

MINUTES OF THE DUBUQUE METROPOLITAN AREA  
SOLID WASTE AGENCY

January 7, 2009

(draft minutes to be considered for approval at March 4, 2009 meeting)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Manternach, David Resnick, Ric Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Don Vogt, Chuck Goddard, Tom Driscoll, Michael Lightfoot, Bev Wagner, Mary Ann Specht

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Schultz, Mike Van Milligen, Scott Dittmer, Joe Rettenmaier, Bob Bamsey, Frank Bannigan, Bibek Thakuri

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Manternach at 4:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at the City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Court, Dubuque, Iowa.

Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2008 meeting.

Bob Bamsey, engineer from Earthtech-AECOM reviewed the first draft of the Master Plan study that had been prepared by his company. The study was the recommendation of the Agency's Ad-Hoc Future Facilities Committee report. He provided a design schematic on the proposed capital improvements and a verbal report on the estimated cost of those improvements. He also noted the costs related to improved road infrastructure and City of Dubuque water and sewer connection fees. He indicated that a formal report would follow, upon final direction from the Board. Staff indicated that none of the improvements have been provided for in previous budgets.

Bob Bamsey provided a verbal report on the preliminary design of the south expansion of the DMASWA landfill. He indicated that the hydrological study was complete and that the life of the expansion is estimated at 50 years. He reported that new regulatory rules require more monitoring wells and that the expansion plan would be submitted to the IDNR in the next few weeks for its review and approval.

In regard to the Closure Project for Cells 2 and 3, Mr. Bamsey indicated that that the project's Request for Proposals will be sent out early this year. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to receive and file the Earthtech-AECOM reports.

Mr. Goddard provided an overview of the communication from Dittmer Recycling Inc., indicating that staff concurred with Mr. Dittmer's concerns regarding the current economy and its effect on the current prices being paid for recyclables. He also reported that staff had analyzed the situation and is recommending the contract with Dittmer

Recycling Inc. be amended to allow for an increased subsidy of up to \$10,000 per month until market conditions improve. He also recommended that the contract be extended for an additional year. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to concur with the staff recommendation and direct the Chairperson to sign the Third Amendment to the agreement.

Mr. Vogt provided information regarding the pending litigation against the IDNR regarding its new landfill rules and regulations. He indicated that the State's Administrative Rules Review Committee will be meeting soon to discuss IDNR's compromise plan. He said that it is the opinion of the Agency's attorneys that the compromise plan will provide only minimal, short-term relief to the Agency and the other twenty Iowa landfills severely impacted by IDNR's rewrite of IAC Chapter 113. The group has authorized retention of the Geosyntec firm to provide expert witnesses to support the landfills' position.

Mr. Vogt provided information on the nine DMASWA FY10-FY19 budget scenarios/options he prepared. He noted the Agency's State-mandated \$4.7 million balance in its Financial Assurance Fund by 2019. Discussion was held regarding the direction of the Methane Gas Collection project, the Master Plan Facilities Improvement Study, and the effect a fee increase would have on landfill customers and taxpayers. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to approve budget scenario 1B, which implements a 3.5% non-contract tonnage fee increase effective July 1, 2009. The Board also unanimously directed that no Master Plan Facilities or Gas Collection System be initiated in FY10 until the Board met and developed a Strategic and Tactical Plan to address the capital projects for the Agency.

Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to approve Resolution 09-01, which approves the fiscal year 2010 Operating Budget, Resolution 09-02, which authorizes the tonnage tipping fees effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and approves the ancillary fees effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009. Direction was given to staff to provide FY10 fee notices to contract customers and city clerks in all communities in Dubuque and Delaware counties.

Mr. Vogt provided information regarding the Solid Waste Diversion Study that had been authorized at the October 1, 2008 meeting. The process generated the receipt of four proposals for the study, which have been evaluated by staff. Staff is recommending that the award of the study contract be postponed until the April meeting, until market conditions stabilize. It is hoped that by April, the Board will be able to establish a new timeline, re-evaluate the proposals, and recommend an award, if appropriate. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to concur with the staff recommendation.

Mr. Goddard presented a recommendation from the Waste Minimization Grant Review Committee to fund the Five Flags Civic Center's request for recycling containers at 50% of the total cost for a grant award of \$2,532.50. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to concur with the recommendation and approve the

request.

Mr. Goddard presented a recommendation from the Waste Minimization Grant Review Committee to fund the Church of the Resurrection's request for reusable plates and cups. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to approve the cups at 100% and the plates at 50% for a total award of \$693.13.

Mr. Goddard reviewed the Request for Proposals for Contract Services to Operate and Maintain the Agency's Yard Waste Composting Site for a two year period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to approve the Request for Proposals.

Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Manternach, carried unanimously to appoint Mr. Resnick as Agency Chairperson for the term from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010. Motion made by Mr. Manternach, seconded by Mr. Resnick to appoint Mr. Jones as Agency Vice-Chairperson for the term from February 1, 2009 through January 31, 2010.

Mr. Vogt commented on the October 2008 and November 2008 Agency Operating Statements. He indicated that revenues are positive and tonnage dropped in November, which is customary. Motion made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Resnick, carried unanimously to receive and refer the statements for audit.

Staff reports included Solid Waste Tonnage Reports, Education and Communication Coordinator's Report, Green Vision Education Status, Landfill Permit renewal status, DMASWA Compost Facility Audit, Landfill Semi-Annual Review, Landfill Density Review, Earthtech name change correspondence, Landfill Customer Letter regarding Covered Loads Policy and Chapter 113 Update.

The next meeting will be held on March 4, 2008, in the Conference Room at the City of Dubuque Municipal Services Center, 925 Kerper Court, Dubuque, Iowa.

No public comments were received

Motion made by Mr. Resnick, seconded by Mr. Jones, carried unanimously to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mary Ann Specht  
Recording Secretary

