

These are notes from the March 31st 2005 meeting of the Solid Waste Management Authority. (by hand, not verbatim.) **DRAFT**

Agenda Item 1 *Call to Order by Chairman*

Agenda Item 2 *Roll Call by Clerk*

Agenda Item 3 *Adoption of Minutes Berliner/Soskin/unanimous*

Agenda Item 4 *Reports*

a) *Executive Director*

b) *William F. Cosulich Associates*

Lehman There was an incident – a fire which was contained within a vehicle at the Transfer Station. All went well – the proper alarms sounded; 44 Control and Fire Department response was excellent, no one was hurt, and there were no environmental difficulties. Chairman St. Lawrence and Authority staff were on site when I arrived. There was a good follow-up meeting with Peter Byrne (County Insurance). From a learning point of view, it was a good experience. You now have in your packet an emergency list of Authority Responders sheet.

I was very pleased that Mr. Devine came for a visit to the Authority. Mr. Soskin is also planning to come for a tour. Mr. Devine actually visited inside the Cocomposting Facility and also saw the new materials recycling facility upgrades in action.

Devine I was quite impressed with the efficiency of the operation.

Lehman The new glass crushing operations are working efficiently. We had a good meeting, as reported last month, with members from municipal highway and sewer representatives from across Rockland County. We are now generating crushed glass materials, and municipalities are invited to use it, picking it up free of charge.

Regarding the Composting Facility, last month. Two prospective proposers – Synagro and United Water – notified us of their choice not to respond to the RFP. We sent out requests for proposals for long-term operators. We also received two proposals to review and consider. One from Veolia Water and one from WeCare Organics. The review and selection process has begun.

WeCare, the current short-term operator is doing a good job marketing composting material. They've raised the price from \$0 to \$4 per ton. The Authority and WeCare share a 50-50 split of that amount. WeCare is offering 100 tons for free on a trial basis, and they have a users manual that will explain how to use the product for nonfood purposes.

Regarding MSW, all 70 Bergen County municipalities have been invited to bring materials to our facility. Franklin Lakes generates 6200 tons per year, and is interested in using the facility on a trial basis as early as April 2005. will bring in MSW at \$71/ton. Dennis O'Donnell has been in contact with at least 12 municipalities in Bergen County. The different municipalities have contracts which will begin to lapse at different times -- so it is good we've made contact and will be following through.

We also have been increasing use of the Conference Center. We have had a dozen groups, totaling over 200 people come through in the last three months at various meetings. As we have mentioned before, the Authority is one of the best kept secrets in Rockland County. Having people come to see us is one of the good ways to advertise ourselves. Kerri Scales has been very good at helping to bring in groups. She is also working with schools with the WasteWise Program. Dennis O'Donnell is doing field investigations regarding delivery of recyclables and MSW into the Authority Facilities, and Janet Burnet has been working on the facility-wide technology assessment with Teresa Reeck, our technology consultant from the Town of Ramapo. We need upgrades. One of the things we will be getting is a DSL line which will enable us to do a lot more in terms of digital communications – sending out the packet in PDF format, for instance. In fact, we had the packet ready to go in PDF format this month, but our dial-up line is too slow to handle it.

St. Lawrence Next, we have our report from Mr. Pytlar of William F. Cosulich Associates.

Pytlar ..report.....

Marshall Regarding the compost and crushed glass available to municipalities -- is this also available to commercial operations?

Lehman Dennis O'Donnell has been taking calls and working on marketing the material to commercial entities. Cal-Mart has already stopped by. Actually -- with regard to crushed glass-- up until May 31st the material actually belongs to Weminuche. Still, we have already been very actively marketing the glass products ourselves.

St. Lawrence And as you recall, we met with Skip Vezzetti and Jim Dean and others from local municipalities to introduce them to the material.

Lehman Yes, the highway and department of public works people came to the Authority for a presentation and meeting about using crushed glass. Use of the material must be written into specs for their projects – and again -- the material is free of charge to municipalities. As elected officials, we would ask your help in encouraging the use of this material in your municipal projects. If you have public works projects in your municipality, and need guidance on the specs, please feel free to get in touch with us.

St. Lawrence By the way we need to check with the DEC about the compost material to be sure that it can be used for various purposes within towns and villages.

Lehman That is correct, WeCare actually has a book that explains exactly how it can and can't be used, and will make that information available to all prospective users..

Wassmer What is the problem with using it for agricultural purposes?

St. Lawrence The compost is partly composed of biosolids. Based on the sludge content, it may contain medicines and other wastes that New York State does not allow to be applied to agricultural food crops.

Wassmer But it can be put on the ground for any other application, like golf courses?

St. Lawrence the effects of any residuals within the waste would be de minimus for those purposes.

Kleiner By the way, how many school kids at a time can you accommodate for tours?

Scales About 30

St. Lawrence What we also want to do is let the Board Members know when a group from their district is going to be taking a tour, so that the Board Member could join the tour if they wanted to. Just going back to the discussion of our new product, historically, the crushed glass used to be an expense to remove, and now isn't. It used to cost \$25 to landfill. We need to know what the real costs are after throughput, and if the towns or villages are not sending us their best recyclables. Remember since our new contract with the new operator our costs have increased about \$900,000 per year. So what does it really cost us? What do we really make? The net revenue is now \$26.99 per ton for recyclables. But at the moment, we rebate \$32 per ton. I had a lengthy discussion with Mr. Maroney and Mr. Phillips about this issue. We cannot afford to continue at this rate. Originally we rebated \$16 per ton and think we should go back to \$16 per ton and see where we go from there.

Kleiner When would we be doing that?

St. Lawrence We could have a resolution ready for the next meeting.

Kleiner And that would affect 2006 budgets for the municipalities?

Wassmer The villages have already submitted their budgets.

St. Lawrence Their budgets have been submitted, but not yet approved.

Kleiner We could put it on next month's meeting agenda as a discussion item.

Dusanenko For the year, giving a ballpark figure, what would be our total deficit if we continued giving a \$32 rebate?

St. Lawrence Somewhere between zero and \$900,000.

Dusanenko We could pass a resolution of intent tonight so the villages will be forewarned.

Soskin Are we talking about all recyclables? Paper and commingled?

St. Lawrence All the recyclables. It is interesting, we are actually getting a better mix – and possibly higher revenue -- from New Jersey because they have more aluminum. And by the way, all our products are sold and go to China.

Marshall I would ask that if we are considering changing the rebate amount, any options presented to us should highlight the contract agreement.

St. Lawrence The rebate amount is not part of the contractual agreement with the villages and towns.

Marshall There is a specific formula and I would like it to be reviewed and see how it relates to our agreement.

St. Lawrence What we do with villages in towns is not based on that formula. That formula is for Orange County.

Marshall According to our Village Counsel, that formula does pertain.

Soskin I thought rebates were only for Rockland County.

St. Lawrence \$32 is for Rockland, but if we are going to entice New Jersey and other places to deliver their recyclables to us, then they have to offer them a small rebate also.

Wassmer My memory about the formula is the same as Mr. Marshall's.

St. Lawrence We will check back to be sure.

Motion of Intent to Reduce Town and Village Recycling Rebate.

Dusanenko/Gromack/ *on the question:*

Marshall On the question, I think the motion is premature.

St. Lawrence It is a motion of intent only, not contractual. The Authority mission is to take more out of the waste stream. The rebate is a gift from the Authority to encourage more recycling. And by the way, if there were formula, the towns and villages would probably be getting zero dollars. Because Waste Management was paying \$25 per ton to get rid of the brown and green glass. They were absorbing that cost. The next question is, "What percentage of the whole is brown and green glass?" There is about 60% glass in the incoming mix. The reality of the numbers of such a formula would bring the rebate to zero. The rebate is purely a gift from the authority to encourage recycling. Perhaps it should go to \$24 per ton for Rockland communities. We have a motion on the table, and the motion is to express our intent to reduce the rebate. Shall we have a vote?

Motion of Intent to Reduce the Recycling Rebate to Towns and Villages.

Dusanenk/Gromack/ passed, Marshall dissenting.

St. Lawrence We now move to the subject of the Selection Committee for selection of long-term operations of the Cocomposting Facility. That Committee will be Mr. Phillips, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Berliner, Mr. Moroney, Mr. Soskin and myself. We will meet Friday Apr. 8th at 10 AM; and Monday Apr. 11th at 10 AM -- in the Conference Room at the Authority.

Lehman On the 10th we will meet with Jeff Leblanc of WeCare. The Meeting on the 11th will be with David Caton and David Hill from Veolia.

Agenda Item 5 *Resolution: authorizing entry into and execution of a recyclables management agreement with the Clarkstown Central school district*
Gromack/Dusanenko/Unanimous

Agenda Item 6 *Resolution authorizing entry into and execution of an acceptable waste delivery agreement and a recyclables management agreement with the Village of Ridgewood NJ*
Phillips/Wassmer/unanimous

Agenda Item 7 *resolution authorizing entry into and execution of an acceptable waste delivery agreement with Franklin Lakes NJ*
Phillips/Grant/unanimous

Agenda Item 8 *resolution authorizing entry into and execution of a recyclables management agreement with the Bergen County Utilities Authority*
Dusanenko/Berliner/unanimous

Agenda Item 9 *resolution authorizing appointment of confidential secretary to executive director*
Shoenberger/Wassmer/unanimous

Agenda Item 10 new business -- no new business

Motion to Adjourn: Philips/Berliner/unanimous