

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
March 20, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the "Authority") was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on March 20, 2012, in the Commissioners' meeting room, 13th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray  
Ms. Michelle Kircher  
Mr. Brian W. Clements  
Ms. Dale-Ann Farina  
Ms. Karen Feridun  
John Pagerly, CPA  
Charles Jones, PE

Absent were Mr. Tony Sacco and John Bradley, Esquire.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority  
Douglas Paul Rauch, Esquire, Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors

The Chairman declared a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public chose to speak.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Kircher, seconded by Ms. Farina, the minutes of the regular meetings of January 17, 2012, were unanimously approved.

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Meeks distributed the Treasurer's Report and invoices for payment and reviewed them with the Board. Upon a motion by Ms. Feridun, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the payment of all invoices, ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer's Report.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rauch reported that since the Authority's last Board meeting, he has been working on various matters including the Contract amendment with PSC regarding our Pharmaceutical Waste Collection, as well as other Authority issues.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Improvements to Recycling Center

Ms. Meeks indicated that she is interested in looking into renewable energy for the recycling center, mostly for the operation of the baler. She indicated that although the Authority would not benefit financially from this improvement, the County would, by reduced energy costs that they are currently paying for our site. After some discussion the Board authorized their Executive Director to pursue this and come back to the May Board meeting with costs estimates.

Ms. Meeks also requested permission to obtain quotes for the installation of a loading dock at the electronic recycling center, to help with the overflowing issues of the site. She indicated that last week, during the three collection events, nearly two tractor trailers of electronics were collected. This causes an issue related to operating the site, since there is only storage room for one trailer in addition to the room needed to operate the site. Ms. Meeks explained that a loading dock would allow us an opportunity to store additional materials, but also would give us the needed flexibility to have the material picked up anytime, rather than just on the days we are closed. The Board agreed to have their Executive Director investigate our options and discuss this in more detail at our May Board meeting.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Update on upcoming collection events

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has submitted all of the necessary permits for our spring collections. She indicated that the advertisements will begin running in the Reading Eagle on April 14th and the billboards will go up on March 30th. The billboard and ads will change each week to reflect the upcoming collections. Ms. Meeks indicated that the magnets have been printed for distribution at our collections and are currently being distributed at the electronic recycling center.

#### Food Waste Composting

Mr. Mowbray briefed the board on the luncheon that was held last Friday. Mr. Mowbray indicated that he thought the program was very informative and well attended. He indicated that the speakers came from Restaurants, Hospitals and Grocery Stores and all had a different angle on implementing such a program. Each spoke well of the program and encouraged other to participate.

Mr. Clements questioned if any other schools have joined the food waste composting program. Ms. Meeks indicated that Conrad Weiser is no longer participating in our food waste composting project and that Reading High School has been added to the program, in their place, to compost their pre-consumer food waste. All lunches are prepared at Reading High and then sent to the individual schools. Therefore, a lot of food waste is generated in the preparation of those meals. Mr. Clements requested additional information on what Conrad Weiser is doing with their food waste and asked their Executive Director to get back to him with additional information. Mr. Clements also requested additional information on businesses that have been contacted by Cogle's regarding joining the food waste composting project. Ms. Meeks indicated that she would have Dan Macaulay from Cogle's contact him with that information.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks reported that 68 tons of paper have been baled and sold from our recycling center on Hill Top Road, since January of this year. She indicated that the Prison has been operating the baler since January and is providing a correctional officer and three or four prisoners, three times a week. In addition to the paper materials that are brought in by our residents, the prison has canceled their collection contract, saving them \$ 3,500 a year, and is bringing that material to us for baling.

Ms. Meeks reported that over 1,500 residents have used the electronic recycling center since January of this year recycling over 168,000 pounds of electronics, which is approximately half of the amount of material and visitors that used the site in 2011. She reported that over 700,000 pounds of electronics have come through their site since opening in July of 2010. Because of the increase in participation, Ms. Meeks explained that she has contracted with SAP Staffing to provide temporary workers, to assist during our Saturday collections.

Ms. Meeks reported that the existing 902 equipment grant will expire on April 27, 2012 and that all equipment must be purchased by that time. She indicated that the work at Rodale, which includes the well and access road will be completed by that time. In addition, Ms. Meeks requested permission to purchase 40 outdoor recycling containers for use at the Fair. The total cost of the containers is \$ 2,340 with \$1,500 being reimbursed through our grant. The Board unanimously agreed to purchase the containers.

Ms. Meeks indicated that PADEP has announced another round of equipment grants, with the applications being due on June 29, 2012. She reported that no applicant that received funding in the last round of grants is eligible to apply for these funds. Therefore, the Authority will not be permitted to apply. However, we have eleven municipalities in Berks that submitted applications in 2008 that were not awarded. She indicated that she will work closely with those municipalities to submit new applications.

Ms. Meeks stated that the 903 Recycling Coordinator Grant that had previously been submitted by the Authority, now needs to be submitted by the County, per PADEP. She indicated that she will be attending the next Commissioners meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> to answer any questions regarding this grant application, as well as, to update the Commissioners on the Authority projects.

Ms. Meeks stated that she had previously met with Josh Clements from A.J. Blosenski to look at our recycling center and discuss our projects. During this meeting Mr. Clements stated the he believes that by changing the Rural Recycling Program from one week a month collection to permanent sites the Authority could drastically reduce our operating costs, by not moving containers that are not full and also not going to a collection site with an empty truck. Ms. Meeks requested to bid the project both ways in June and determine how much if any, this could save in operating costs. The Board agreed to allow their Executive Director to bid this project.

Ms. Meeks indicated that most of the other items outlined in her report have been discussed throughout today's meeting and offered to answer any questions that members may have, regarding her report which is attached.

#### Next Meeting Date

Mr. Mowbray indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3:45 p.m., upon a motion by Ms. Kircher, seconded by Mr. Pagerly the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.