

November 4, 2021

The November 4, 2021 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ellen Nerbak and was conducted virtually via Webex. Present were Thomas Fey, James Banta, Linda Gabel, Lynne Rutkoski, Ingrid Gray, Robert Finke, James Smith and Ellen Nerbak; also participating were David Dech, Kevin Cavotta and JoAnn Fascenelli. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum (8). Also participating in the meeting were 12 members of the public

Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by forwarding a schedule of regular meetings of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council to the Warren County Clerk and The Star-Ledger and by posting a copy thereof on the bulletin board in the office of the Board of Commissioners. Formal action may be taken by the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council at this meeting. Public participation is encouraged. In order to assure public participation, those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting should submit any requests for special accommodations one week in advance.

#### MINUTES

With no additions or corrections noted, it was MOVED by Mr. Fey to accept and approve the minutes of the October 7, 2021 meeting; seconded by Mr. Banta. All in favor, with no exemptions.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

##### Solid Waste/Recycling

Mr. Dech reported the Solid Waste Management Plan Amendment was forwarded to the NJDEP in September; nothing has been heard from DEP since.

On November 4, 2021 the plastic straw "by request only" plan went into effect. On May 4, 2022 the plastic bag ban goes into effect as well as a ban on polystyrene plastics. This is NJ only, not federal. The only exception is that small grocery stores may still give out paper bags. For more information, go to [www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law-#faq](http://www.nj.gov/dep/plastic-ban-law-#faq).

##### REHS

Mr. Cavotta said the plastic bag and straw ban is worked into the environmental health work plan for the 2022 CEHA Contract wherein any complaints will mean oversight and further education will follow as required. He noted further soil importation complaints are being received.

There have been many delays with recycling surveys. The state has gone into a new software contract format, "SAGE", which may be the cause for the delays.

##### PCFA

No one present. However, a new Director of Operations has been named, Jonathan Knittel.

DEP: No one present.

Warren County Commissioners: Jason Sarnoski was excused for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dech reported nothing new from him.

**REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Dr. Glen Wainen questioned the food recycling center proposed in Mansfield Township; residents seek answers to their questions. Ms. Nerbak said no application has been received yet, and no comments can be made at this time. Dr. Wainen understood SWAC could be overstepped by going directly to the state. Ms. Nerbak explained approval from Mansfield Township is required before SWAC can even consider review. Dr. Wainen questioned the need for Mansfield Township endorsement when such facilities are not covered by the Land Use Board, but Ms. Nerbak explained the endorsement is needed from the Township as provided in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Mr. Robert Delghiaccio questioned this policy, asking if SWAC or Warren County could accept the application if approval is not given by Mansfield Township. Mr. Dech explained that SWAC could review the application without an endorsement from the Township and then make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. The process at the SWAC level is a public process and any recommendation that is ultimately made by SWAC would be at a public meeting. To be included in the County Waste Management Plan the Board of County Commissioners would need to hold a public hearing.

Scott Reyes noted strong community feedback against this project, citing a petition with 855 signatures. This group has gathered many documents that would correspond to the potential new regulation that would require food stores be directed to use this facility. Mr. Reyes would like to present feedback. Ms. Nerbak said comments would be accepted at any meeting of SWAC and County Commissioners; she asked Mr. Reyes to make the presentations to Mansfield Township. Mr. Reyes explained informal presentations have been made but he would like to extend to SWAC and Commissioners. Ms. Nerbak then explained the process is to request extensive review by a subcommittee; at that time the public would be invited to present input.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Ms. Nerbak reminded SWAC members that the February 3, 2022 meeting will be reorganization.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

**Next meeting date:**  
**February 3, 2022**