

Meeting Minutes for Policy Committee Meeting Held on March 31, 2022

From: Preble County Solid Waste District

In attendance were: David Haber (Commissioner), Buddy McDaniel, Jeff Sewert, Gary Wagner, Joe Ferriell, Emily Warren (Tyler) and Beth Wright.

After introductions, the first order of business was to provide members with an overview of the history and operational aspects of the Preble County Solid Waste District and the Preble County Landfill, the purpose and role of the policy committee in respect to solid waste planning, and an introduction into the solid waste planning process. Members were previously given a packet containing documents pertaining to these topics, which were reviewed during the meeting. Documents discussed during this meeting can also be found on the District's website www.preblecountyrecycles.org under the tab Policy Committee Member Resources. PCSWD's 15-year operational plan update is due in draft form to Ohio EPA by July 11, 2023, with the final approved and ratified plan being submitted to Ohio EPA no later than January 1, 2025.

It was noted that there was a current vacancy on the policy committee and that the Township Representative seat needed to be filled. Beth agreed to approach the township officials at the next township meeting on Thursday, April 7 to ask for a township volunteer to be voted into the position. Subsequently, at that township meeting, township officials voted that Jimmy Gambrell should be the one to fill the open position. Mr. Gambrell was given a policy committee membership packet to review for the next policy committee meeting.

A comprehensive overview of PCSWD's funding mechanisms and programs was discussed at this meeting. Recycling data relating to the county's recycling collection programs was analyzed. The district's educational programming efforts were also detailed. Members were asked to consider programs that PCSWMD might accomplish in cooperation with the City of Eaton and all of the Preble County villages. PCSWD having only one active staff member performing all of the office's daily duties was highlighted as a major district challenge and Emily Warren said that she might be able to provide the district with information about possibly getting an intern or additional support staff to assist with office tasks and other types activities. Programs such as OEPA's scrap tire collection grants and the landfill's fee policies as well as issues and challenges the district and the landfill face on a daily basis were talked about. Progress made toward achieving the last plan's goals were reviewed.

The potential problem of not having PCSWD's current plan writing consulting firm (GT Environmental Inc.) on board to assist with the writing of the next plan was discussed. Due to potential staff issues, it was feared that the company might not have the staff available with an adequate amount of solid waste knowledge to finish out their current plan writing contract negotiated with the district in January of 2022. GT Environmental Inc. works to support the policy committee in all aspects of plan writing and serves as data entry and plan content specialists working closely alongside PCSWD staff.

A vote was taken by the policy committee to have PCSWD submit a letter to the county prosecutor via the commissioner's office asking GT Environmental whether they intended to honor the current contract stipulations of helping the district write the solid waste plan update **AND** assisting PCSWD with writing the office's 2021 Annual District Report. The 2021 ADR submission having adequate and accurate data is very important as this data will ultimately serve as the baseline year data which will be used to write the new plan goals for the district as well as to benchmark the progress toward achieving those goals for the next 15 years. The motion to have the district submit the letter to GT Environmental was made by Gary Wagner and seconded by Jeff Sewert and Buddy McDaniel. The motion passed unanimously.

The March 31, 2022 meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM. No next meeting was scheduled as the district is awaiting the response from GT Environmental to inquiries about their future role in PCSWD's solid waste planning process.

Update: GT Environmental has responded to the District's inquiry about continuing with the Annual District Report consultation and solid waste plan writing contract services. They will be continuing to honor the current contract and will assist the District with submitting an Annual District Report to Ohio EPA by June 1, 2022 as well as helping the policy committee to write the new solid waste plan due to Ohio EPA in final approved form by January 1, 2025.

The next policy committee meeting will be held on July 15, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the Preble County Commission Chambers located at 101 E. Main Street, Eaton Ohio, 45320.