

# CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

January 14, 2008

## Notes

The January 14, 2008, meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) commenced at 5:15 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Delaware Recycling Center, 1101 Lambsons Lane, New Castle.

Attendees:

### CAB

Thomas Mitten, Chairman  
Jeffrey Flynn  
Robert McWilliams  
Marvin Thomas

### DSWA

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

### DNREC

Bryan Ashby  
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 there had been no complaints of litter or dust during the last quarter. DNREC conducted an inspection of CIL's sediment and stormwater controls and found them in place and functioning. Landfill gas migration monitoring reported high levels of methane in a few gas probes. DSWA has done additional monitoring and analysis of the gas has found no hydrogen sulfide, which is a component of landfill gas. DSWA is investigating the possibility of it being marsh gas. They will make a report to DNREC. No fires were reported for the last quarter. There were two incidents of prohibited waste last quarter. DSWA followed procedures to remove the prohibited waste. There was a leachate leak near one of the pump stations that DSWA remediated.

### ***Update on Cherry Island Landfill Expansion Project***

Mrs. Roddy gave a brief overview of the project for the new members benefit. She updated the CAB on the Expansion Project. Seven million linear feet of prefabricated vertical drains (PVDs) have been installed as the first phase of the project. The project is about 40% completed at this time. The second phase is the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall. So far 175,000 cubic yards of fill and 400,000 cubic yards of granular fill has been used. Construction is on schedule and on budget to date. Mr. McWilliams asked if this would help the whole landfill. Mrs. Roddy said that the expansion project would strengthen the stability of the landfill. Other improvements such as pump stations and litter fencing are part of the project too. Mr. McWilliams wanted to know if any of the liquid from the landfill could get into the water. Mrs. Roddy said that the landfill has an impermeable clay surface underneath and there are also groundwater monitoring wells around the entire perimeter that are tested on a regular basis to prove that what's coming from the landfill is not going into the aquifer or other bodies of water. Mr. Watson said that the moist soils under the landfill are being compressed as the landfill is loaded and that excess pore water produces pressure and forces water up into the landfill layers and into the leachate collection system. Mrs. Roddy said that this can be proven because of the quantity and strength of the leachate collected, which is very weak compared to a traditional landfill.

### ***Update on Cherry Island Landfill Gas Treatment System and Flare***

Mrs. Marconi explained about the landfill gas treatment system. The treatment system is to remove hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) from the gas. H<sub>2</sub>S smells like rotten eggs and is the main component of landfill gas. DSWA has been constructing a treatment system called Lo-Cat and also two enclosed flares, which are low emission, and low NO<sub>x</sub>. The flares have completed their stack testing. During this testing the Lo-Cat system failed. DSWA is working to repair the Lo-Cat system. The flares are not permitted and cannot be used until the Lo-Cat system is working properly. Other back-up flares are working at the site for when the gas plant is not operating. Mrs. Marconi explained the process of the collected landfill gas. There is a gas compression plant on site that draws the vacuum on the landfill to collect the gas. The gas plant sends it about a mile down the road to the Conectiv plant coal fire burners. The gas plant is on-line 95% of the time. There are times that the plant needs maintenance or upgrades or Conectiv has a problem at those times the flares are utilized as a contingency plan. At this time, the gas plant capacity is 6,500 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) DSWA is upgrading to 9,000 scfm. There will be some downtime when that occurs. Mr. Hartman said that the Air Quality Division of DNREC has a lot of concerns right now about the system not working. DNREC and DSWA have not come to an agreement about the system. DNREC has not issued the permit for the flares. Mr. Thomas wanted to know if DNREC and DSWA have worked out a timeline to resolve the issues. Mrs. Marconi said that DSWA is working with Air Quality on the issues. Mrs. Roddy said that DSWA is working with the manufacturer of the equipment and is committed to operating this system. The system had a major failure and is not able to function. Mr. McWilliams asked if it was a supplier problem. Mr. Watson said that at this time there are

differing opinions from DSWA and the manufacturer. It is a unique piece of equipment. There are three other facilities in the country using this equipment with success. Mrs. Marconi pointed out that the system was working for a few days before the failure. In order to use the Lo-Cat system DSWA had to use the blowers that were installed with it and the blowers were not integrated into the compression plant so the Lo-Cat system couldn't be used with the gas plant and the gas would have had to be flared which would have increased Cherry Island's emissions. Mr. Mitten wanted to know what was happening now, and if there is any environmental impact. Mrs. Marconi said that there is no harm being caused to the environment. Cherry Island is well below their emission levels for the site. DSWA is discussing the problems with the vendor and hopefully the issues will be resolved and the equipment will provide the service that DSWA wants it to. Mr. Mitten wanted the revenue stream discussed for the new members. Mrs. Roddy said that DSWA owns both a collection system and a process system. DSWA collects the gas and a company called Enpower operates the process system for DSWA. DSWA receives about \$3,700,000 in revenue but subtracting the operating costs the net amount is around \$200,000.

### ***Update on Yard Waste Ban***

Mr. Parkowski updated the CAB on the current yard waste situation. He noted that House Bill 278 was tabled. The Secretary of DNREC has indicated that one of his long-term goals is to ban the deposit of residential yard waste from Kent and Sussex County landfills also. This bill would leave such a policy change in the hands of the General Assembly. Mr. Parkowski said that this allows the private sector haulers the confidence to go forward with significant investments into equipment to handle the yard waste. The other side is the processors who have been waiting to get this material for over a year. DSWA's perspective is that it's good because they've been prepared to take it for a long time and have had programs in place waiting to be utilized. Mr. Parkowski said that he and DNREC personnel have been conducting presentations to civic and community groups. An advertising campaign is being initiated now to make people aware of the programs that are available to them. Mr. Parkowski commented on the fact that people who attended the presentations are getting the correct information as opposed to hearsay or bad press information. The ban is scheduled to take effect on January 24, 2008. On that day DSWA compliance officers will be issuing warnings to haulers that bring in yard waste mixed with trash. The warning period will be in effect until July 1, 2008, and then the haulers will be assessed special fees for violating the yard waste ban. The enforcement is only on the hauler that brings the material to Cherry Island. Mr. Flynn asked if DSWA has a composting facility. Mr. Parkowski confirmed that DSWA does have a composting area at Cherry Island. DSWA directs customers to that area when they have loads of yard waste with no other trash. Mrs. Roddy said that a new Gore composting system is in place to handle the yard waste. She said that before they started composting yard waste DSWA would shred it and use it for landscaping purposes around the landfill. Mrs. Roddy said that customers are directed to a special area to drop off the yard waste. The cost is \$61.50 per ton so as not to compete with the private processors. Mr. Parkowski said that DNREC has sites in New Castle County that citizens can use for free. These sites are being well used. DSWA has

been temporarily supplying mulch for citizens to pick-up at these sites also. The DeIDOT yard is across from one of the areas and they back-haul the mulch when they have to make a trip to the landfill. DNREC will eventually be mulching the material that is at their site and will be giving it to the customers.

Mr. Thomas wanted to know if there would be some reporting to show how the yard waste ban was having a positive impact on the landfill. Mr. Parkowski said that DSWA had just completed a waste characterization study that analyzed the percentage of wastes being disposed of in the state's landfills. This study will be redone in a few years to see how the composition of the waste has changed. This is a one-year study beginning in 2006 and ending in 2007. A report is generated during each season. A previous 2002 yard waste report by the same company that did the waste characterization study showed that there had been a reduction in yard waste possibly due to increased composting and mulching by individuals and companies. Mr. Flynn asked how private firms were addressing the ban. Mr. Parkowski said that most companies would be offering a second pick-up day for yard waste. One hauler has invested in split-back trucks, which is one truck with two compartments. All residential haulers will offer a program for yard waste. DSWA will also back up the yard waste ban with their program of \$1 a bag. Mr. Flynn wanted to know what the increase in pricing would be from private companies. Mr. Parkowski said that there was a range depending on the company.

Mr. McWilliams asked about an overall recycling plan. Mr. Parkowski said that a statewide recycling plan is being developed. Mr. McWilliams said that he felt more communication was needed to let the public know what items could be recycled. Mr. Parkowski said that DSWA has spent a lot of money on advertising the yard waste ban and also changes to the recycling program. Mr. McWilliams said DSWA needs to look at the spending versus the results. DSWA needs to be effective with their advertising. Mr. McWilliams said that the public needs to have recycling information in front of them all the time as opposed to hearing about upcoming events. His example was leftover paint and how to dispose of it. He also wanted to know how the waste characterization report affected businesses. Mr. Parkowski replied that the waste characterization report will be used as a building block for the state recycling plan. The recycling plan will be the guideline for recycling in the state. It will address commercial entities as well as the public. Mr. Parkowski also pointed out that DSWA does have limitations on spending. A lot of the issues Mr. McWilliams brought up are being done. The CAB members in attendance all thought that DSWA public relations could be stronger. They suggested a few outlets they thought DSWA should explore. Examples were Comcast 8 and appearing on local radio shows. Mr. Watson said that a DSWA representative had just been on WILM. Mr. Parkowski said that DSWA and DNREC had previously participated on radio broadcasts. Mr. Mitten said that it was important to give the public regular updates through press releases. Mr. Watson noted that there would be a newspaper insert released soon in conjunction with DNREC. Mr. McWilliams asked for updates on public relation issues at each of the CAB meetings. The CAB agreed that they wanted a new agenda item for each Board meeting called Communications. They wanted to monitor the efforts being made to communicate to the community and various constituencies regarding all items involved with DSWA and its activities/resources/successes.

Mr. Parkowski noted that more people throughout the state have been signing up for the curbside service since it has gone single stream. Mr. Mitten asked how people who live in apartment buildings could recycle. Mr. Parkowski said that it depends on the facilities owners. If they are willing to provide space for the containers then it can be done. Nationally it is a problem, but hopefully in time solutions will be found to make it easier for multi-unit residents to recycle. Mr. Thomas said that DSWA should be as aggressive with public relations as it is with new technology at the landfill.

***Unfinished Business***

Nothing discussed.

***New Business***

Nothing discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.