

April 6, 2023

The April 6, 2023 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Donald Niece and was conducted in person at the Warren County Commissioners meeting room. SWAC members present were Donald Niece, Emilio Lois, Thomas Fey, Gregory Gaertner, Frank Van Horn, Joseph Watters, Robert Finke, Jan M. Lee, James Smith. Excused were Ellen Nerbak and Debbie Pasquarelli. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum. Also attending were David Dech, Jon Knittel, Chris McCormick, JoAnn Fascenelli and Brendan Bowers.

MINUTES

On review of the February 2, 2023 minutes, Mr. Finke noted the following necessary edits. On page 1, Solid Waste/Recycling, second line notes "a scheduled collection date" does not state what collection; it should be corrected to note a Hazardous Household Waste collection. On page 2, first line, a motion by Mr. Finke should explain "Mr. Finke MOVED in favor of the resolution against recommending approval of the application" He also corrected the 2023 Meeting Dates paragraph (page 2) to inset the words "not yet" in the first line of the paragraph to read that Commissioners have not approved the revised bylaws yet that were

CORRESPONDENCE -- see New Business

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Solid Waste/Recycling

Ms. Nerbak had previously reported that the Commissioners have not approved the revised by-laws that were approved by SWAC. Mr. Dech reported that subsequent to the February SWAC meeting the by-laws were approved by the Commissioners to conduct a minimum of four SWAC meetings per year. Today's meeting was not intended to be held, but was called to approve the change of the implementing agency to CUA. The by-laws also call for alternate seats for industrial and environmental representation. This year's meeting dates have been advertised; the October meeting can be cancelled. If need be pursuant to the bylaws.

Mr. Dech is hosting a meeting with the county's municipal recycling coordinators; tonnage reports will be reviewed. He reported that a representative from Recycling Coach will be presenting at the meeting as well. Recycle Coach is an app that will help people who download it to their computer or phone with how and where to bring recyclables; it is free. The meeting offers two credits for coordinators.

Vivaria Ecologics has filed an appeal of the SWAC's decision with Commissioners; no meetings to hear the appeal have been scheduled yet. Mr. Watters asked if there is a time frame to file and hear the appeal; Mr. Dech said there are no established time frames although the appeal was filed within the 45-60 day frame as suggested at the February SWAC meeting.

Mr. Bowers of Sanico questioned his membership as an alternate to Mr. Smith who is an industrial representative from Sanico. Mr. Dech said that now that the bylaws have been approved by the Commissioners, Mr. Bowers' membership as an alternate to Mr. Smith can be considered by the Commissioners.

REHS

Mr. McCormick has inspected the exempt BC and other C facilities. They are asphalt manufacturing exemptions, convenience centers, electronic recyclers, leaf mulchers, etc. Mr. McCormick and a DEP inspector visited Rotondi and Sons. Last inspections under the CEHA grant were June to July.

PCFA

Mr. Knittel reported a household hazardous waste collection event is scheduled for April 23, 8 a.m. to noon; comingled items are free to county residents. Also, county residents can bring certain electronic equipment at no charge Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at the landfill. The new cell is now open and functioning; municipal solid waste is now being accepted. The remaining cells are nearly full and will be closed this summer; the new cells will provide capacity for another 41 years at the current rate of filling. Mr. Watters asked if an adjustment could be made for the long wait line at the HHW collection, and Mr. Knittel said an effort will be made to keep the line moving. Mr. Knittel also said the charge for tire recycling is the same cost charged by a recycler; much of the recycling expense is covered by grants.

NEW BUSINESS

A letter has been received from county counsel seeking SWAC support to change PCFA to County Utilities Authority (CUA). This is an action that will require the Board of County Commissioners to hold a public hearing. Mr. Finke questioned the phrase used in County Counsel's letter "Substantially limited powers". Mr. Dech replied that the Utilities Statute is geared more as a public authority that will regulate utilities rather than a PCFA which was created to finance the construction of the Resource Recovery Facility which is no longer in operation. Mr. Smith questioned the need for PCFA as the Solid Waste Management Plan called for an incinerator to be built, as decided by the Freeholders. The landfill still exists but it was questioned if a CUA ever needed to bond again would the County become liable for any of the CUA debt? At the time Freeholders were adamant about having the PCFA operate as a separate entity. The letter says nothing about county credit and Mr. Smith has questions about this plan. Mr. Smith is uncertain at this time and suggests holding off until we receive responses to the SWAC's questions. As to timeline, Mr. Dech said the Commissioners want to act as soon as possible. Mr. Dech will write a letter to the Commissioners forwarding these comments and questions. Mr. Finke MOVED to write a letter to the Commissioners as outlined, seconded by Mr. Fey. All in favor.

It was MOVED by Mr. Finke to re-appoint Ruth Panté as Secretary to SWAC, seconded by Mr. Fey. All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Secretary

Next meeting date:

June 1, 2023