

Ontario County
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 4, 2016

Committee Members: *RUSSELL*, Baker, Evangelista, Singer, Venuti, and Wickham

Attendees: Supervisors Russell, Singer, Venuti, Evangelista, and Wickham

Staff: Mary Krause, Brian Young, Tom Harvey, Tim Jensen, Holly Adams, and Kris Thorsness

Consultants/Guests: Supervisors Marren & Vedora, Jerry Leone, Matt East - Casella Waste Management.

Call to Order: Chair Russell, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and declared all members present except for Supervisor Baker who was necessarily absent.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Russell asked that a single motion be made to approve the minutes from the previous three meetings.

Supervisor Singer made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Wickham to accept the draft minutes from the 3/23/16, 4/6/16 (special meeting) and 4/13/16 meetings be accepted as correct and final.

Prompted by a request by Supervisor Venuti, the committee debated what should be included in committee minutes and the appropriate way to add information to the minutes, especially what was said by a given person.

Supervisor Venuti made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Evangelista to amend the 3/23/13 minutes to include Casella's response regarding how the County would benefit from the estimated reduction of \$1.8 million in construction costs should the bedrock separation variance be approved.

The motion failed with Supervisors Venuti and Evangelista voting in favor and Supervisors Russel, Singer and Wickham voting against.

Supervisor Venuti then made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Singer to amend the 4/13/16 minutes to correct language related to OML requirements for household hazardous waste collection.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The previous motion to approve the minutes (as amended above) from the 3/23/16, 4/6/16 4/13/16 meetings was approved with Supervisor Venuti voting against approving the 3/23/16 minutes. Drew Wickham abstained from voting on the 4/13/16 minutes due to his absence.

2. Solid Waste Management Plan

A. SWMP 2016 Implementation Strategy Update: After referencing the report included in the agenda packet staff gave a verbal update on the effort to update local laws related to solid waste and recycling, and developing a project scope and budget for completing the landfill site master plan.

B. SWMP – County Agency Waste Diversion Progress Report: Mary Krause, County Administrator gave a brief presentation on an overall vision for solid waste management in Ontario County. The three components were as follows:

- 1) The Landfill as a current and future resource,
- 2) The Landfill as a compliance issue, and

3) Recycling, reuse, and sustainability

Brief discussion followed.

Tom Harvey then led discussion on the preliminary SWMP implementation budget information included in the agenda packets. It will serve as the basis for establishing a progressive solid waste management program and feed future discussions with this committee and the Financial Management Committee about the re-allocation of permit success payments.

Subsequent discussion centered the importance of staffing. Supervisor Venuti voiced his support for use of permit success payments to ensure adequate staffing. The committee provided other feedback, discussed the need for an interim resolution to park the funds (none is needed) and indicated general support for the preliminary budget.

Tom Harvey then briefly discussed the proposed changes to the Part 360 regulations governing, solid waste planning as well as construction and operation of landfills. Adoption was likely by the end of 2016. Mr. Harvey also mentioned he would be attending a meeting being held in Syracuse that gave an overview of the proposed changes.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Update: A full report on the attendance and amounts collected will be available at the next EQC meeting. It was reported that 625 households had registered.

Landfill Operations:

3A. Operations Report – Jerry Leone gave a report and described ongoing efforts to find a use for recyclable glass. In a recent example, Casella had reached out to a local farmer to see if there is an interest in using crushed glass as drainage material in place of stone.

Mr. Leone also mentioned that several school groups including Victor, Geneva, and Hobart & William Smith, have toured or soon will be touring, the landfill.

He also described ongoing efforts working with the Town of Seneca to move a public water line now located along County Road 5.

Mary Krause then gave an update on progress made establishing the Eco-Heroes program. Representatives for each building have been enlisted. They will be invited to tour the landfill on 5/23. She also mentioned that she and Tom will be meeting with Shelly Field (attorney for Casella) in June.

Matt East then gave an update about ongoing construction activities.

3B. DEC Inspection Reports – There were no questions from the committee.

Landfill Expansion:

4A. Casella Request for Extended Hours on Sundays – Tom Harvey gave a brief overview of why the request was being made to allow Casella to continue operating the landfill on Sundays, through the end of October.

Supervisor Evangelista made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Wickham to recommend approval of the resolution extending the period during which Casella can operate the landfill on Sundays to October 31st, 2016

During discussion Jerry Leone explained that the prolonged permitting process and bad weather have delayed construction enough that work on Sundays may be necessary. He stated that if this resolution is approved, the County will be notified in advance if work is to occur on Sunday.

The motion to allow Casella to work on Sundays through October 31, 2016 was unanimously approved.

Immediately after this action Supervisor Venuti asked Jerry Leone for an update on the soils from the National Grid site in Schenectady. These soils were recently delivered to the landfill site for use as BUD/ADC but found to have levels of contamination that made them unacceptable for such use.

Mr. Leone and Matt East indicated that the soil in question was treated and then disposed of as waste. No additional material is being accepted at the County landfill from that site. In addition, NYSDEC has defined a new protocol for handling of approved BUD/ADC as well as required notification when these materials are suspected to be contaminated beyond approved levels. Mr. Leone told the committee that Casella has updated their Operations & Maintenance Manual in accordance with this updated protocol.

Other Business:

5A. Hiring of On-Demand Landfill Consultant – (editor’s note: this issue was addressed just before item 4A) Mr. Jensen gave an overview of the resolution, indicated that a budget transfer would be needed and that an amended resolution will be reviewed by the Financial Management Committee at their meeting on the 25th of May.

Supervisor Evangelista made a motion that was seconded by Supervisor Singer to recommend approval of the resolution offered by staff to hire SCS as an on-demand consultant for landfill related issues.

During subsequent discussion Supervisor Wickham asked why SCS was being recommended. Mr. Harvey responded that in 2013, after issuance of an RFP, SCS had been selected to help the County resolve technical issues regarding the landfill gas collection system. They were hired again in 2014 to perform a landfill surface scan and advise the County regarding the results. He also indicated that their firm has expertise in a wide range of landfill related areas. It was also stated that this is a request for on-demand services and that any actual work to be done would be authorized in advance by staff, the EQC and/or the Board of Supervisors as appropriate.

The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Privilege of the Floor: Chairman Russell offered Privilege of Floor for those present. There were no requests.

Adjournment: There being no further business before the committee, *at 4:55 pm a motion was made by Supervisor Wickham and seconded by Supervisor Singer to adjourn; motion carried unanimously.*

Submitted by Tim Jensen