

7/11/2018

Memorandum

Subject: Waste Management issues and Challenges

From:

Skip Claypool, Chairman
Greg Kovalchick, Director

To:

Commissioner Polivka, Commissioner Fuda, Commissioner Cantalamessa, Commissioner Lennon, Commissioner Spidalieri, Sean O'Brien State Senator 32nd District, Glenn Holmes, State Representative 63rd District, Michael O'Brien State Representative 64th District, John Eklund State Representative 18th District, Sarah LaTourette State Representative 76th District, John Patterson State Representative 99th District, Kurt Prinsic Chief Ohio EPA Northwest District, Vlad Cica Chief, Ohio EPA DMWM, Ernest Stall, Ohio EPA DMWM, Matthew Hittle Ohio EPA DMWM, Policy Committee members; Mayor Doug Franklin, Leeann O'Brien Environmental Services City of Warren, Tom Shay, Mark Finamore, Ken Kubala, Frank Migliozi, Kris Wilster, Bob Weisdack, Dave Sage, Kristina O'Brien, Randall Sharpe, Paul Hornyak, Sheryl Clemson, Ken Radtke, Jamie Zawila RRS, Chester Township Police Chief Mark Purchase, Geauga County Sheriff Hildebrand, Trumbull County Sheriff Paul Monroe, Claridon Township Trustee Cooper Sherman, City of Niles Service Director Ed Stredny, Chief William Garro Braceville Township, Chief Larry Long Kinsman Township, Sarah Mathews Rumpke, Bill Skidmore Waste Management, Brent Bowker Allied Waste, Jerry Bowser Ohio Valley Waste

Let this letter serve as an invitation and general communications for awareness. The solid waste district has been experiencing several challenges. Our staff has been working hard to mitigate and overcome these challenges. At the same time, our District's team is successfully completing and updating a new five-year plan. We are employing new mechanisms to improve our ability to meet and/or exceed our objectives. For example, we have updated the website, we are implementing a new marketing plan, and we are working to create a Geauga County central recycling center.

Some of the challenges that we are experiencing are difficult to overcome without cooperation from all our key stakeholders. To that end we are scheduling a July 18th meeting with the objective of identifying/defining those obstacles that are hindering our ability to move forward and finding solutions that overcome the obstacles. To summarize a few of the major issues. We have large contamination issues in our drop off program, market conditions are making it difficult to recycle material effectively, costs are increasing, we have no real enforcement program, recycling centers are closing due to abuse issues, state and federal laws mandate actions which are difficult to achieve, public expectations are not aligned with reality, and changing global factors are making it very difficult to remain in compliance with EPA objectives.

Issue 1 - Recycling Center abuse/contamination: Our recycling center drop off container locations are experiencing major issues. People are putting garbage in containers, people drop off improper material

on the sites, and/or the containers are overflowing creating a debris and maintenance issue. This impacts our service provider and the District. Labor costs are increased for clean-up and in dealing with complaints from residents who use the sites. A negative impact is that several sites are closing. This simply moves the problem to other locations. The remaining drop off locations see the same kinds of problems; however, the problems are compounded because of the increased volume. We fear a ripple effect leading ultimately to other sites being shut down. If that happens we will have much larger issues. This also results in more open dumping around our counties leading to county, township, and city issues. Problems at drop-off locations impact our service providers and the District.

Issue 2 - Costs are increasing: A number of factors are leading to higher costs; general administrative costs such as fuel, utilities, and staff. These are to be expected and can be planned for. Other factor such as those listed in issue 1 are more difficult to manage. Both the service providers and the district costs are being driven up unnecessarily because our programs are not dealing with root causes. Some of the factors impacting our situation is the lack of a market for a substantial portion of the recycling stream. This is a national/international issue. The dirty little secret is that we pay to process recycling material, which ultimately goes to a landfill. The district pays to pick up that material, the haulers pay to process those materials, and they are sent to the landfill. That is a huge waste of tax payer dollars and it is misleading to the public who thinks they are doing a good thing. Glass is too heavy to ship making glass unmarketable, and it is sent to the landfill.

Issue 3 – District Plan at Risk: The district will not be able to meet its objectives with increasing costs and a loss of facilities. While closing a drop-off location may solve a problem for one municipality, it creates huge problems for others, it undermines the objectives of the District, and it makes it more difficult for the public who clearly desire to recycle. These issues will lead to more open dumping, more enforcement issues, impacts to the EPA, health district, and law enforcement. Contributing to these stated issues there is a lack of collaboration between many of the stakeholders because of competing interests.

Meeting Agenda

You have been invited to help address these issues and to find solutions. We will be following a very structured and goal oriented facilitated meeting structure. The district has invited key stakeholders to make a brief statement and to participate in breakout sessions. The following is the tentative meeting structure. It will be adjusted slightly over time as we receive feedback and improve the plan.

9:00 to 9:30 informal meet and greet

9:30 to 10:00 Formal introductions and meeting overview

10:00 to 11:00 Statement of purpose, stakeholder comments, and definition of the problem

11:00 to 12:00 Breakout session discussing solutions

12:00 to 12:45 Lunch

1:00 to 1:30 Status Check and Meeting modification

1:30 to 2:00 Review of solutions

Lunch will be provided by the solid waste management district.

Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly; July 13, 2018

Email: gtswmd@startrecycling.com or call (330) 675-2673 ask for Lisa or Greg