

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
March 19, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the “Authority”) was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on March 19, 2024, in the first-floor conference room at the Berks County Agricultural Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa. 19533.

The following members were present:

Charles Jones, PE
Mr. Ron Rutkowski
Mr. Brian Clements
Mr. Tony Rymar
Mr. Don Moll
Ms. Jane Witheridge
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire

Absent were Mr. Charles Mowbray and Mr. Tony Sacco

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Soc Georgeadis, Esquire, Georgeadis Law
Mr. Adrian Jadak, Citizen
Ms. Michelle Kircher - Citizen

The Vice-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 Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Gombar, the minutes of the regular meetings of January 23, 2024, were unanimously approved.

FINANCE

Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Rutkowski distributed the Treasurer’s Report and invoices for payment and reviewed them with the Board. Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Rymar, the Board approved the payment of all invoices, ratified the payment of invoices previously paid and accepted the Treasurer’s Report.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Georgeadis indicated that since the last meeting he has been working with their Executive Director on the Solid Waste Management Plan, that has been approved by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for distribution to our municipalities, at a meeting earlier today.

Presentation of Commendation – Michelle Kircher

Mr. Jones presented the Commendation, which had been signed by all members of the Board, to Ms. Kircher and along with the Board members thanked Ms. Kircher for her twenty-seven (27) years of volunteer service, on the Board of the Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Award Roof Project:

Ms. Meeks distributed the memo from Great Valley Consultants outlining the proposals received for the roof replacement at the Recycling Center.

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Gombar the Board unanimously approved awarding the contract for Option 2, to Boden Construction Group at a cost of \$ 21,600.00

B. 902 Recycling Grant – Update and approval of Authority applicants

Ms. Meeks distributed the Financial / Work Completion Data sheet from the 902 Grant application, she is currently completing for this round of applications that are due May 20, 2024. She recommended and the Board agreed to request funding in the amount of \$ 78,736 to cover the costs related to the canopy, flooring and roofing projects. She indicated that, currently there are thirteen (13) applicants in Berks County that will be applying for funds under this round. She indicated that the mandatory pre-application meetings will be held with PADEP the first week of April.

C. Update on Solid Waste Plan – Approval of Disposal Capacity Agreements

Ms. Meeks updated the Board on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting that was held prior to today’s Board meeting, indicating that the SWAC had approved the Plan, authorized the Authority to sign the Disposal Capacity Agreements and forward to forward the Agreements to the County Commissioners for their approval and to distribute the Plan to our municipalities and PADEP, for their review and comment.

Upon a motion by Mr. Gombar, seconded by Mr. Rutkowski the Board unanimously approved authorizing their Vice-Chairman to sign the Disposal Capacity Agreements and to forward them to the County Commissioners for their approval and to distribute the Plan to our municipalities and PADEP, for their review and comment.

D. Battery Project – Berks Department of Emergency Services:

Ms. Meeks indicated that she had been contacted by both the Berks County Department of Emergency Services (DES) and the Chief Operations Officers for the County regarding the Authority's ability to partner with DES on the short-term storage of damaged and defective Lilon batteries.

After much discussion the Board specified their interest in working with DES on this project and directed their Executive Director to obtain additional information, specifically related to how they would be taking ownership of these batters, the preparation, transportation and manifesting of them, among other questions.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will begin further discussion with DES and will communicate those responses with the Board through e-mail.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on upcoming collection events

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has submitted all of the necessary registrations for our spring hazardous waste collection to be held on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. She indicated that the advertisements will begin running in the Reading Eagle the week April 5th, and will continue through April 20th, in both digital and print format for both our hazardous waste collection and paper shredding event. Ms. Meeks indicated that Berks is one of MXI's largest events in Pa and is confident they will provide the adequate staffing to ensure a successful collection, as they have done in the past. Our spring collections will once again require mandatory pre-registration and indicated that we currently have 400 registered for our hazardous waste collection and 450 for our shredding event. She indicated that we can add additional time slots if needed, as we get closer to our event.

Ms. Meeks indicated that the Department of Agriculture has allocated \$12,000 for Berks County pesticide disposal, which is collected during our household hazardous waste collections in 2024. She indicated that any pesticides over the \$12,000 limit, will be reimbursed at the 50% rate by DEP, through our Act 190 grant. She indicated that the Department of Agriculture budget increased from 7,000 in 2023.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will limit the number of volunteers for our 2024 collections similar to our 2023 events, since surveying will not be required. All necessary information is being collected as part their registration process.

Ms. Meeks indicated that Vital Records Control (VRC) will once again be providing the shredding services for our spring shredding event, which will require pre-registration. The spring shredding event will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Governor Mifflin Intermediate School. Ms. Meeks indicated that Conrad Weiser Football Team will once again be assisting with our event, as well as the Cumru Township Fire Police.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks reported that the annual recycling reports are due by April 1st, from all municipalities in the County. This information needs to be entered into the State database in order for the County and our municipalities to be in compliance with Act 101. She indicated that she has received all of the municipal reports and are currently reviewing the reports for completeness. She indicated that she is interested in working closer with our Haulers next year, to see if there is a way to streamline this process to make it easier for all parties.

Ms. Meeks indicated that approximately 3,000 residents used our electronic recycling center during the first quarter of 2024 recycling 150,000 pounds of electronics. Over 16 million pounds of electronics have been recycled, through our site, since opening in July of 2010.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has forwarded a copy of our 903 Recycling Grant to the Commissioners for their approval, since these grants must be submitted by the County. The estimate for this grant is \$77,500, which has already been anticipated in our 2024 budget.

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.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Jones indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 3:00 PM at the Berks County Ag Center, 1238 County Welfare Road, Leesport, Pa.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:55 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Gombar, seconded by Mr. Clements, the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.