

RSWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Minutes of Regular Meeting
January 26, 2009

A regular meeting of the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority (RSWA) Board of Directors was held on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in the Conference Room, Administration Building, 695 Moores Creek Lane, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Board Members Present: Mr. Michael Gaffney - Presiding, Mr. Mark Graham, Ms. Judith Mueller, Mr. Gary O'Connell, and Mr. Robert Tucker.

Authority Staff Present: Ms. Tamara Ambler, Mr. David Atkins, Mr. Bruce Edmonds, Mr. Tom Frederick, Ms. Mary Knowles, and Dr. Robert Wichser.

Also Present: Ms. Sharon Baxter - Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Pollution Prevention Programs, Mr. Keith Boisvert – DEQ Pollution Prevention Specialist, Mr. Jeff Greer – RSWA Citizens Advisory Committee Chairman, Ms. Amy Owens – Director, DEQ Harrisonburg Regional Office, Mr. Kurt Krueger – RSWA Attorney, members of the public, and media representatives.

1.0 Call to Order

The regular meeting of the RSWA Board of Directors was called to order by Mr. Gaffney on Monday, January 26, 2009 at 2:30 p.m., and he noted that a quorum was present.

2.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. O'Connell moved that the Board of Directors vote to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting held on Monday, December 22, 2008, seconded by Mr. Tucker. The motion was approved by a 4 – 0 vote. Mr. Graham abstained from the vote due to his absence from the December 22, 2008 meeting.

3.0 Executive Director's Report

There was no Executive Director's Report this month.

4.0 Items from the Public

There were no items from the public.

5.0 Consent Agenda

Mr. Gaffney asked if there were any items that the Board members would like to pull for discussion from the Consent Agenda.

5a) Staff Report on Finance

5b) Staff Report on Ivy Material Utilization Center

- 5c) **Staff Report on Recycling Operations**
- 5d) **Staff Report on Ivy Landfill Environmental Status**
- 5e) **Staff Report on OSHA Safety**

In regards to **Item 5a), Staff Report on Finance**, Ms. Mueller expressed her concern with areas of the budget, specifically the 46.52 percent revenue figure for the “MSW-BFI Transfer” item. She noted that normally the mid-year figure would be about 50 percent, and she felt the decrease in revenues and tonnage figures for the City as well as for the Ivy facility were “indicative” of current economic conditions. She suggested closely monitoring the revenue items, and if this downward trend continues, the impacts to other programs and services provided by RSWA might need to be considered when developing next year’s budget. Unless there is a commitment from the two local governments to provide additional subsidy, RSWA could be faced with difficult decisions during the next few months about the services that it currently provides.

Mr. Frederick then stated that he shares the same concerns as expressed by Ms. Mueller concerning the “MSW” budget item. This cost center has historically made money for RSWA that could be used to fund non-revenue programs, such as the Paper Sort Facility and the McIntire Recycling Center. He further explained that while “non-revenue” programs are offered free to the public, RSWA still must cover the expenses associated with maintaining the programs. RSWA consultant, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, has recently commented that those types of programs historically throughout the country are not revenue-producing programs. The Authority’s revenues at this time do not reflect the continued downward trend that staff anticipates will occur over the next few months. Recycling revenues increased in July and August due to the staff’s aggressive efforts to pursue markets that would provide optimum pay-off for recyclable products. Recycling markets throughout the world have taken a sudden “nose dive” in response to worsening economic conditions and the resulting reduction in the demand for raw material, such as recycled paper and recycled plastics. Although the recycling market periodically experiences fluctuations similar to the stock market, RSWA has seen within the past 30 to 90 days one of the fastest “crashes” in the amount of money people are willing to pay for recyclable products. In addition to the downturn in the recycling markets, less solid waste is also being generated, which means less revenue generated from tipping fees at transfer stations. Since it is unknown at this time when economic recovery might occur, RSWA must be prepared for the consequences of a global economic slowdown in the long term.

Mr. O’Connell next questioned when the proposed operating budget for FY 2010 would be introduced to the Board. Mr. Frederick stated that staff planned to present the draft budget in April with a public hearing and adoption of the budget scheduled in May. Mr. O’Connell then stated that it would be helpful to the Board and to the City from a budget standpoint if RSWA staff could prepare a one-page summary of budget issues and policy options for consideration. Mr. Tucker further commented that it would also be helpful if the summary could include what localities of comparable size have done to address similar issues. Mr. Graham next suggested that the information be based on the assumption that the contribution fees from the City and the County will not increase next year. He and Ms. Mueller have already provided estimates to their respective bodies for next year’s budget, and those budgets will be adopted before RSWA’s budget is brought forward. Mr. Frederick replied that RSWA staff would provide to the Board some policy options for achieving a balanced budget, which would include a reduction in programs and services as one of the choices.

Mr. Tucker moved that the Board of Directors vote to approve Items 5a), b), c), d), and e) of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Mr. O'Connell. The motion was approved by a 5 – 0 vote.

6.0 Other Business

In regards to **Item 6a), Presentation of E3 Designation for the Solid Waste Authority**, Mr. Gaffney asked if there was a need to proceed with this item since E3 designations were awarded to the Solid Waste Authority during the RSWA Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Frederick asked Ms. Amy Owens, Director of DEQ's Harrisonburg Regional Office, if she would be willing to perform an abbreviated award ceremony for the benefit of Solid Waste staff in attendance at this meeting but not present during the earlier award ceremony. As Ms. Owens was in agreement with this request, Mr. Frederick asked Mr. David Atkins, Environmental and Safety Manager, Mr. Mark Brownlee, Ivy Operations Manager, and Mr. Bruce Edmonds, Recycling Operations Manager, to come forward for the award presentation.

Ms. Owens next stated that at the RSWA Board of Directors meeting she presented awards for E3 designations to the Solid Waste Authority and to the Observatory Water Treatment Plant. She apologized that some of the Solid Waste staff were not present at that time.

Ms. Owens next commented that she felt RSWA staff had done a "marvelous job" in reaching E3 status for the Ivy Transfer Station, the Paper Sort Facility, and the McIntire Recycling Center.

The Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP) is DEQ's voluntary recognition and incentive program. VEEP recognizes facilities that have fully implemented an "ISO 14001"-based Environmental Management System (EMS) and have gone beyond compliance to find ways to recycle, reduce pollution, reduce resource usage, and save this Board and locality money. DEQ is very proud of their participation and leadership. The Solid Waste facilities have done an "excellent job" in implementing procedures to reduce the unnecessary use of paper, raising employee awareness about energy conservation, actively working to reduce incoming "junk" mail, pursuing environmentally-friendly purchasing, improving trucking efficiency, investigating alternative fuels, increasing fluorescent bulb and solid waste recycling, investigating landfill reuse, developing a paint exchange program, and maintaining a "reuse" area available to the public for books. DEQ appreciates the staff's pursuit for continuous improvement and achieving this recognition. Ms. Owens then presented the E3 awards to Mr. Atkins, Mr. Brownlee, and Mr. Edmonds.

7.0 Other Items from Board/Staff not on Agenda

Mr. Graham asked Mr. Frederick if he could provide an update on the strategic planning process at a future Board meeting. He realized that the process had been delayed due to unanticipated water issues, but Mr. Graham was "anxious" that decisions be made in order to complete the process. Mr. Frederick agreed to provide that update to the Board.

8.0 Closed Meeting

There was no need for a closed meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Tucker moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mr. Graham. All members voted aye, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Gary O'Connell
Secretary - Treasurer