

September 1, 2022

The September 1, 2022 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste 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. SWAC members present were Thomas Fey, James Banta, Linda Gabel, Lynn Rutkoski, Joseph Watters, Robert Finke, James R. Smith, and Ellen Nerbak; also attending were Janice M. Lee; David Dech, Solid Waste Coordinator; Jon Knittel, Director PCFA; Kevin Cavotta, County Health Dept.; JoAnn Fascenelli, Mansfield Twp. Recycling Coordinator; and Matthew Moench, Esq., attorney for SWAC. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum (8). An audience of approximately 50+ people was in attendance.

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

The minutes of the June 2, 2022 were reviewed. With no additions or corrections, it was MOVED by Mr. Finke to approve the minutes of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Fey. All in favor with no abstentions.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste/Recycling

Mr. Dech reported that he hosted a virtual tour of a Class A recycling facility in July with municipal recycling coordinators. Brendan Bowers attended and he gave an excellent presentation on contaminants in the curbside recycling stream. Mr. Dech circulated a draft Recycling Guide via e-mail to recycling coordinators that includes information on upcoming events, recycling updates, and how to dispose of or recycle various household items such as prescription medicines, etc. This will be posted on the SWAC website.

Mr. Dech said he plans to send post cards to residents of the towns that have the lowest recycling rates to remind them to recycle. The post card also contains recycling hauler website addresses that contain instructions on how to and what to place in curbside recycling.

REHS

Mr. Cavotta will offer a listing of recycling facilities at the next SWAC meeting.

PCFA

Mr. Knittel reported the landfill is running well at this time and the cell construction is nearing completion; he reviewed recycling in Warren County. There will be a household hazardous waste

collection on September 25 from 8:00 a.m. to noon; information is on the PCFA web page. More details will be presented at the October meeting.

NJDEP No one present

County Commissioners No one present

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Vivaria Ecologics, proposed food waste composting center for inclusion in the Warren County Solid Waste Management Plan

Mark Peck, Esq., attorney for Vivaria, reported the application has been filed and notices have been served for the Class C recycling center proposed on Blau Road, Mansfield Township. The 42-acre lot is zoned industrial; he noted NJ law now requires recycling of food scraps and there is currently no such facility in Warren County. The presentation was turned over to Wayne DeFeo, the consultant for the project; he introduced Christina PioCosta, landowner, who spoke first and explained the project will provide a needed composting facility.

Mr. DeFeo, of DeFeo Associates, the consultant for the project, began a slide presentation to explain the proposed composting operation and site layout. The site, containing 42 acres, is located on Block 1204 Lot 24 on Blau Road in Mansfield Township. Approximately half of the site would be used for the proposed composting operation. 17,000 tons of food waste and 33,000 tons of wood chips would be brought into the site annually. At full operation 151 round truck trips will be generated per 8-hour day. Mr. DeFeo explained that under the Food Waste Recycling Act establishments that generate at least 52 tons of food waste per year that are within 25 road miles of a food waste recycling facility must recycle their food waste. Mr. DeFeo explained how aerated static pile composting works. Food waste is transported in closed vehicles, and will be blended with wood chips in an enclosed building. After blending, the material is moved to outdoor storage bins and placed on top of a layer of woodchips, then covered with wood chips. Finished compost is rich and can be used on agricultural fields. A question-and-answer period from SWAC members followed.

Ms. Nerbak questioned the need and source for wood chips, to which he replied there is a large need for facilities to take chips which are often available from landscapers. Questioned about screening and methods of handling contamination, he explained there is a preliminary inspection of the incoming load which can be rejected. The source of waste and the costs are unknown at this time. When questioned about EV equipment rendered inoperable because of a dead battery, he said a spare will be available to continue the process. Vivaria will have its own equipment and maintenance plans.

Asked about the intended end market, Mr. DeFeo explained NJ has a testing requirement to ensure a blend with other products to get the right number for finished compost; there is a demand for high quality compost. When asked about the bins for chips and compost material, he explained this is not an open-air area. When asked about snow and seasonal outdoor temperature changes, how does this affect the composting mixture? He explained the aeration system adjusts water and air ranges. As to

odors, a site manager will tour the facility to check; this system contains odor very well. A sewer system is not yet part of the plan; a composting toilet system is proposed but no decision has been made yet; DEP approval is needed. A water supply problem exists in the area; water will be contained on the property and will be recirculated to minimize use. Stormwater would be sent to a containment area and/or underground tanks. Again, DEP approval is needed. For potable water, a well is in the plans. Mansfield's ordinance says potable water must be provided.

Asked about fat rendering services, Mr. DeFeo explained no such material will be accepted; oil and grease cannot be accepted. The law says generators must recycle if a facility lies within 25 miles of the source. Asked about the carbon footprint of trucks, Mr. DeFeo replied that at least 9 of the 96 potential generators that produce more than 104 tons per year are from Warren County.

Mr. DeFeo was asked about the security measures and fire measures and fire control procedures. He responded that food material has a high volume of water, thus the material to be composted is not combustible. Fire detectors will be in the building. Because wood chips are not being stored on site, the combustibility is reduced. Security lights will be installed as well as cameras that will be monitored. The berm will be a further fire retardant.

Asked to describe odor analysis, Mr. DeFeo said prevailing winds and the strength of those winds must be considered; a wind sock will be in place. Wood chips are mixed with food soon after arrival to help control odor. Only wood chips will be accepted; treated wood must be monitored to avoid contamination.

Truck traffic is now expected to use Rt. 57, to Airport Rd., to Rockport Rd., to Blau Rd. Mr. Watters commented that the truck route is actually Rt. 57 to Heiser Rd. to Watters Rd., Thomas Rd., Rockport Rd. to Blau Rd. Mr. DeFeo said that ultimately the truck route will be assigned by the NJDEP. Each trucker must report the source of the product, and that town gets a tonnage report from the site owners; a daily log will be kept. Asked how to get tonnage with no scale, he explained a formula will be utilized which is 1 cubic yard equals 1 ton of food waste.

The meeting was opened to the public for questions and comments.

Dr. Wainen asked how rodents will be controlled. Mr. DeFeo explained the product will be hot, temperatures too high for rodents to tolerate. An integrated pest management system will be in place to control, including fences and other methods. The problem is unknown at this time, but no chemicals are planned. The DEP will decide. Asked about sea gulls, he said they should not be a problem because the food waste is not exposed. Nothing is planned for them at this time.

Joseph Watters, Mansfield Township Mayor, stated that there was a different dedicated truck route other than what the applicant had proposed.

Pat Credon, Land Use Board representative, said the site for the facility is bad. He said the Township Committee sent a letter saying traffic on Airport Road is not allowed; truck traffic would be a major problem if utilized by big trucks.

Daniel Marchese, Esq., attorney for the New Jersey Land and Community Preservation Alliance, and a contingent of objecting citizens would like the opportunity to present opposing views, perhaps at another SWAC meeting. He asked why there is no final plan, no traffic study, etc. and asked for finality from the applicant.

Ms. Nerbak polled the SWAC members and they are agreeable to a presentation at the October 6, 2022 meeting of SWAC.

Matthew Moench, Esq., attorney assigned to represent the Solid Waste Advisory Council, said local regulatory control has been removed by the state, towns do not have jurisdiction; SWAC is an advisory commission which does not issue determinations but provides recommendations to County Commissioners which is an arbiter for the site. If the county approves or accepts, the application goes to the NJDEP. The application is not complete at this time.

Chrissie Mastrocasio, Chair of the Mansfield Township Board of Education, expressed concern for the use of township roads by increased truck traffic; a Resolution has been passed by that Board which highlights the increased risk of accidents and injuries, noise and air pollution.

Rich Petteruti, resident, asked if the DEP takes consideration of local rules or takes the process independently? The response was that on this topic the DEP will take local rules into consideration but it wants to avoid unnecessary questions in opposition; local regulation cannot stand in their way. The state preempts local regulations. The DEP will contact and consider the municipality views.

Ron Hayes, Township Committeeman, asked if a screen is used during the composting operation. Mr. DeFeo said that there will be a screener on site.

Perry Edwards expressed concern about water runoff, what happens to overflow in flooding circumstances? The response was that bumpers and the building are concrete, runoff goes into a control drain; "contact water" goes into tanks and "stormwater" stays on site.

Ms. Nerbak offered the opportunity for the opposition to make a presentation at the next SWAC meeting which will be October 6, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

**Next meeting date:
October 6, 2022**