert
Jeffrey Flynn
Robert McWilliams
Marvin Thomas

DSWA

Richard Watson
Robin Roddy
Michael D. Parkowski
Angela Marconi
Pam Williamson

DNREC

Nancy Marker
Robert Hartman

Introductions

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Updates

Mr. Hartman presented a report on Cherry Island Landfill (CIL) issues during the last quarter (see attached). Mr. Hartman said that there had been no odors reports. Mr. Hartman reported that DSWA was controlling litter and dust satisfactorily onsite and off. DSWA is still investigating the methane gas found in several landfill gas monitoring probes around the perimeter of the landfill. DSWA has an independent firm investigating the situation. There was one small fire reported at the landfill working face which operations personnel were able to extinguish. DSWA reported and properly disposed of prohibited waste on eight occasions last quarter. There was a condensate leak from an abandoned landfill gas line and DSWA contained the overflow and cleaned up the area. The Yard Waste Ban went into effect January 24 and DSWA has remained in compliance.

The CAB asked if it was possible to measure how much yard waste is being kept from the landfill. Mr. Parkowski said that a waste composition study would be done a few years from now to see how much yard waste is being recycled. It would be hard to get a measurement

because DNREC and other companies will also be taking yard waste for composting. Mr. D'Anna said that even a comparison between years should be able to show what's diverted. Mrs. Roddy said that it would be possible to show what the total diversion that DSWA's yard waste recycling program generates.

Update on Cherry Island Landfill Expansion Project

Mrs. Roddy updated the CAB on the Expansion Project. The first phase of installing the prefabricated vertical drains (PVDs) has been completed. The second phase is constructing the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall. By the end of the year, 750,000 cubic yards of soil had been placed for the wall. The third phase will be installing new pump stations, electrical, and liners to ready the area for landfilling. Construction is on schedule for completion July 2010. A tour of the construction will be arranged for the July meeting.

Update on Cherry Island Landfill Gas Treatment System and Flare

Mrs. Marconi updated the CAB on the gas treatment system. She said that DSWA had received an operating permit to run the treatment system and the flare. During some upgrades to the gas plant DSWA was able to test the new flares. The treatment system is not functional at this time. The manufacturer is replacing a pipe on the system and it should be operational this summer. Mr. Thomas asked if it would be operational at the next meeting. Mrs. Marconi said that it should be up and running. Mrs. Marconi said that the upgrades to the gas plant are 99% complete and when they are finished the capacity at the plant will be 9,000 standard cubic feet per minute.

Update on Yard Waste Ban

Mr. Mitten asked if all the private haulers that are collecting yard waste bringing it to the Cherry Island Landfill. Mr. Parkowski said that some of the haulers are taking it to First State Green Recycling. The haulers are under no obligation to tell DSWA where they are taking it. Mr. Mitten wanted to know why. Mrs. Roddy said that it was significantly cheaper for them to take it to First State. DSWA's price structure was set up to encourage the private sector to establish businesses to take care of yard waste. Mr. Watson said that DSWA's role was to be a safety valve. Mr. Mitten wanted to know if there was any interaction with the other companies that were taking yard waste. Mr. Parkowski said that officially there was not, but that because the industry was so tight information gets around. Mr. Mitten asked if the other companies had to report the amount that they were taking in order to track what has not been landfilled. Mr. Parkowski said that the other companies would be reporting their numbers. This will be accomplished through the Recycling Public Advisory Council (RPAC). RPAC will produce a section in their annual report for measurement of recycling using a specific methodology to calculate an official recycling

rate that can be repeated every year. This is the first time that the State of Delaware will have someone other than DSWA or DNREC producing a recycling rate. By producing these numbers every year Delaware will be able to establish footprints for the various recycling groups and be able to show the number trends that are developing. The intent of the report is not to just look at the numbers but to understand what the number means so that people can compare Delaware's rates with other states. Mr. D'Anna asked if the yard waste recycling areas are regulated. Mrs. Marker said that there are no regulations for recycling, only for composting facilities. Most of the companies are just mulching the yard waste material. Mr. Mitten asked how DNREC's sites were doing. Mrs. Marker said that all three were doing very well. There have been a few problems with commercial haulers bringing in waste but that is being dealt with. The DART site just held its first grinding event to produce mulch. The mulch that was previously at the DART site had been supplied by DSWA. Mr. Mitten wondered how the quality of the material was that was being brought in. Mrs. Marker said that it was of surprisingly high quality. Mr. Parkowski said that there has been approximately five tons of non-yard waste removed from the DNREC sites. Mr. Mitten asked if there would be any other sites. Mrs. Marker said that it would depend upon funding. Mr. Mitten wanted to know what the other yard waste sites were charging. Mr. Parkowski said that the private companies are charging approximately \$38.00 per ton compared to DSWA's price of \$61.50 per ton. Mr. McWilliams said that the success of the yard waste ban needs to be tracked so that next year the legislature doesn't come back and say it's not working and try to repeal it. This success needs to be shown to the public. It was discussed to have a representative of RPAC at the next CAB meeting. Mr. Parkowski will contact Mr. B.J. Vinton of RPAC and invite him to the July CAB meeting.

Update on Single-Stream Recycling & curbside program

Mr. Parkowski informed the CAB that participation at the igloo recycling sites has not decreased since the beginning of the curbside program and that the curbside program has increased tremendously. There are now over 31,000 curbside customers and about 3,400 customers in the yard waste program. Of the 3,400 customers there are only 80 in Kent and Sussex counties. There are private companies offering single stream pick-up also. A new change to the recycling program is that customers can now recycle paperboard. DSWA expects an increase in participation because of this addition. Mr. McWilliams asked if DSWA picked up the igloo recycling also. Mr. Parkowski explained that DSWA has a contract with Allied Waste to pick-up the recycling sites statewide. DSWA employees are responsible for keeping each of the sites clean and to report overflows. If Allied doesn't respond in a certain time to an overflowing site, DSWA now has a truck that can also pick up the recyclables and DSWA would charge Allied for the pick up. A big jump in the recycling numbers resulted in the addition of all of Kent County trash districts. Kent County just rebid their trash contract and included curbside recycling in the contract. That added 11,000 households. Even the subscription single-stream program has increased in part due to the visibility of the recycling containers. Mr. Mitten wanted to know if DSWA was aware of the schools doing paper recycling. They are doing it for a fundraiser. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know what the value is of the recycled material. Mr. Parkowski said that DSWA gets five or six companies that bid on the material. Depending on the quality of the material it could bring \$46 to \$52 per ton from the DRC. DSWA material is very clean and in high

demand. Material from the City of Wilmington would probably get less because of the contamination but that program is encouraging people to recycle that might not have. DSWA customers are doing it because they want to recycle and have paid for the service so the material is cleaner. Mr. McWilliams wanted to know why DSWA doesn't take plastics by number, i.e. 1 through 7. Mr. Parkowski said that the companies buying the recyclables only want 1 and 2 because this material is very marketable. At this time the technology to separate the different grades of plastics is very expensive. Mr. D'Anna asked what DSWA did with tires. Mrs. Roddy said that the tires get stockpiled and Waste Management takes them, under contract, to be used as fuel at a waste-to-energy plant in Chester, Pennsylvania. Some of the tires are shredded and used in civil engineering applications. DSWA's Southern facility used shredded tires as a portion of the drainage layer at the bottom of the landfill above the liner. Cherry Island Landfill also used tire chips as aggregate around horizontal piping in the landfill.

Mr. McWilliams asked what DNREC's and DSWA's positions were on House Bill 159. Mr. Parkowski and Mrs. Marker said that both organizations were in favor of the bill. Both organizations were present at a two-hour hearing on the bill last week. Mr. Parkowski explained that the bill would generate a \$3.00 per ton assessment on every ton of waste collected in the state. That money goes into a fund that DNREC would manage to give out grants to private companies, municipalities, or anyone starting recycling initiatives.

MOTION A – Moved by Mr. McWilliams

“The Citizen’s Advisory Board will write a letter to legislators supporting House Bill 159.”

Second – Mr. Flynn

Vote – Unanimous

(Mitten, D’Anna, Deubert, Flynn, Thomas, McWilliams)

MOTION ADOPTED

(Unanimous)

Update on Communications

DSWA handed out information on the amount they have spent on advertising. Mr. Mitten said the information was what he wanted to see. Mr. Watson explained that the amounts on the report were for yard waste advertising. DSWA has spent over \$150,000 of its \$300,000 annual budget since January on just yard waste. Radio is the most effective way to reach people. Mr. Parkowski said that DNREC and DSWA were still doing programs for civic organizations. Mr. Mitten asked if the cost of these programs was factored into this report. Mr. Parkowski said it didn't include any of those meetings and was not in the advertising budget. Mr. Watson said that the Green Expo at the Chase Center was a success also. DSWA offered compost bins for sale and the sold out. Mr. Thomas asked how long DSWA would advertise. Mr. Watson said that advertising would continue throughout the spring and a little during summer, with an increase toward fall. Mr. Mitten wanted to know if DSWA was able to track their return on investment. Mr. Watson said that

new customers are asked how they heard about the program. Mr. Parkowski said that the calls were tracked through DSWA's 800 number. Mr. Mitten suggested that DSWA post the audio from radio spots on their website. Mr. Watson said that he would check into it. Mr. Mitten said that the single-stream signs at the igloos were not clear and suggested that DSWA look at something simplistic. Mr. Watson said that as the recycling containers need to be replaced they would be a uniform color of blue and yellow like the recycling carts. Mr. Mitten asked why cardboard was still separate. Mr. Watson said that there is a separate market for cardboard and DSWA gets higher prices for it. Mr. Parkowski said that because cardboard is bulky it can jam up the containers so it is easier to keep it separate.

Mr. McWilliams asked about disposing of old gasoline. DSWA staff said that it could be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste collection event. They are held 6 times a year in New Castle County and other times throughout the state. Mr. McWilliams said maybe an insert would be good to advertise what can be taken. Mr. Parkowski said that the dates are advertised on the radio prior to the event and can also be found on DSWA's website. Mr. Parkowski also noted that these events are very costly. Mr. Parkowski noted that DSWA is increasing the electronic goods recycling sites throughout the state. A House Resolution (HR41) was passed requiring DSWA to report on what was being done about electronic goods recycling and to increase the amount of sites in the state. DSWA took the initiative and has increased the number of sites from 9 to 24 throughout the state. Mr. D'Anna asked what DSWA did with the goods. Mr. Parkowski said that DSWA has contracts with CDM and OCI who take the pieces apart and recycle some parts like the plastics, reuse some parts and dispose of any hazardous material properly. Last year over 3,000,000 pounds of material were recycled.

Mr. Mitten asked what DSWA was planning for the future. Mr. Parkowski said that it was important to remember DSWA's role in the overall picture. DSWA is the safety net. At this time the safety net is doing all the work. That is why DSWA supports HB 159 because it will encourage private companies to develop recycling of all kinds of products. DSWA's goal is to encourage the private sector to maximize its involvement in recycling.

Unfinished Business

Nothing discussed.

New Business

The next meeting of the Cherry Island Landfill's Citizen's Advisory Board will be July 14, 2008, at the Cherry Island Landfill, 1706 E. 12th Street, Wilmington. Members of the Recycling Public Advisory Council will be invited and a tour will be made of the MSE wall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.