

April 1, 2021

The April 1, 2021 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ellen Nerbak; the meeting was conducted virtually by Webex. A roll call vote was taken; attending were Ellen Nerbak, Debbie Pasquarelli, Joseph Watters, James Smith, Adele Starrs, Lynne Rutkoski, Robert Finke; excused were Donald Niece and Linda Gabel. Also attending were David Dech, Kevin Cavotta, JoAnn Fascenelli and B. Baylor. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum.

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

It was MOVED by Mr. Finke to approve and accept the minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Watters. With one abstention and no corrections, all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dech reported the DEP has indicated a termination of the general approval for the Class C permit for Nature's Choice. Clean up has been ongoing; this is a "done deal". Mr. Dech was asked if the Solid Waste Management Plan needs to be corrected, he indicated Nature's Choice should be removed at the next SWMP update.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste/Recycling

Mr. Dech reported a seminar was held March 23, 2021 for coordinators with Erin Jensen regarding how to fill out tonnage reports. Other topics were enforcement activities and recycling data. The DEP has released the most recent final reports which are for 2018. The 2018 MSW was 35 percent and the total recycling read 51 percent. In 2017 the MSW was 24 percent with total recycling at 61 percent. The numbers vary from year to year. The municipality readings had a low of 18 percent for MSW and a high of 88 percent for total recycling; most municipalities were in the 20 to 30 percent range. Mr. Dech offered to circulate the 2016 to 2018 reports to municipalities. Alpha's reading was the high at 88 percent, followed by Greenwich at 67 percent, then Pohatcong at 53 percent. White, Mansfield, Lopatcong and Allamuchy were at or near 43 percent. Mr. Dech reported a Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held April 18; the next shredding event will be September 25. He is working with school districts on a program that is a recycling program mixed with a magic show for elementary school grades K-5. Five districts have expressed interest in presenting the program remotely close to Earth Day. Funding could come from a recycling grant.

REHS

Mr. Cavotta reported an inspection at Tilcon for Class B (concrete and asphalt) showed as not working for the past two months. Materials have been crushed. A meeting is being planned to decide what will happen at the site, possibly one activity there; its future is not known at this time. No updates for Rotondi yet; an effort is under way to straighten out the stormwater permit, but solid waste activities are done for now. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Cavotta if Tilcon will now be accepting waste, the response was negative. Mr. Finke asked when operating what is the primary source of material, and Mr. Cavotta reported it is mostly big highway jobs, such as DOT stuff.

PCFA – No one present, and Mr. Dech had no report.

DEP – No one present.

Board of Commissioners – Mr. Sarnoski was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

Hackettstown and Pohatcong have each named a new representative. Harmony has appointed Mayor Brian Tipton to SWAC. Knowlton's representative is Mayor Adele Starrs.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Watters asked the status of the new cell to be opened at the landfill, and he wants SWAC to know that Mansfield is not interested in opening a cell if it cannot be utilized by Warren County's haulers for ID-10 waste. Another question is whether grit (street scrapings) is considered hazardous because Mansfield rarely uses grit. Mr. Cavotta will find out if this is considered a hazardous material.

Mr. Smith said the contract with the landfill was updated through February at a 20 percent reduction. He reported that at the January PCFA meeting the PCFA contracted with the engineer and construction companies that are serving Sussex County landfill. Their contract says the new cell must be ready end 2021 at which time instructions on volume might be loosened.

Ms. Starrs requested a copy of the HHW flyer for circulation in Knowlton; Mr. Dech offered to circulate the flyer.

Mr. Finke questioned the status with the incinerator and prohibition of sending Warren County trash to the landfill. Mr. Dech said this is still being negotiated. There is a two-year time frame where if a facility is not in operation for two years, the County has the authority to remove it from the SWMP. It has been two years now with the incinerator. There is an issue of space, and issues with Covanta and PCFA are being negotiated.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Nerbak wished everyone a happy holiday season and reminded all that June 3, 2021 is the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

Next meeting date:
June 3, 2021