

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

DATE: December 11, 2008

LOCATION: MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Martha Clarvoe
Ed Wesnofske
David Parker

ABSENT:

Olga Podmajersky

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gilbert L. Chichester
Terry Bliss
Barbara Corrigan

1. Opening

Chairperson Clarvoe opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Mr. Wesnofske made a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2008 meeting of the Planning Committee. Ms. Clarvoe seconded the motion and all were in favor.

3. Resolutions

a. Resolution Authorizing Solicitation of Bids on Pest Control

The committee discussed the need to exterminate the pigeons that have been removed from the transfer station to prevent them from moving into other area buildings. This extermination will be done by a licensed DEC exterminator.

The Committee recommended this be brought to the Full Board

b. Resolution of Mutual Support

Ms. Clarvoe questioned Mr. Wesnofske regarding Montgomery County's knowledge of this resolution. He indicated that they did. Ms. Clarvoe expressed concerns regarding the qualifications, work location, and other member counties response. Mr. Parker indicated this was a one year commitment and that philosophically he supported the idea but expressed concerns regarding the other County's reaction.

Mr. Wesnofske indicated that we could recycle future county payments to benefit solid waste activities in their county.

Mr. Wesnofske made a motion that the resolution be brought to the full board. Ms. Clarvoe seconded the motion.

Mr. Bliss expressed concern regarding how the Otsego County representatives would respond to hearing this news. Mr. Wesnofske indicated that MOSA is trying to bring three counties together and Montgomery County is the most difficult this action will help to bring them with us.

Mr. Parker stated this is not a “bailout” because it states how the funds are to be used but believes it must be communicated to the other counties.

Ms. Clarvoe questioned if MOSA would be involved in the hiring process. Mr. Wesnofske said no. Mr. Parker expressed similar concerns as Ms. Clarvoe regarding the qualifications of the employee to be hired.

Mr. Parker questioned Mr. Wesnofske regarding the knowledge of this by the other Board members. Mr. Wesnofske indicated Mr. Thayer supported the idea, Ms. Podmajersky opposed the idea, and Mr. Skowfoe opposed the idea.

Mr. Parker indicated he would support bringing it before the full board for discussion.

4. Enhancing Relations with Member Counties

Ms. Clarvoe noted the lack of participation in Solid Waste Conferences by Board Members. She shared her desire to find a way to educate Board Members along with County Officials regarding Solid Waste through trainings or mini seminars.

Ms. Clarvoe indicated that Sharon Fisher of NYSAR3 and Debbie Jackson of DEC were willing to assist and present at such an event.

Ms. Clarvoe asked the committee what MOSA could provide that would be helpful. Indicating that the subject matter could be broad including not only DEC concepts but an introduction to Waste to Energy, and the status in the US. Mr. Chichester noted that Harvey Gershman was speaking in Florida on the topic, and a company in CA has contacted him interested in speaking/presenting to our organization. Mr. Chichester also indicated the GBB report suggested similar activities.

Mr. Parker supported the idea as long as it was presented with a broad perspective in mind. He indicated that the dynamics of the solid waste situation is ever changing based on economics.

Mr. Wesnofske believed the committee should explore the feasibility of sponsoring or cosponsoring a program that was professional in nature to attract the attention to waste management efforts. Possibly making enough of a splash to attract public officials.

Details regarding the location options and partnering perspectives were discussed. Mr. Chichester indicated the Objective should be clearly understood prior to pursuing the option.

Partnering opportunities, offering of grant opportunities to other organizations were discussed including cooperative extension.

5. Flow Control / Subsidization

Ms. Clarvoe questioned the status regarding flow control and subsidization of the three counties. Mr. Wesnofske gave an overview indicating that there has been no official discussion of flow control to his knowledge in any county other than Otsego. The three counties had agreed to equalize the subsidization rate at \$14 per ton however Montgomery County is facing some resistance to this move.

It was discussed that the market conditions vary between the counties and therefore the subsidy change may create delivery issues that the County's have not considered in full.

Mr. Bliss questioned Mr. Chichester regarding the letter sent to the County Chairs offering assistance with flow control laws. Mr. Chichester indicated that MOSA would assist each county with the flow control efforts using Mike Cahill as the facilitator for each County.

Ms. Clarvoe questioned if the legislation would be the same for each county. Mr. Chichester indicated it would not necessarily be the same but Mike Cahill would be able to assist with working through each County's needs.

6. Reducing Waste

Ms. Clarvoe questioned if there was any other way we could reduce the waste, something obvious that we could recycle. Mr. Wesnofske indicated the best place to begin would be large institutions, colleges, hospitals and schools each generate a lot of paper and food waste. Public education could assist in this area. Mr. Chichester noted this would be what the Recycling Director would have addressed.

Mr. Wesnofske suggested handing out composting bins. Discussion continued regarding cooperating with other agencies in this area for public education and outreach. Mr. Chichester indicated that funding was an issue for all these organizations. Ms. Clarvoe stated it could be a joint effort. Mr. Wesnofske suggested establishing grants for local agencies to promote composting and recycling. He continued to indicate this type of distribution would be a positive way to recycle the money collected related to GAT shortfalls. Ms. Clarvoe expressed concern regarding how this would affect the GAT and if consideration needed to be made in this area. Mr. Chichester noted the recycling goal in the service agreement.

All parties agreed that MOSA currently does not have control over the waste stream and setting a recycling goal would be difficult under current conditions.

7. Other Business

Ms. Clarvoe questioned the status of the fuel subsidy, Mr. Wesnofske had sent an email addressing this recently.

Mr. Wesnofske discussed possible opportunity for Infrastructure Funds and OTS through the Federal program. Mr. Chichester reported currently there is no established method to present needs to the state. Efforts will continue in this area.

Mr. Parker asked the status of the GBB report. Mr. Chichester indicated that they have asked for an extension until the end of January.

Discussion regarding the current status and the future project at OTS took place with an report anticipated at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Clarvoe discussed a power point for a software that Hans Arnold believed was useful for local municipalities. It cost approximately \$5,000- 6,000 to run it but requires a great deal of data input. The link to the site is www.rti.org/units/ese/p2/lca.cfm

8. Closing

Mr. Parker moved to adjourn the meeting and Ed Wesnofske seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Barbara Corrigan
Director of Finance and Administration