

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2006

Mr. Craig Bayston, Chairman, called this meeting to order at 10:05 am. In attendance were Craig Bayston, Richard Simms, Rich Howell, Bud Bates, Ralph Paarlberg, Mel Blanchette, and Jim Tripp, all members of the Subcommittee. Also present were Donna Shehane, Solid Waste & Environmental Manager, Jim Greenstreet, of the Solid Waste Division, Mike Van Mill, Planning Director, and John Boyd, the new State's Attorney of Kankakee County.

A Public Comment period was held. Four members of the public provided comment. Leigh Marcotte stated her desire to have the Solid Waste Plan Update take into account protection of the groundwater when siting a landfill or other operation that impacts our natural resources such as composting and land application. Keith Runyon stated his opinion that most of the pending court cases will make the proposed Update moot. He also stated that Mr. Watson has two court cases that seem to make the proposed Updated Plan totally moot. Mr. Runyon stated that the County does not have any jurisdiction over the expansion site any longer, so why are we even proceeding until all the legal issues are settled. Additionally, Mr. Runyon stated his concern about public hearings being conducted. He asked what action the County is going to take to stop Volini on a Federal level. He explained that the Federal EPA recently overrode the Illinois EPA on the proposed coal-burning plant in Will County. He believes that County has a strong case to go forward in asking the Federal EPA to overturn the IEPA's approval of the Volini permit. He mentioned that he has a report on the Indiana landfill situation which he will give to Donna. Finally, he stated that he doesn't understand why the proposed Update emasculated the old Plan with respect to taking out the part about prohibiting landfills on or near an aquifer. He believes this appears to validate Volini's landfill. Mr. Watson was next and stated that he was here on behalf of the Village of Sammons Point, as its mayor. He was of the understanding that the expansion of the Waste Management landfill on Route 45 was still contained in the Plan Update. He stated that if the committee should proceed with a recommendation for expansion of the Route 45 landfill, it shows an arrogance for not considering the Village of Sammons Point and an insult. He also stated that a landfill should be sited in the best geologically suited area, wherever that may be, as well as at least 1 ½ miles outside the boundary of a municipality. He recommended that the daily volume of waste accepted at a landfill should be in line with what Kankakee County generates. Additionally, Mr. Watson stated that he doesn't particularly care if Waste Management is the contractor for a landfill, it just needs to go in the proper area with the proper volume. He stated that he is committed to writing letters to communities to seek support in putting pressure on the County Board a pressure campaign on the County Board and to stop the adoption of the Plan Update, as well as seeking to remove the Solid Waste Coordinator from her position. Mr. Harrison spoke last and stated that the latest news regarding landfill problems in Indiana should be looked at when considering landfill sitings, and that he has four grandchildren and all of us have a responsibility to benefit the generations to come.

The draft minutes of the last subcommittee were approved.

The Solid Waste Management Plan was the next item on the Agenda. Mr. Boyd recommended tabling this issue for sixty days, to give him time to get up-to-date on the issue. Rich Howell made the motion to table the Solid Waste Plan Update, and Mr. Tripp seconded it. The motion carried.

Donna Shehane discussed the Kankakee County Solid Waste & Recycling Ordinance. She stated that a hearing officer to oversee a hearing based on an appeal of a proposed suspension of a waste hauler's ability to operate was to be recommended to the County Board by Karl Kruse.

The America Recycles Day 2006 Share Your Soles Shoe Collection Event was discussed. Many schools are participating and the school collecting the most shoes for distribution to disaster-stricken and impoverished countries around the world will win a recycled plastic park bench.

The idea of an electronics drop-off site for Kankakee County citizens and businesses was discussed. Donna Shehane has spoken to three companies about this and is looking into writing a grant application to IDCEO for funds to help pay the cost of needed equipment. Mr. Howell stated that he is aware that the City of Kankakee is also preparing a grant application and that in order to not duplicate efforts, perhaps the City and County could work together on this.

Under "Old Business," Donna Shehane discussed the Recycling Ordinance with respect to mobile home park mandated recycling. A letter has been drafted to the owners and/or managing agents of all mobile home parks, whether located in an incorporated or unincorporated area of the County. The parks have been informed of their need to provide recycling to their residents. The Solid Waste Division will be following up to verify that recycling is available at these locations beginning in January 2007.

A short discussion on recycling ensued. Mr. Howell stated that there is a large population in the county with no recycling availability. He was also disappointed that the Finance Department decided to bill the Planning Department for the janitorial services related to our in-house recycling grant, because the Planning Department worked on the grant, was successful, saved the county money, and then got billed for this. Mr. Paarlberg stated that he, too, has a hard time finding a place to recycle his agricultural plastic bins.

The recycling grant awarded to Kankakee County for purchase of in-house recycling bins and dumpsters has been successfully closed out.

Mr. Howell stated that any future personal attacks on county personnel would result in his leaving the room, as they are not acceptable.

The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting has been scheduled for December 19, 2006 at 10:00 am in the same location.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.