

Meeting Minutes for Policy Committee Meeting Held on July 15, 2022

From: Preble County Solid Waste District

In attendance were: David Haber (Commissioner), Buddy McDaniel, Jeff Sewert, Gary Wagner, Emily Tyler, Dustin Yingst (Rumpke), Matthew Hittle (Ohio EPA), Jamie Zawila (GT Environmental) and Beth Wright (Assistant Director of Preble County Solid Waste District).

After introductions, the first order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from the March 31, 2022 meeting. It was noted by Gary Wagner that his name needed to be added to the list of attendees for that meeting. That change will be made to the minutes and a new, revised meeting minutes will be posted to the policy committee resources on the solid waste district's website. The minutes were approved from a motion made by Jeff Sewert and seconded by Gary Wagner.

The Preble County Solid Waste District's financial report for years 2019 through 2022 (to date) was given by Assistant Director Beth Wright. This report was followed by a PowerPoint presentation given by the District's solid waste planning consultants, GT Environmental Inc. Jamie Zawila, owner and principal consultant gave this report focusing on the plan writing process using the Ohio EPA 4.1 format as well as policy committee member responsibilities. Jamie pointed out what other solid waste districts had done with their solid waste programs and plans and she answered questions from policy committee members during the presentation. Copies of both reports are listed under the tab "Policy Committee Member Resources" on the Preble County Solid Waste District's website: www.preblecountyrecycles.org.

During the presentations, policy committee members addressed the following questions and concerns:

1. It was asked of Ohio EPA's Matthew Hittle what kind of intended goals looked good for solid waste districts to write into their plans. Matthew responded that one of the main emphasis areas might be in the District's educational program efforts. Ohio EPA is desiring districts to promote behavioral changes about recycling geared to a targeted audience. Success might be measured in landfill tonnages diverted or a district's pounds-per-person of trash generated numbers going down in district reports. Landfill diversion rate is the total amount of diverted waste divided by the total amount of all waste generated times 100. Generation rate in pounds-per-person-per-day is calculated by dividing the total waste generated in tons per year times 2,000 (pounds per ton) by the population times 365 days per year.
2. The District's yard waste program is another area where plan emphasis might ideally occur. Since the District purchased a yard waste shredder in 2019, this equipment can be used to spur an uptick in yard waste recycling in the county. The goal is to show an increase in the District's overall recycling rate, of which yard waste is an important part. Currently, the yard waste shredder is not in operation due to still being in the permitting phase of operation. Gary Wagner said that the City of Eaton needs to begin to separate yard waste from trash and that when the shredder gets going that maybe residents can take it directly to the landfill for recycling.
3. It was pointed out that other solid waste districts in Ohio have instituted policies intended to cause recycling behavioral changes geared toward reducing contamination in recycling bins, which also has

the effect of raising a county's recycling rate since recycling loads won't be rejected due to trash being in them. Some districts engage in "bin tagging" at curbside collection locations where an "OOPS" tag is put on rejected loads that contain refused items. This helps the public understand that responsible recycling of items must occur and that recycling bins are not places to put items that are otherwise considered strictly trash. Beth mentioned that she has a good working relationship with Rumpke and with private citizens throughout the county to help monitor the county's public recycling drop-off sites for contamination and illegal dumping issues. However, in the past, fences and cameras have had to be installed at certain sites and some prosecutions in the courts have had to take place in the past concerning illegal dumping in the county's public recycling bins. It is quite the undertaking for one county employee to have to handle all of the county's potential issues regarding contamination of the public recycling bins and illegal dumping incidents. Law enforcement is often overwhelmed and these issues may be lower priority for them.

4. Matthew Hittle and Jamie Zawila mentioned that currently in the works is a new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the state of Ohio that will provide additional grant funds for solid waste districts to apply for grants for programs such as providing county residents with opportunities to receive waste wheelers at their residence to collect recycling. Also, the funds might be used to give solid waste districts money to fight contamination issues at their county-sponsored public drop-off sites for recycling collections. Ohio EPA will likely be the conduit for providing grant opportunities for these types of projects. Likely those will come about after the beginning of 2023.

5. As Jamie Zawila was explaining the programs that other Ohio solid waste districts were instituting, Matthew Hittle said that Ohio EPA's definition of solid waste DOES NOT include construction debris such as plastic piping. Also not included are items such as plastic field tile or agricultural films, even though those are often HDPE #2 plastics. The only plastics that Rumpke collects for recycling in the county are plastic bottles and jugs and food-grade items such as butter tubs, yogurt cups, etc. Agricultural recycling remains a challenge since the state has no infrastructure for companies to recycle these kinds of items. The USDA is working on these types of problems.

6. Another area of improvement for Preble County to focus on in the new 4.1 plan might be the goal of increasing recycling at area parks. Currently the District is attempting to cooperate with Preble Arts to provide some recycling bins for the ASK park in downtown Eaton and the Lewisburg Community Park.

7. During the GT Environmental PowerPoint, other district's strategies for recycling and waste reduction were highlighted:

Logan County has a pay-as-you-throw trash program where the district charges \$2.30 per bag of trash and the funds go to the solid waste district.

Clinton County is reducing the amount of its public drop-offs which actually increased recycling numbers due to the fact the stations were used more in the most convenient areas and had less contamination with less rejected loads.

Putnam County has focused on plastics #1 and #2 and they have one small collection point for this material which they then sell the plastics at their Material Recovery Facility.

Warren County has instituted a small recycling fee for residents. Residents are responsible for disposing of their own waste.

Beth mentioned to the policy committee that ANY changes in fees that would be considered for the district should take place during the plan writing and ratification and not afterward. It takes a lot of paperwork to change a plan in mid-process and the plan would have to go through re-ratification if fee changes are made after the plan gets implemented. It was not remembered when the last time that solid waste district fees were changed.

The final discussion was the needs and goals of the District from Beth's perspective:

List of Needs for the Solid Waste District-

1. Additional staff, especially for the larger county events would be ideal.
2. Upgrade in vehicle, copy machine, expansion of equipment storage area.

List of Goals for the Solid Waste District-

1. Effective plan to combat contamination at the public drop-off recycling sites.
2. Finding ways to cooperate with other solid waste districts or other Preble County agencies, villages, and municipalities to promote recycling awareness. Possibly partnering with Rumpke to do a mass recycling education campaign in Preble County.
3. Investigate additional grant opportunities.
4. Institute programs for handling hard-to-recycle items. Perhaps set up a community-wide recycling event or resource exchange system.

The presentation from GT was concluded and Jaime mentioned that the next policy committee meeting would be March 17, 2023 and that during that meeting policy committee members would discuss budget and planning period programs for the new plan. In the meantime, the Preble County Solid Waste District will receive sections of the plan to review and/or edit and then send to policy committee members for comment as needed.

There will be a July 14, 2023 meeting which will **require a quorum** of policy committee members attending. During that meeting, the policy committee will complete the goal demonstration section for the plan and finalize the budget and members will act to approve the certification statement for the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM by a motion from Gary Wagner and Dustin Yingst.