

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** June 25, 2007

**LOCATION:** MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joan Bent  
Ed Wesnofske

**ABSENT:**

William Strevy

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gilbert L. Chichester

**1. Opening**

Chairperson Bent opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

**2. Minutes of Prior Meeting**

No previous minutes were reviewed.

**3. GBB Report**

GBB was engaged to provide professional planning services by action of the Governing Board on January 30, 2007. The Planning Committee was charged with the responsibility to monitor and direct GBB activities.

With the receipt of a draft report from GBB, the committee reviewed the draft to give feedback to GBB before the final report is issued.

Also discussed was the dire need for clear direction due to the dynamics of the current situation: the Counties are subsidizing the haulers at different levels causing some to shop for the best price and in the process some waste is leaving the MOSA system. Costs are escalating while at the same time resources are not being provided to address the needs of a comprehensive system.

The members reflected upon the complexity of the situation, the number of people involved, and the need to set the stage for meaningful discussions leading to conclusions and definitive actions. It was noted that many attempts have been made in the past to accomplish this end with no clear plan resulting.

Also mentioned was the recent training facilitated by the Authority Budget Office and required of all Board members, where the emphasis was on managing the Authority so as to accomplish a clear mission as opposed to trying to satisfy multiple agendas.

The need for open and meaningful communication between the Authority and the Counties was seen to be critical. To bring that about, particularly as the GBB report is under discussion, the members felt that an independent, third party facilitator is

necessary. The facilitator's role would be to bring the involved parties together to develop a process through which decisions will be made. It was felt that all parties need to communicate so as to develop common understanding of current problems, look at alternative solutions and then work together to implement the path chosen by the counties for waste management.

Therefore, the committee asked GBB to 1) put operational considerations into a separate report that could best be dealt with through the Operations Committee and 2) develop an executive summary for the report so as to bring focus to the significant issues and related recommendations before distribution to the counties.

Lastly, the committee asked that GBB engage a facilitator to help the parties develop a common vision and develop action plans to move all parties in that common direction.

#### **4. Closing**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert L. Chichester  
Executive Director