

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM
APRIL 21, 2008
6:30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Jack Malloy, Chairman
Ms. Pat Curtis
Ms. Debra Chatham
Michael Knight
Ed Allen (Late)
Rick Hoffman, Staff
Anthony Powell, Staff
Jon Brown, Staff
Davin Suggs, Staff
Jean Chesser, Deputy Clerk
Bill Stinson, Citizen

ABSENT:

Harold Carter
Larry Clayton
Ray Walke
Sam Palmer
Leon Alexander
Ms. Alice Godwin, Resigned

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Malloy called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. Let the record reflect there was not a quorum present (only four members present when the meeting convened).

LET THE RECORD REFLECT NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING, AND MEMBERS PRESENT HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION ONLY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of April 14, 2008, were presented for approval; however, due to lack of a quorum no formal action was taken. These minutes will be presented at the meeting on April 28th, for Committee approval.

Mr. Hoffman stated Dr. Henry Grant could not be present to address the committee, due to a conflict in time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Bill Stinson addressed the Committee regarding a problem he had with a notice that the site would be closed. He said there is a problem at the Lake Talquin site because the garbage bins were completely full, including the cardboard/paper half of the recycling bins. He said that if, in fact the County has lost half of the people and they are still overwhelming the space that is available, then there is an obvious need to up-size the site or to more frequently empty

the bins – something of that nature. He said if this is going to work and people are going to participate, then obstacles cannot be put in front of them.

In response to a question from the Chair, Mr. Stinson said at the Lake Talquin Site there is room to put additional containers, because of the demand; but it is still not meeting the present demand and if they get full participation, it will not be anywhere close to meeting the demand. He said in listening to the conversations, it appears the first step will be to stick with the sites, and possibly enhancing it by adding some additional sites. He said he hopes this will not be the long-term solution; but even for this to work; the mechanics must be well worked out so that from the user's side it is easy and no problems encountered. He said the recycling bin was full – falling out the doors.

Mr. Powell will check with Waste Pro for another container at the Talquin site, but he reminded the committee, that would be an additional cost.

Let the record reflect the following items were for general discussion only and to give everyone a point at which to begin. No formal action was taken on any of the issues, again due to lack of a quorum.

Chair Malloy said they could tackle the education portion tonight and try to build some type of framework for the meeting on 4-28-08, and he presented his thoughts (shown in attached agenda package) on the Solution and as stated below–

Step (1) Education (2) Referendum (3) Implementation (4) Initially all residents will have garbage pickup, recycling will be voluntary and all residents will pay the same fee. (5) At some point after the program is up and running, begin incentive for recycling, i.e. smaller garbage can with recycling can = smaller fee. Those who don't choose to recycle – the fee increases. (6) Gradually increase the incentive to recycle by raising the cost of the large garbage cans. (7) Increase the types of materials to be recycled as vendors are found. He said this would at least give everyone a place to start and encouraged the members input on additional ideas, recommendations and/or changes to the ones he listed.

Education:

- A. Change cultural attitude to accepting personal responsibility for disposing, in a responsible manner, the garbage generated.
- B. What the problems are associated with not processing garbage – why is burning garbage harmful – why is dumping it all in the landfill harmful?
- C. What can we recycle and what still needs to go into the landfill. How does this benefit the resident?
- D. How do we separate our garbage and hazmat materials for recycling?

Fee Collection:

- A. The County pays Waste Pro and collects fee from residents.
- B. County collects fee from residents through non-ad valorem assessments via some mechanism already in place, such as Property Appraiser's Office.

General Discussion:

Ms. Curtis said the reality is a recommendation will need to go before the Board of County Commissioners that for them to be serious and for this to be successful they are going to have to have that resource. – A person, whether full-time or part-time (part-time is better than nothing and right now they have nothing). She said this is a recommendation she would make tonight, if the committee had a quorum present.

Chair Malloy said the recommendation could be made at the meeting on 4-28.

Mr. Knight agreed with Ms. Curtis but said he thinks the position should be full-time as someone has got to get the program up and running.


Mr. Suggs said in budget preparations, they had advised staff that they could ask for a position so it could be documented, but they also advised staff not to count on the position. He said the committee's best bet would probably be something OPS, part-time, no benefits which would last about six months. He said for a full-time position with benefits that the problem is Solid Waste competes with EMS (said he cut 6 requested paramedic positions). He said it is really tough this year. He also said what the committee said is true in assessing various workloads, but commitment is what the committee needs at this point and he urged them to tell the Board they want this position – let the Board make the decision whether or not to cut it – Urged the committee to make their recommendations known to the Board; don't stop short of vocalizing.

Ms. Curtis also said an alternative to an actual position for the education program could be a volunteer committee to develop an education program. She said it would be here recommendation that, not as part of the education program, but rather as a separate solution that the County encourages participation in the program from the schools/School Board for recycling.

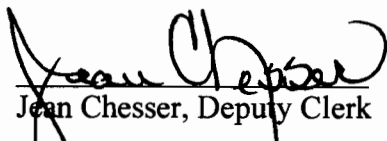
During discussion of the schools participating in recycling, Mr. Knight said the schools have to be very careful because of the privacy issues and anything that could identify a student had to be shredded. He said he was not sure how the public schools handled this, but in the private schools those items had to be shredded and it goes into the dumpster. After further discussion, it was the opinion of the committee that even the shredded items could probably still be recycled. There was some general discussion on the Ordinance that is currently on the books and whether or not it should be placed on a referendum again, whether a referendum would be required as a referendum is a very expensive and lengthy legal process –or simply recommending the Commission enforce the current Ordinance. General discussion with some people having legitimate concerns with the costs, and that is why the County would build into the system an amount for non-payments, etc.; and funds that would become available if the rural sites are closed for the County's use in consideration of hardship cases. (They do away with the cost of operating the sites (approx \$360,000) and some of the hardship cases could be picked up) as well as some of the funds possibly being used for the proposed position for running the education program.

Staff will check on possibility of Mr. Dale Summerford, Gadsden County Tax Collector, speaking to the committee at their scheduled meeting on April 28 or May 5, and possibly that a representative of TECC also be invited to speak.

The April 21st Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting adjourned with no formal action being taken by the committee. The issues discussed will be forwarded to all absent members by the Chair and will then be discussed and taken up for consideration as recommendations at their meeting on April 28 for the Board of County Commissioners.



Jack Malloy, Chairman



Jean Chesser, Deputy Clerk