

**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT BOARD
JANUARY 24, 2013
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Project was held at 9:00 a.m., January 24, 2013 at the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health, Environmental Health Section, in Maplewood, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioners Toni Carter, Blake Huffman, Rafael Ortega, Victoria Reinhardt – Ramsey County
Commissioners Gary Kriesel, Autumn Lehrke – Washington County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Janice Rettman – Ramsey County
Commissioners Ted Bearth, Fran Miron – Washington County

ALSO ATTENDING

Mary Elizabeth Berglund, Gary Bruns, Trent Danielson, Chris Gondeck, Zack Hansen, Ryan Howell, Tom Ingemann, Lowell Johnson, Julie Ketchum, Sandy Koger, George Kuprian, Sue Kuss, Jennifer Madsen, Harry McPeak, Peder Sandhei, Norm Schiferl, Katie Shaw, Warren Shuros, John Springman, Ryan Tritz, Brent Warthner

Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Huffman moved, seconded by Commissioner Carter, to approve agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2012 MINUTES

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

SECTION A: GOVERNANCE

Election of Officers

Vice Chair Reinhardt asked for nominations for the position of Project Board Chair. Commissioner Huffman nominated, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel, Commissioner Reinhardt for Chair. Commissioner Reinhardt moved to close nominations and elect Commissioner Reinhardt as Chair of the Project Board.

Roll Call: Ayes – 5 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Commissioner Lehrke arrived.

Commissioner Reinhardt asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Huffman nominated Commissioner Lehrke for Vice Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Lehrke was elected Vice Chair.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Appointment of Executive Committee

Chair Reinhart said the Executive Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, and a member of the Vice Chair's County. Commissioner Carter nominated Commissioner Kriesel, seconded by Commissioner Huffman to serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee appointees are Commissioners Reinhardt, Lehrke, and Kriesel.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Appointment of 2013 Budget Committee

Chair Reinhardt appointed Commissioners Lehrke, Huffman, and Rettman to serve on the Budget Committee.

SECTION B: ADMINISTRATION

2012 Report of Budget Activity

Sue Kuss said the 2012 monthly disbursements are routine. There were no questions.

2013 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Carter moved, seconded by Commissioner Huffman, to approve the proposed 2013 Meeting Schedule.

Roll call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

SECTION C: PROGRAM UPDATES

Policy Evaluation – Future of Waste Processing

Zack Hansen said the Agreement with RRT is for an additional three years, 2013-2015. The agreement includes an exclusive option to purchase if RRT decides to sell, decides to stop using the facility to process waste or defaults on the agreement. There is an unconditional exclusive option beginning January 1, 2015 through that calendar year.

If the Counties exercise the option in 2015, RRT has the right to reject the purchase. If they do, then the Agreement automatically extends two years through 2017; RRT must meet its obligations and guarantees; the Counties do not pay hauler rebates in 2016 – 2017 and the Counties have a right of first refusal during the extended term.

The Project has directed a two year evaluation process that has been created to set up the decision whether to exercise the option in 2015.

In 2013, there are two key policy issues that are being evaluated.

1. An analysis of waste processing technologies.
2. A policy analysis of issues related to potential purchase of the facility.

There is no preconceived intent to purchase. This is a process to lead a decision by the end of 2015 whether to purchase.

In 2013, Phase 1 is leading to a decision point in early 2014 where we look at this question:

- *Should the Counties proceed to further evaluate purchase of the facility, gather more information, and conduct analysis sufficient to make a decision?*

In 2014, Phase 2 - there is a detailed analysis and due diligence leading to a decision point in late 2014 or early 2015.

- *Should the Counties exercise their option to purchase the facility, continue to contract with a private facility operator, or pursue other processing alternatives?*

The policy analysis on processing has several elements. First is to establish a purchase price. In February, Stael Rives will hire an appraiser and get an appraisal of the facility. There will be good faith negotiations to attempt to establish a purchase price by March 31. If that fails, the parties will move into binding arbitration to establish the purchase price by December 31.

Other elements out of the policy analysis on processing is information gathering. Coming out of the appraisal process is a better understanding of the technical status of the RRT Facility and Xcel Combustion Facilities.

Policy issues related to a County purchase:

- risk analysis – benefits and risks of public ownership
- governance issues
- planning requirements
- waste assurance issue
- financial issues

East Metro Organic Waste and Recycling

Zack Hansen gave an overview of the joint Ramsey & Washington County work on non-residential organic waste management and recycling.

The focus of the program is to provide direct services targeted at large volume organic waste generators, to assist them in moving to separate management of organic waste, market those services and conduct research and development to create tools and evaluate organic waste management.

The East-Metro Commercial Organics and Recycling website is designed with business needs in mind. The site is called BizRecycling and the URL is www.lesstrash.com. This site will raise awareness and market services, provide local relevant tool kits for businesses, provide access to Project and County consultants, provide connections to other waste management resources, and include a moderated electronic forum for businesses to exchange information.

The Counties have contracted with JL Taitt & Associates, Waste Wise and MnTAP who will provide technical assistance and consultation directly to the businesses at no cost.

Results in 2012:

- JL Taitt & Associates contacted 218 different institutions. Of that 139 were in Ramsey County and 79 in Washington County which were divided between assisted living, hospitals, universities & colleges and public & private K-12.
- Waste Wise contacted over 470 businesses.

The BizRecycling website is designed to fit hand in glove with the work the Solid Waste Coordinating Board is doing on its RethinkRecycling.com website which is focusing on business recycling in 2013. One of the actions to raise awareness among businesses in the metropolitan area is the partnership the Solid Waste Coordinating Board has with Kare11. Beginning in February and extending through Earth Day, which is an 11 week period, Kare11 will be featuring a business recycling advice or steps once a week on Mondays either their 5:00 or 6:00 pm program. They

will be challenging within Kare11 and local businesses to step up in recycling. There will be a different story each week. The Solid Waste Coordinating Board will be sponsoring of this.

Resource Recovery Facility

Ryan Tritz, RRT, updated the Project Board on the status of waste hauler delivery contracts and the 2012 Newport waste volumes and efficiencies.

Commissioner Reinhardt questioned the capacity at the Newport Facility. Chris Gondeck said 500,000 tons.

Mr. Gondeck said they will be hosting a clean-up event for the City of Newport.

SECTION D: OTHER UPDATES

MPCA Update

Peder Sandei, MPCA, stated that at the 2011 legislature required the MPCA to provide a report about the restriction on disposal which is State Statute 473.848 and mandated that MPCA take no enforcement action until February 15, 2013. MPCA has completed and submitted the report to the legislature. Internally, staff has been directed by leadership to prepare a timeline and recommendations regarding what should be done after February 15th. No decision has been made at this time. He noted that 100,000 tons of mixed MSW by-passed the Newport Facility in 2012.

Legislative Update

Commissioner Reinhardt said that in the Governor's budget, they will retain the SCORE funding.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Reinhardt adjourned the meeting.

Approved:


Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

July 25, 2013