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RSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Special Meeting
September 24, 2019

A special meeting of the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 2:02 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room, Administration Building, 695 Moores Creek Lane, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Board Members Present: Paul Oberdorfer, Kathy Galvin, Mike Gaffney, Dr. Liz Palmer, Jeff Richardson, Lance Stewart, Dr. Tarron Richardson (arrived at 2:10 p.m.).

Board Members Absent: None.

Rivanna Staff Present: David Rhoades, Phil McKalips, Michelle Simpson, Austin Marrs, Andrea Terry, Victoria Fort, Jennifer Whitaker, Scott Schiller, Liz Coleman, Dr. Bill Morris, Dyon Vega, Katie McIlwee, Bill Mawyer.

Attorney(s) Present: Mr. Kurt Krueger.

Also Present: Members of the public and media representatives.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Gaffney called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING
a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board on August 27, 2019
Mr. Gaffney asked members if they had comments, questions, or wished to make changes to the minutes of the August 27 meeting.

Dr. Palmer moved that the Board approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Galvin and passed unanimously (6-0). Dr. Richardson had not yet arrived at the meeting and was absent from the vote.

3. RECOGNITION
There were no recognitions.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Mr. Bill Mawyer, Executive Director, RSWA, presented to the Board. He stated that as part of the strategic plan and workforce development goal, with a succession management initiative, they are excited to have coordinated with PVCC to provide a project management training course for middle managers. He stated they will also receive some free training from Virginia Risk Sharing Association, their property and liability insurance provider, which has a library of training videos. He reminded the Board that it approved the acceptance of long-term care insurance through the Virginia Retirement System and that the open enrollment period runs from

September 16 – October 11, during which time employees may register directly with Genworth Life, the provider.

Mr. Mawyer stated they have had community outreach with the Monticello Garden Club and that he spoke with the Blue Ridge Home Builders Association yesterday about new services offered, hours of operation, and reduced costs at the Ivy Transfer Station.

Mr. Mawyer stated the Alpha Phi Omega services group has assisted with trash pickup along Dick Woods Road. He stated that August was a big month for the Ivy facility as they had 4,802 vehicles and averaged 115 tons per day, which is close to the record.

Mr. Mawyer drew the Board's attention to Item 7b in the agenda packet, which has a graph created by Phil McKalips that shows the increase in tonnage at the Ivy Transfer Station from January – August. He noted that they expected some increase during the summer, which may go down as winter approaches, and that the Board's objective to increase tonnage has been met. He next brought Item 7a, Financial Report, to the Board's attention. He pointed out that the Ivy MSW program had a net positive cash flow as a result of revenue exceeding expenses for the first two months, with a net of 60 cents per ton. He contrasted this with past deficits equaling hundreds of dollars per ton.

Dr. Palmer remarked that she doesn't believe this has happened before.

Mr. Mawyer informed the Board that the household hazardous waste and bulky waste collection programs will begin this Thursday with a commercial collection, followed by residential household hazardous waste collection on Friday and Saturday, and then bulky waste amnesty collection days on October 5 and 12, which includes furniture. He noted that the County pays 64.5% and the City pays 35.5% of the cost of household hazardous waste services in accordance with the environmental agreement, while the cost of bulky waste collection to each municipality is determined by the origin of the items, which they track. He continued that electronic waste collection will be held on October 26, which is also supported by both the City and County.

Mr. Mawyer announced that Employee Appreciation Day will be held on October 31, a pumpkin smash will be held at the recycling center on November 2, and America Recycles Day will be celebrated on November 15. He invited Board members to attend the Employee Appreciation Day event.

Mr. Mawyer reminded the Board that in June they discussed development rights of the property near Ivy and stated a professional appraiser has determined the development right to be valued at $20K. He concluded his report.

Mr. Gaffney invited questions or comments from the Board.

Ms. Galvin praised the inclusion of a graph in the presentation.

Mr. Gaffney noted that the 115 tons per day does not include the period when the facility was closed as a result of a fire and asked if they saw a bump right after that time or if it was steady for the month.

Mr. McKalips replied that it seemed much busier the day they reopened, but then returned to normal the day after.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. Gaffney opened the Items from the Public portion of the meeting. As no one came forward to address the Board Mr. Gaffney closed the Items from the Public portion of the meeting.

6. RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Staff Report on Finance

b. Staff Report on Ivy Material Utilization Center/Recycling Operations Update

c. General Administrative Procedures

d. Award of Nonprofessional Services Contract On-Call Dam Maintenance Services: Bander Smith, Inc

Mr. Gaffney asked if any members wished to pull an item. There were no members who wished to do so.

Dr. Palmer moved that the Board approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Galvin and passed unanimously (7-0).

8. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Presentation: Charlottesville's Landfill Diversion Program; Kristel Riddervold, Environmental Sustainability Manager, and Marty Silman, Public Service Manager

Mr. Marty Silman presented. He noted that he began in Public Works about a year and a half ago and has looked at all the components of the solid waste program, which included the posing of questions to staff. He described the program as comprehensive, with good services offered to the community, such as curb side pickup, large item pickup, and leaf collection. He stated he has looked to revamp the program and has issued a request for proposal of consulting firms to review their in-house and contracted service programs, pointing out that the curb-side pickup program is contracted, while large item, leaf pickup, dead animals, and some business customer pickups are conducted in house. He noted that they offer a dumpster service contract utilized by the schools and some City facilities. He stated the solid waste budget has an approximate deficit of $800K, which the City subsidizes and which will be looked at by the consultant.

Dr. Palmer asked what the total budget is.

Mr. Oberdorfer replied that it is $1.8M

Mr. Silman pointed out that they allow private contractors to conduct curb-side pickup, which makes enforcement very difficult.

Mr. Silman noted that the RFP is solutions based, with a problem statement, and they hope to obtain good direction from the consultant. He stated they will make outreaches to the public and to stakeholders, such as the schools and UVA, and the outer ring of Charlottesville, with a focus on landfill diversion of waste and on how to address the changing market for recycling. He stated the consultant will provide a report that outlines a series of options for which they can partner with City Council and they hope to have a dynamic program that keeps up with changes, that is sustainable in the long run, that includes composting and local recycling, and that might close the budget deficit. He stated they will interview candidates and the selection team will select a consultant within the next month or two.

Dr. Palmer remarked that she has been confused about the ordinance that allows additional haulers besides the one contracted with by the City, and noted that State laws also govern this. She asked if they are assuming that this is just a matter of changing the ordinance, if that would take care of who picks up in the City?

Mr. Silman replied that a solutions-based ordinance does not dictate what they want the consultant to look at as they want the consultant to make recommendations on a suite of options. He stated the consultant will review the ordinance and look at ways to improve enforcement opportunities.

Mr. Krueger added that he thinks Dr. Palmer is referring to flow control ordinances and whether Charlottesville has or would have its consultant look at, if it doesn't have one, whether it would have Charlottesville look at whether it wants to adopt a flow control ordinance, which requires people to dispose of trash through the City and not through private haulers. [Ed. Note: Flow control ordinances generally refer to ordinances restricting the locations at which collected refuse may be disposed. However, municipalities in Virginia may also restrict the collection of refuse as well, subject to certain constraints.]

Mr. Silman agreed that this is certainly an option.

Dr. Palmer confirmed that this is basically what she was asking, though she is also asking if there is a State law that prohibits that.

Mr. Krueger replied that there are limitations under State law for doing that, though he believes they are generally allowed, and Rivanna considered this about ten years ago but did not do it.

Dr. Palmer asked if there are other ordinances they are looking at.

Mr. Silman responded that initially they will only look at the solid waste ordinance, though it is possible they may determine that other areas of the ordinance need to be looked at.

Dr. Palmer asked where they take a dead deer.

Mr. Silman replied that they take them to Republic in Troy.

Dr. Palmer emphasized that the Board of Supervisors is very interested in determining ways in which it can work with the City.

Mr. Silman remarked that those involved in this with the City are very excited about moving forward.

Ms. Galvin wondered if the flow ordinance is related to the $800K ordinance and the fact that some people use private haulers instead of the contractor, for which they are not recouping costs. She asked if stakeholders that will be on the review panel and who will be interviewed by the consultant will include representatives from the City, County, and UVA.

Ms. Silman confirmed that a County representative will serve on the review panel as a non-voting member and will provide feedback on the proposals.

Ms. Galvin observed that yard clearance has become a bigger issue as a result of extreme weather events and asked Mr. Silman if he sees this issue increasing in importance.

Mr. Silman replied that he thinks it is a hindrance that they don't have a dedicated yard waste program.

Dr. Palmer remarked that this is quite daunting for a lot of residents as the County is over 700 square miles in size

Mr. Jeff Richardson asked for the percentage of residents that come under the City's contract.

Mr. Silman responded that he does not know but offered to get this information.

Mr. Richardson asked for the number of haulers in the City besides the contract.

Mr. Silman named County Waste, Time, and Republic, and stated there are others, though he couldn't recall which ones.

Mr. Oberdorfer remarked that the haulers are not permitted.

Dr. Tarron Richardson expressed his concern with the number of haulers in the City and stated he would prefer to have one hauler provide all services throughout the City and to have the ability to bring in additional equipment during inclement weather to take care of the additional waste and dispose of it. He stated this will probably decrease the deficit considerably.

Dr. Palmer emphasized that the population is aging, a lot of people can't handle the trash cans, and stated she has observed haulers go up driveways and into residents' garages, though County Waste requires the can to be placed at the end of the driveway.

Dr. Richardson pointed out that residents over a certain age can complete a form to request that haulers come up the driveway.

Mr. Richardson added that this encompasses anything related to ADA.

Mr. Silman stated they have a form that can be requested and that there are 18 – 20 residents who take advantage of this service.

Dr. Palmer remarked that it can become a problem if haulers charge extra for this and she has seen people burn trash or put it in a pit because of the issue with getting it to the end of the driveway.

Mr. Richardson asked Mr. Silman if they do only residential or both residential and commercial.

Mr. Silman replied that, under the current program, they pick up for business customers in the downtown mall, Belmont, and uptown areas and the study will look at multi-family and business district opportunities.

Ms. Kristel Riddervold, Environmental Sustainability and Facilities Development Manager, pointed out that there is a business, a logistics, and a financial side to this and that dealing with waste is also a climate protection strategy. She noted that 60% of what goes to the landfill is organic material, which decomposes and creates the problem of methane, and that it is a timely issue that both the County and City should look at.

Dr. Palmer thanked Ms. Riddervold for bringing up the climate issue.

Ms. Galvin asked if the RFP will also look at climate effects.

Mr. Silman confirmed that it will.

b. *Presentation: Composting Feasibility Study; Bill Mawyer, Executive Director and Craig Coker, Coker Composting and Consulting*

Mr. Mawyer reminded the Board that a master plan for the Ivy facility was completed last year, which included a composting facility. He stated that Craig Coker, the consultant, has conducted a composting feasibility study, and is in the audience for assistance. He stated they currently have composting bins at McIntire Recycling Center and presented a photograph of them. He continued that the composting material is transported by the contractor, Natural Organic Processes Enterprise (NOPE), to McGill Environmental and equals about 50 tons/year of food waste at a cost of $12K. He pointed out that Waverly is located about 120 miles to the southeast and so it is a pretty good distance away. He stated they also offer composting at Ivy Material Utilization Center and provide a can in which residents can deposit food waste for free and businesses can bring waste at a cost of $178/ton.

Mr. Mawyer stated that UVA's contractor, Black Bear, brings UVA's compostable food waste through Ivy, where it is weighed and a charge of $178/ton is levied. He stated they pay $154/ton to have the waste transported to the facility in Crimora, with the $24 difference used to cover RSWA's costs. He stated that UVA sends about 500 tons/year through the facility and the facility processes about 550 tons/year, with UVA's composting waste being sent to a location in Crimora that is 28 miles away. He stated they treat about 14,000 tons/year of bio-solids at Moores Creek treatment plant through the use of a spinning centrifuge, which dries the sludge, after which a conveyor belt transports it to a tractor trailer. He continued that they truck in septage from Glenmore and Scottsville wastewater treatment plants, after which it is processed and then loaded on to a truck, at an annual cost of $600,000 to $700,000/year. He presented a photograph of the Waverly composting facility

Mr. Mawyer stated that Mr. Coker looked a three self-composting options, including a wind row facility at Ivy, an aerated static pile facility for wastewater bio-solids, and a combining of food

waste and bio-solids at Ivy. He stated that Mr. Coker projects that a food waste diversion program could grow from 550 tons/year to 4,000 tons/year by 2030 with governmental help, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 11.8%. He presented a photograph of a compost container and noted that they provide residents with compostable bags. He stated that Mr. Coker and staff have come up with alternatives for windrow composting of food waste at Ivy with a 4,000 ton/year facility at a cost to build and equip of $950K and annual operating costs of approximately $115K. He continued that Mr. McKalips, Mr. Wood, and he have come up with two other alternatives to try to bring the cost down a bit, with one being a 2,000 ton/year facility at a lower cost and operating expense, and the other being a 1,000 ton/year facility, as compared to their current 550/ton year capacity.

Mr. Mawyer stated that Mr. Coker has also looked at the composting of bio-solids at Ivy and projects a cost of $6M to construct and equip the facility with an approximate annual operating cost of $1M.

Ms. Galvin asked if this is a combined cost.

Mr. Mawyer confirmed that it is a combined cost.

Ms. Galvin speculated that they would save on the transportation costs of driving to the Waverly and Crimora facilities and asked if this was factored into the cost estimates to arrive at a net cost.

Mr. Coker replied that the costs were factored into the net present value to calculate the dollar per ton.

Mr. Mawyer added that fuel miles were factored in and they reached the conclusion that, from a financial standpoint of factoring in mileage and the present value of making a new investment, Rivanna should continue to compost food waste at an off-site facility and that, should they compost at Ivy, it would be food waste only and recommended the 2,000/ton per year facility. He stated that Mr. Coker recommends they not construct a bio-solids composting facility at Ivy as they would be better off financially if they were to continue to ship waste to McGill or to a similar facility. He stated that staff has come up with an idea to bring food waste to the bio-solids trailer at Moores Creek. He stated that Mr. McKalips has had a conversation with a private company about having this company build and operate a facility at Ivy, though they don't yet have information on the specifics of capacity and costs.

Dr. Palmer observed that in the report the transportation costs of composting represent a small percentage of the total and believes that the value of the compost has not been taken into consideration. She expressed interest in learning the cost to combine food waste with bio-solids, which she stated is a good alternative as they ramp up the composting program in the County and City. She stated she doesn't see how they will achieve a 4,000 ton capacity in ten years and likes the idea of ramping up the program before putting in the infrastructure in order to see how successful it will be and it gives the private sector more time to see if they would like to become involved. She asked how long it will take to add 1,000 tons to the sludge.

Mr. Mawyer replied that it would be a year and that they can have an engineer conduct an analysis and have more information in three to six months. He stated they could potentially have a ramp on which to roll the yellow carts, dump the waste into the truck and send it to Waverly,

though they will not have the capacity to process a huge container from UVA and the waste will have to be brought in fairly frequently in smaller quantities, perhaps daily.

Dr. Palmer asked if UVA might continue to use Black Bear with the RSWA doing its own waste separately.

Mr. Mawyer replied that he thinks they would be big enough to take UVA's product but won't be able to store food waste for extended periods at Moores Creek.

Mr. Silman added that the costs of UVA's food waste stream compared to McIntire's food waste stream are different and that perhaps Ivy could be looked at for the processing of co-mingled material instead of paying a hauler to take it away.

Mr. Mawyer agreed that this would be a good start.

Dr. Palmer asked why they are not currently taking the materials that come to McIntire to Crimora along with UVA's stuff.

Mr. Mawyer replied that they put it out to bid and expected Black Bear to be the low bidder, in which case they would have taken it to Crimora. However, NOPE was the low bidder and continues to use Waverly.

Dr. Palmer remarked that it will be interesting to see how they balance greenhouse gas emissions from transportation versus the low bidder, though she does not know how to calculate this and asked if any of the professionals are able to.

Mr. Mawyer remarked that they rely on the Board to make these policy decisions regarding sustainability vs. financial alternatives.

Ms. Galvin noted that VDOT does not take the costs of alternative modes of transportation into account and this is part of a cultural issue statewide. She stated she is interested in learning how this can be integrated with what the City is doing.

Mr. Mawyer emphasized that volume is the key to running a facility without a huge deficit and that without sufficient volume they are better off having the waste hauled away. He noted that Spotsylvania County has built a $17M composting facility that accepts bio-solids and Rivanna has been in discussion with their public facilities director, though it appears it would be more expensive than taking bio-solids to McGill.

Ms. Galvin wondered why they are more expensive.

Mr. Mawyer responded that he is not sure but he has told the public facilities director in Spotsylvania that he has the highest prices and the director responded that they would reconsider.

Dr. Palmer suggested the County and City consider the costs of greenhouse gas emissions and the tradeoffs, though she doesn't know how this could be calculated.

Mr. Silman stated there will be hundreds of opportunities to make investments in reducing their carbon footprint and agreed that they should calculate these costs.

Mr. Mawyer stated they are trying to conduct an alternative analysis from a financial standpoint and will need to integrate parameters of sustainability.

Ms. Galvin remarked that she doesn't recall that the Board has ever held a work session on the topic of a cost/benefit analysis of reducing emissions.

Mr. Mawyer replied that they can do this and get some people to help. He stated they will discuss the financial and sustainability aspects of bio-solids in a few minutes during the RWSA meeting and in the coming months they will discuss the financial and sustainability aspects of the co-generation of electricity and the burning of methane gas.

Ms. Galvin asked when they will find out if they will receive a permit to place solar panels on the landfill.

Mr. McKalips replied that the application to Dominion was made at the end of August and they expect the winners to be announced in January.

Dr. Palmer observed that the aim of the program is landfill diversion and asked how far along they are in the discussion of the costs and tradeoffs with greenhouse gas emissions.

Ms. Riddervold replied that, to a large extent, this is the intention of a study like this, to weigh fiduciary goals with sustainability. She stated they want the consultant to provide three practical ways for consideration over a five to ten-year time horizon.

Dr. Palmer asked if they are doing more of an inventory or lifecycle evaluation of these issues.

Ms. Riddervold replied that they will ask for the consultant to provide an effective way of looking at those metrics. She proposed that they hold focus groups on this topic, if the Board is interested.

Dr. Palmer expressed her support for this.

9. OTHER ITEMS FROM BOARD/STAFF NOT ON AGENDA

There were none presented.

10. CLOSED MEETING

There was no closed meeting held.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:56 p.m., Dr. Palmer moved that the meeting be adjourned. She was seconded by Mr. Richardson and the motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Tarron Richardson
Secretary - Treasurer