

PUBLIC NOTICE

NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

District Office

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

6:30 PM

Agenda

- ⇒ 6:30 p.m. Call to Order
- ⇒ 6:32 p.m. Minutes of March 9, 2004
- ⇒ 6:35 p.m. Registry of Claims/Treasurer's Report
 - Budget Status Report
- ⇒ 6:40 p.m. Executive Committee Report
 - Drop-Off Program Re-configuration Cont'd
 - Operations Report – Compost Season, HHW Start-up, Tires, etc.
 - Legislative Update
- ⇒ 7:20 p.m. Other Items Pending:
- ⇒ 7:25 p.m. Public Comment
- ⇒ 7:30 p.m. Adjourn

**Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District
Board of Directors Meeting
April 13, 2004**

The Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors meeting began April 13, 2004 at 6:30 PM. Harold Gingerich, President presided over the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Kaufman, Donald VanWye, Mayor Norm Yoder, Phillip Curtis, Harold Gingerich, Mark Pankop, Harold Uhl, Dick Dodge, Danny Putnam and Mayor Richard Hickman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chuck Ort, Connie Miles, James Hess, Richard Strayer, Terry Helmer, Richard Winebrenner, Hal Stump, Mayor Suzanne Handshoe, F. Mayo Sanders and Rod Wells

CAC PRESENT: Colleen Hake Boyd

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Andrew Kruse

DISTRICT CONSULTANT: Not Present

PUBLIC PRESENT: Chris Himes/Borden WasteAway, Christy Coons and John Shatto/ National Serv-All, Pat Maugherman, Chris Warble, Phylis Collins, Bob Ledgerwood, Diane Hammer, Theresa Glasgow, Aaron Pfafman, Marsha and Ben Paxson, Nancy and Chris Emerick, Mark Thrasher, Pam Getz/ Stroh, West Otter Lake and Prairie Heights, Vicki Walker, Assistant Superintendent and Paul Thomas, Superintendent – Prairie Heights School.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Christman, Pam DeCamp and Linda Zirkle

Noting a **quorum present for the meeting**, Harold Gingerich called the meeting to order.

MINUTES: Hearing no corrections or additions to the minutes for the March 9, 2004 Board of Directors meeting, a motion to approve minutes was made by Dick Dodge. Seconded by Don Kaufman, motion carried. 10 yeas, 0 nays

REGISTRY OF CLAIMS & TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Christman reviewed the financial reports. Steve explained to the Board we would coast for the next 30 days and borrow from the line of credit to pay claims for the next meeting. The annual renewal of an \$800,000 line of credit is in order with Farmers State Bank of LaGrange. A motion to approve the Registry of Claims and the Treasurer's Report was made by Danny Putnam. Seconded by Harold Uhl. Motion carried 10 yeas and 0 nays.

Executive Committee Report:

Legislation Reports: IDEM notified us we hadn't sent a copy of the annual financial report. Steve is working on a State level for legislation to make changes to Indiana code 13-21-3-13-5 to require DLGF to submit copies of SWMDR-1 to other required agencies.

Operations Report: Compost season is now open and Steuben and DeKalb lots are full. HHW began on Friday, April 9th with 35 vehicles participating. The District received 4 gallons of paint and we are once again in full swing with the Household Hazardous Waste collection on Friday mornings. The first nice weekend always generates extra material at the recycle drop-off units and requires added part-time help for clean up.

Drop-off Program Re-configuration Cont'd: Harold Gingerich explained for the public present, the criteria used for cost analysis discussion are population density, tonnage and location. Steve explained the rural recycling drop-off is one of the 10 programs the District operates under a State approved, State mandated solid waste plan.

Steve also explained for the public present, background of the District's funding and function with the public/private partnerships, programs growth, etc. The re-configuration of the rural recycling drop-off issue today is finding a solution to make the program more efficient and cut cost to allow the continuation of the program. In 1992 the District had 14 full time employees, today we have 5 full time employees, so cutting staff is no longer an option to save money. Only 4 of the 24 cities/towns in the District have a curbside recycle program.

Chris Himes/Borden Waste-Away and Steve Christman must work to obtain keeping the contractor solvent and saving the District monthly costs. Changing to front load containers would be a saving for the contractor and containers have been ordered and will be converted as quickly as possible. Steve would recommend tonight relocating two front load stations in Auburn, pulling stations from Howe, Orland, Fremont (they had curbside and discontinued that service), Cromwell, St. Joe (two locations) Ashley and Hamilton. The elimination of the smaller tonnage units would save money. Wolcottville, Topeka and Rome City are on the borderline as far as size at about 1,800 population. This is not what anyone wants to hear; this is one of only two viable options. Two options are: 1- cut cost to stay within budget 2 - raise revenues.

Phil Curtis asked Steve, how can you cut costs but leave all these units in place? Steve 's reply, we must either cut service level to stay within budget or raise revenue.

Chris Himes representing the Borden/Wasteaway explained to Phil how the contract works and how eliminating sites would be beneficial. Mark Pankop expressed his concern with the programs outgrowing the budget and this being, as he sees it, the third attempt for a solution, cutting programs or raising tax levies are the only options. However, Mark notes raising tax levies would not be an immediate solution with the procedures involved it could take a year or longer.

Steve reminded the Board to reduce the rural recycle drop-offs to 10-14 units, would still provide all four county residents rural drop-off recycling; they would in some cases have to drive a longer distance to the drop-off.

Chris Himes/ Borden Waste-Away explained how he and Steve are working together to make a monthly billing reduction for the District and not be in default of the contract, giving cause for the contractor to file legal actions against the District.

Mayor Hickman suggested seasonal sites in busy lake areas would make sense.

Harold Gingerich opened the floor for public discussion. Several concerned citizens and Prairie Heights school representatives made public comments. The major concern from Prairie Heights is the nature of being a rural community without a city or town to implement curbside recycling. Another concern is they do not want to loose the benefit of educational recycling located at the school. All citizens who spoke understand budget shortfalls and will continue to recycle; but would like to have the Prairie Heights drop-off considered for return.

Harold Gingerich thanked the public for attending and explained the District would like to encourage their participation as part of the public/private partnership.

Colleen Hake Boyd asked what would it take to raise the tax levy? Harold Gingerich explained the process would take about 2 years. The process is complicated and first would need approval from all four county councils.

Dick Dodge feels the District should try removing Fremont, Orland and Howe and replace Prairie Heights for six months.

Mayor Norm Yoder notes the most efficient truck route should designate where the rural drop-offs are located and most volumes should be; he believes the volumes will come to those locations. He suggests Chris lay out the 4 largest cities or towns and name other recommended convenient stops, than let the board make any final decisions.

Mayor Yoder also cautioned the process to raise tax levies would probably be a difficult process.

Harold Gingerich noted, as a Board, we need to be fair to our contractor and not keep Chris in limbo from month to month. Chris is spending approximately \$100,000.for front load containers to help automate recycling process.

Mark Pankop would like to follow a two step process. Review all the programs and make cuts where possible and start the process to request a levy increase. The District has been successful and the Board must work to defend their beliefs.

Danny Putnam said we have to stay within our budget and we must decide how to make that happen. Colleen Hake Boyd asked if the Board had discussed with the contractor the route? Harold replied, a meeting with Chris had taken place.

Mark Pankop recommended a 30-day review of the routes should be done.

A motion was made by Harold Uhl to pull Howe, Orland, and Fremont, replace Prairie Heights (for six months), pull St. Joe (2 locations), Ashley, Hamilton and Cromwell. Seconded by Mayor Richard Hickman. With much discussion regarding removal of drop-off units, Harold Uhl withdrew his motion. Harold Uhl restated the motion to read Chris Himes, Steve Christman and whoever they need, should study the routes and sites to make the program most cost efficient, replace Prairie Heights with new front load containers, and make a final decision next month for any additional changes. Motion seconded by Phil Curtis. Motion carried 9 yeas, 1 nay.

OTHER ITEMS PENDING: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Dan Putnam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM. Seconded by Harold Uhl.