

April 7, 2022

The April 7, 2022 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 in person at the Warren County Commissioners meeting room. Present were Thomas Fey, Linda Gabel, David Dech and Ellen Nerbak; also participating were Jason Sarnoski, JoAnn Fascenelli and Brendan Bowers. Jake Little, James Banta, Lynn Rutkoski and Joseph Watters were excused. A quorum was not present and this was an informational meeting only.

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

To be reviewed at the June 2 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dech reported a letter from NJDEP reporting the removal of Covanta and Nature's Choice has been certified.

Solid Waste/Recycling

Mr. Dech confirmed May 4 is the date for a ban of reusable plastic bags distribution in New Jersey. Questioned about stores refusing to place purchased items into a customer's reusable bag, Mr. Dech said each store has its own rules. Stores can sell reusable bags; small stores can still supply plastic bags. June 11 is the date for a paper shredding event, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The deadline for the recycling enhancement grant application is May 24. Money received from this grant is primarily used for household hazardous waste collection events, transporting recyclables to Colgate, and for public education.

Asked about recycling fluorescent bulbs, Mr. Dech explained they can be taken to Home Depot or Lowe's.

April 12 is a virtual event with NJDEP on how to complete the municipal tonnage reports with municipal recycling coordinators; discussion will also include recycling trends and discuss when the virtual tour of Class A facility may be held which is required for coordinators. Other items of interest will be discussed. Mr. Dech attended a presentation for elementary school students which is being funded through the REA grant. It is a "magic" show that entertains the students while teaching environmental issues and recycling hints. Mr. Bowers said he and another Sanico employee are presenting similar programs including adult and senior groups.

Mr. Dech reviewed some recycling numbers for Warren County. In 2018 the MSW recycling rate was 35 percent, for a total solid waste the recycling rate was 51 percent. In 2019 the MSW recycled went up to 56 percent which exceeds the 50 percent goal, but the recycling rate for total waste recycled fell to 44 percent. Warren County is second in the state for MSW recycling.

Mr. Dech received a letter from an attorney representing Mansfield Township objecting to the proposed food waste facility being discussed. No application has been received yet.

REHS

Mr. Cavotta was not present.

PCFA

Mr. Knittel was not present.

DEP

No one was present.

Warren County Commissioners

Mr. Sarnoski reported Covanta and PCFA are close to reaching agreement on the shut down and dismantling of the facility. Oxford must sign on to the agreement which has not yet been received. Decommissioning is expected by 2025. Mr. Sarnoski reiterated that the County received a letter from Mansfield attorneys stating objections to the proposed composting plan, but this cannot be stopped by Mansfield. The Commissioners cannot comment at this time because the application has not yet been received.

Ms. Nerbak said SWAC wants to get an agreement from Mansfield; there remain issues with the town about zoning encroachment. Attorneys for the developer are saying Mansfield has submitted incorrect information. Mr. Sarnoski will not meet with anyone until an application is received.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Discussion was held regarding appointing Brendan Bowers as a SWAC member since he often attends. Mr. Dech said that he will look into how he can be appointed under the current bylaws.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

Next meeting date:

June 2, 2022