



NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

*Serving DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben Counties
2320 W 800 S. P.O. Box 370 Ashley, IN 46705-0370 • (260) 587-3063 • Fax (260) 587-3523*

PUBLIC NOTICE NORTHEAST INDIANA SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DISTRICT OFFICE

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

6:30 PM

Agenda

- ⇒ 6:30 p.m. Call to Order
- ⇒ 6:32 p.m. Minutes of September 12, 2006
- ⇒ 6:35 p.m. Registry of Claims/Treasurer's Report
- ⇒ 6:40 p.m. Executive Committee Report
 - Executive Summary IWM
 - Workshop VII Report
 - Legislative, IDEM, AISWMD Conference
- ⇒ 7:15 p.m. Director's Report
 - Programs/Operations Report
- ⇒ 7:30 p.m. Other Items Pending
- ⇒ 7:40 p.m. Public Comment
- ⇒ 7:45 p.m. Adjourn



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Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors Meeting October 10, 2006

The Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District Board of Directors meeting began October 10, 2006 at 6:32 P.M. Harold Gingerich, President presided at the meeting and there was **a quorum present** for the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Ort, Connie Miles, Donald VanWye, Mayor Norm Yoder, Phil Curtis, Harold Gingerich, Terry Helmer, Mark Pankop, Jack Herendeen, Harold Uhl, Ronald L. Smith and Dan Putnam

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Kaufman, Roger Boots, George Bachman, Hal Stump, Mayor Suzanne Handshoe, F. Mayo Sanders, James Crowl and Mayor Richard Hickman

CAC PRESENT: Colleen Hake Boyd

DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Andrew Kruse

DISTRICT CONTROLLER: J.W. Spear, Sr., P.E.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Chris Himes, Borden Waste-Away and Tim Jones, Nucor Vulcraft

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Christman, Pam DeCamp, Jennifer Franz and Linda Zirkle

MINUTES: Hearing no additions or corrections to the minutes of October 10, 2006 a motion was made by Donald VanWye to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Harold Uhl. Motion carried 12 yeas, 0 nays

REGISTRY OF CLAIMS & TREASURER'S REPORT: Steve Christman reviewed the Registry of Claims and Treasurer's Report for October 10, 2006. A motion to approve the Registry of Claims and Treasurer's Report was made by Mayor Norm Yoder. Motion seconded by Harold Uhl. Motion carried 12 yeas, 0 nays

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Executive Summary IWM Consulting Group – At the Board's direction last month, a due diligence memo was prepared and mailed with the findings regarding Industrial Waste Management Consulting Group and their proposed facility in the Waterloo area. Late coming information requested was received this afternoon and after review Steve Christman will draft another memo and review with the Board of Directors his recommendations at November's meeting.

Based on the proposal policy the District adopted in 2002 these are the recommendations to follow: First - Items to be reviewed - concept drawings, engineering drawings, operation plans, etc. Second – Draft a host agreement – A long term contract that is negotiated between the District (NISWMD) and a Service Provider. This is a document that allows the District to protect the interest of the people that the District serves.



Harold Gingerich added he was with Steve Christman when they made an unannounced visit to their facility in Southern Indiana and found it to be a very clean operation.

Legislative Report: Harold Gingerich reports IDEM'S wishes to change the definition of recycling to include Waste-To-Energy (WTE).

Harold Gingerich would encourage all the four Counties Commissioners' to explore and utilize the resources and expertise present at this District; by incorporating into your zoning, when it comes to a Solid Waste facility, it must be in compliance with the Solid Waste District Plan, and must be reviewed by the Solid Waste District Staff, before any permits are issued. Harold Gingerich would also encourage discussion with Andrew Kruse, District's legal counsel, and help keep you as local elected officials in control of your County's decision making process.

WORKSHOP VII – J.W. Spear, Sr., P.E. – Rethinking the District needs was prompted by a recent meeting at J Spear Associates with a Financial Consultant. Inflation and how it plays a part with the District's fixed income and budget spending was discussed. The District must increase revenue to continue current programs. Over the past 20 some workshops, short term fixes have been topics for discussion and no long term solutions have been decided. As expressed in many workshops, the consultant can recommend, but decisions must be made by the Board of Directors. In all workshops the focus has been to continue finding resources to pay for and continue the growing programs. Continuing to make a full circle at least three times has brought J.W. Spear, Sr. to question the value of any further workshops until the Board makes a decision. This was the last workshop until otherwise directed. J Spear Associates wait for a decision from the Board of Directors to the Executive Committee where to go next.

Harold Gingerich explained the 5% yearly increase is the maximum levy but not the budget. County and Municipal governments have miscellaneous funds to continue operations and Solid Waste Districts do not have those funds so inflation has a greater impact on rising program costs. Workshops began in February 2005, with exception of a few months, the Executive Committee, Colleen Hake Boyd, CAC and District staff have each invested untold hours trying to develop funding solutions for the District.

In January 2007 the structure of the Board will change to 16 members, 50% County and 50% Municipal, consisting of several new members not familiar with the history of the District. **The Executive Committee does not want to leave necessary funding decisions undecided for the new Board of Directors in January 2007.** Therefore, the Executive Committee is recommending to the Board of Directors instructing District staff to develop a residential fee structure that is equitable to constituents across the District for adopting in the next two months. The amount does not need to be determined at this time but would start the ball rolling for staff to develop the particulars for the process. The Executive Committee determined three options were available and they are as listed:

- 1 – Develop a residential fee (i.e. user fee and/or a household fee)
- 2 – Increase the tax levy
- 3 – Close the District (all four Counties would have to start new Solid Waste Districts costing somewhere between \$80,000 - \$200,000)

These three options, all very serious, did not leave much of a choice and the obvious chosen by the Executive Committee is number 1. If the Board does nothing, in time, programs will have to be discontinued for lack of funds. Harold Gingerich asked the Board of Directors for their input and discussion.

Colleen Hake Boyd, Citizens Advisory Committee member has been involved along with Harold Gingerich for some 16 years and she believes the Board should respect Harold's knowledge.

Discussion from several Executive Committee and Board of Director's followed with questions and ideas for the decision at hand. Mercury and E-Waste are just a few of the State mandated unfunded programs the District is currently facing. Constantly changing volumes of incoming materials, Contractor disposal cost increases, are some of the difficulty to set exact fees for each program area.

Phil Curtis questioned outside contracting of the compost program might be something to look at as a money saving option. Steve Christman suggested a Request For Proposal can be put out to see if any interest exists.

Terry Helmer feels we have trained the residents for 20 years to use and grow the District programs and he feels if tax funds received are not sufficient, residents would pay a household fee.

Dan Putnam agrees the residential household fee would be the fairest for all four Counties. Dan Putnam stated, as elected officials he thinks it is time to **make the decision and take the heat**.

Using \$11.25 per quarter for 66,682 households, and estimate for all four Counties, as an **example** would generate over three million dollars annually.

Ron Smith made a motion that the Executive Director design a fee system for the Board of Directors with the amount of money that would be generated based on the amount of an equitable residential fee or a user fee, fair to all constituents, so the Board of Director's can put this for a motion to be adopted. Motion seconded by Chuck Ort. Motion carried. 12 years, 0 days

AISWMD Conference – Harold Gingerich would like to report Steve Christman was given an environmental stewardship award as the Solid Waste Director of the Year at the State AISWMD Conference in Indianapolis. Steve was very quick to recognize all of his staff and addressed them by name for the outstanding work they are doing.

Steve Christman informed the Board of Directors; Harold Gingerich also received a Life Time Achievement Award for 16+ years of service to NISWMD and AISWMD.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Programs/Operations – Pam DeCamp reported the District has been notified of an upcoming increase from Chesapeake Electronic Recycling so the fees the District are charging will probably need to be increased to cover the contractor's increases.

Steve Christman has concerns with some of the changes the Governor is addressing with redefining recycling and Solid Waste Management that would involve Solid Waste Districts.

Harold Gingerich reported information coming from the Commissioner of IDEM; the Governor's office is making a big push that everything be cost neutral. It became very clear last week in Indianapolis that upper levels of IDEM management are very confused and do not understand the difference between Soil and Water Districts, Sewer Districts and Solid Waste Districts, in particular in the area of Board composition. It was said publicly that they are concerned about these Solid Waste Districts, where there is no local accountability and there needs to be elected officials on the Solid Waste Boards. Harold Gingerich wanted this Board to know down State are talking about this Board. In fact each Board member has had the joy of campaigning for office and Harold heard this misinformation and feels compelled to pass it to our Board of Directors.

One other item Harold Gingerich learned is landfill operators must be certified and yet IDEM inspectors of landfills do not need certification (because they are IDEM), and Harold finds this very troubling.

Harold Gingerich would like to address with the Board of Directors policies for the District and the proper procedures to be followed. A Board member raised questions regarding a contractor, budget and payroll. All District matters are public and all decisions are made by the Board of Directors at the public meetings. Harold Gingerich would like to remind all Board Members if they have any concerns, confusion or questions regarding any topics please speak up and let your concerns be made.

Andrew Kruse, District Attorney reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the Executive Director, Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Information with District procedures and policies will be mailed to all Board of Directors, as well as the new members, with the next month meeting packages.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chris Himes with Borden Waste-Away commented he believes charging fees are the way to proceed.

ADJOURN: Dan Putnam made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM.