

MINUTES

Solid Waste Policy Committee and
Technical Advisory Council Joint meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Clark County Combined Health District
529 E. Home Road, Springfield, Ohio

SWPC members present	TAC members present:	Solid Waste District staff present:	Guests:
Charles Patterson	Anne Kaup-Fett	Chuck Bauer	
Len Hartoog	Bill Cook	Bonnie Martens	
David Farrell	Merritt Wichner	Sam Perin	
David Estrop	Sandy Henry		
Tim McDaniel			

I. Welcome and Introductions.

II. **Call to order:** Mr. Patterson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

III. Approval of minutes:

SWPC 20-1 Approval of October 16, 2019 minutes

Mr. Farrell motioned to approve the October 16, 2019 minutes. Mr. McDaniel seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Solid Waste District Projects

A. Keep Ohio Beautiful & Keep America Beautiful Awards

Mr. Bauer reminded the board members of the partnership the SWD has with Keep Clark County Beautiful (KCCB). KCCB was recognized with the "Keep Ohio Beautiful Community Award" for its Tomato Project at the state level by Keep Ohio Beautiful. Close to 500 recycled content containers with tomato plants were given away. Just over \$1,000 was raised through the program. As a close-the-loop program, an explanation of what close-the-loop programs are was included as plants were given to individuals. The sunflower field and mural project KCCB completed at the 500 block of Grand Ave. won a national award through Keep America Beautiful (KAB). Mike Cooper (KCCB board member & County Public Information Officer) will attend part of the KAB conference in February to receive the award on behalf of KCCB and present on the tomato project as well. Once we have received the award, it will be promoted through KCCB's Facebook page and the paper.

B. EPS (Expanded Polystyrene) foam Recycling

Ms. Martens brought examples of the type of EPS ("Styrofoam") that can and cannot be recycled with the new foam recycling program. Mr. Hartoog had questions about recycling process. A field trip may be scheduled. The Foam Cycle newsletter included an article about the Clark County SWD program along with a link to a video the program. This will be emailed to board members. This is not a pilot program. We are one of two foam recycling programs, at the moment, in the state accepting EPS. In addition to accepting EPS from residents, the SWD is working on getting businesses involved and will be meeting with the Chamber of Commerce soon. Dr. Estrop suggested that we attend the County Superintendents meeting (Dan Bennett) to let them know the SWD can accept foam as they replace electronics within their respective schools. Mr. Wichner asked about how much EPS is being diverted from landfills. We don't have that answer yet. EPA materials diverted from landfills looks at weight, not volume and EPS is not a heavy material.

C. Earth Day (50th Anniversary)

Mr. Bauer explained that we applied for a Springfield Foundation grant (for \$12,500) to purchase and plant 50 trees in Clark County, but it was not funded. KCCB still hopes to plant one tree as an Earth Day project, the site has not been determined. He is not sure that the SWD can fund the 50 tree project directly unless a Policy member might think of a way to make it happen. Mr. Patterson mentioned the City of Springfield has a legacy program where you can pay for a tree and the City will plant the correct tree for that location. Dr. Estrop mentioned that if Mr. Bauer and Ms. Martens work with Jill Pierce it might be possible to create a proclamation between city & SWD to get trees planted. Mr. McDaniel suggested making raised beds from recycled materials planted with native plants to help pollinators. That might fit in the plan better than the tree program. Mr. Patterson mentioned that if a blighted area gets the trees, illegal dumping could be reduced by improving that area allowing the trees to fit into the plan. Another option would be to plant trees, but with signage that talks about why they have been planted, including an anti-litter message from the SWD. Ms. Kaup-Fett mentioned that a tree planted in an area like SPGA (Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum) where the signage will be seen makes more sense than along a road where drivers would not see the signs. The exception might be if the area was going to become a park in the future. Mr. Bauer agreed that if the project had anti-litter/education component the additional 49 trees could be funded by the SWD.

D. 2019 Education Report

Mr. Perin reported that during the last year he did 72 classroom programs (in 16 schools) reaching over 1,800 students. He geared his programs to the school grade level standards allowing the teachers to more easily incorporate his programs into their classroom. Mr. Perin worked with Shaffer middle school to help them receive 40 recycle bins in 2019 for paper recycling. Mr. Farrell asked what grade levels he works with in the schools. Mr. Perin works with pre-K through high school. Mr. Wichner asked about civics connection. This connection becomes more evident with the older grade levels.

E. SWD Plan

Mr. Bauer wanted to remind the board of the implementation schedule for the recently updated plan. This includes looking at the uses for the 1620 W. Main St. location to develop a plan for the use of this building. It was asked of the board whether they would prefer to handle this internally or would the board like to hire a consultant. Also noted was that paper recycling in the county has dropped off partially due to the lowered market value of the paper. We will consider if there is a way to get the recycling numbers back up for paper recycling. The SWD will reach out to commercial businesses to see if we can help get their recycling numbers higher. Another component in our plan allows the SWD to create an open dump cleanup fund. The SWD would set up a fund to help clean up sites that are known dump sites. The fund would get replenished as property owners are contacted and fined. The hope is that sites could be more easily cleaned up while contacting the property owner. Mr. Farrell mentioned that if there was any way to create a transfer station in the county it could really help (he considers this one of the more important things we could do). Mr. Bauer indicated a transfer station has been on our radar. The Cooper Electric site was suggested (Steve Thompson with Code Enforcement might have other recommendations). Mr. Bauer mentioned "Flow Control" as an issue if a transfer station is built in Clark County. Rumpke & Waste Management have their own landfills and they prefer to take their waste from Clark County to those sites. If those companies had to pay higher fees in Clark County, prices for Clark county customers would likely increase. A short discussion was held about subscription vs. non-subscription options for the City of Springfield. Mr. Cook also asked about any input from Waste Management getting out of the residential trash collection. Mr. Bauer had not heard of this issue.

F. TAC / Illegal Dumping - report

Mr. Wichner reviewed the draft handouts included with the agenda (TAC Discussion of Illegal Dumping report and Recommendations to Reduce Open Dumping and Open Burning in the City of Springfield and Surrounding Townships) Subscription vs. non-subscription plans were again discussed. Dr. Estrop first mentioned that he & Mr. Bauer tried speaking with individual neighborhoods to switch to one hauler. None of the neighborhood associations contacted were interested. Secondly, the vacant property registry will go into effect (with or without a structure on the property) in April of 2020. The city will have the possibility of obtaining that property if someone doesn't step up to pay for the property and claim it. In May, a rental property registry may go into effect as well. These registries will hold the property owner/landlord responsible for the properties they own. Currently, the city only collects 8% of the fines given for property taxes, etc. The City intends to try to obtain the properties in which the taxes are not being paid. Mr. Bauer added that the delinquent water information was collected for a 3 week period in October of 2019, and that at any given point in the city, close to 25% are not paying their water bills. It is likely a higher percentage of residents are not paying for their trash service. Dr. Estrop referenced the document, Housing in the Champion City booklet on the City website (<https://springfieldohio.gov/citywide-housing-study-goes-public/>). Dr. Estrop would like a meeting between himself, Brian Heck and TAC to meet to discuss the issue of illegal dumping and the registries.

Mr. Farrell's observations about the report: much of what is mentioned in it is about the City of Springfield, what about what's going on in the townships? He also feels the Law Enforcement component is the weak link. He would like to see these issues addressed. Mr. Cook mentioned that New Carlisle does have its own Code Enforcement to deal with some of the dumping issues in New Carlisle. Ms. Henry stated that Bethel Twp. doesn't have its own recycling drop-off at the moment. Mr. Bauer said it is true and the county is considering Raynor Park as a possible location for Bethel Township.

Mr. Wichner continued with the review of the last two pages of the draft handouts. It was established that the numbers in the reports are only the calls that have been received by the SWD and do not reflect calls to other township, or city departments in Clark County. The report focused on the City of Springfield primarily since the vast majority of calls are within its city limits. Any comments from members about the recommendation handouts should be sent to Ms. Martens. These will be compiled and given to TAC members.

V. Other

The sign for Green Township drop-off recycling station has arrived at the SWD office.

VI. Adjournment: 6:02p.m.

2020 meeting dates: April 15, July 15, October 21

Submitted by Bonnie Martens, Program Manager

Charles Patterson, Chair