

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
September 21, 2021**

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 September 21, 2021, in the Commissioners’ meeting room, 13th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Ms. Michelle Kircher
Mr. Brian Clements
Mr. Tony Rymar
Mr. Tony Sacco
Mr. Don Moll
Michael Gombar, Jr., Esquire
Charles Jones, PE

Absent were Mr. Charles Mowbray and John Pagerly, CPA.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Socrates Georgeadis, Esquire, Georgeadis Setley

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Sacco, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 20, 2021, 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 Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Jones, 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 reported that there has been no decision on the Conestoga Landfill appeal, at this time.

Mr. Georgeadis also reported that he will be working with our Executive Director on the renewal of the Electronic Recycling Contact with ECOvanta. This will be the first year, of two, one year renewal options that are permitted under our existing contract. This will be discussed later in today's meeting.

Mr. Georgeadis indicated that he has checked with the County Solicitor and Board members, who might still be in possession of any documents regarding the Conestoga Landfill, that they were previously instructed to preserve, as part of the litigation between the Authority/Berks County and the Conestoga Landfill in 2016, are now permitted to dispose of those documents, if they wish.

Mr. Georgeadis indicated that there was no need for an Executive Session during today's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on fall collection events

Ms. Meeks reported that both the paper shredding and household hazardous waste collections are on schedule for October 16th and October 23rd respectively, with all arrangements completed. She indicated that these events will once again require pre-registration, however no one will be sent away for not registering. No personal contact will be had during the events and no surveys will be taken. She indicated that as part of the registration process we will gather all necessary information and explain the rules of the collection and that a follow up e-mail with those instructions will be sent to every registrant, 24 hours before the collection. She indicated that we currently have approximately 400 people registered for each of the events and that the registration process allows us to continue to communicate, with those residents, in the event of any change in the venue, such as changes in times or other information we would like to get out to our participants. Ms. Meeks indicated that advertising for the events will begin the first week in October and that she will also be reaching out through additional media sources. Our municipalities have all been notified of our dates and the registration requirements and are sharing this information with their residents.

Ms. Meeks also, reported that the 2022 collection dates and locations have not yet been set and that information will be determined at a later time and can be sent electronically to all of our past and present participants, as was done in 2021.

B. Electronic Recycling Contract

Ms. Meeks indicated that the first year of our contract with ECOvanta will expire on December 31, 2021 and recommended that we renew the contract for a second, one year contract. Ms. Meeks indicated that the current contract is a one-year contract with two, one-year options for renewal.

Upon a motion by Mr. Clements, seconded by Mr. Gombar, the Board unanimously authorized exercising our right to renew the existing contract with ECOvanta, for the year 2022, which is the first of two one-year renewal options.

C. Update on 902 grant applications – BCSWA approval

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has assisted thirteen municipalities in Berks County with their 902 recycling grant applications. Those grant applications in the amount of \$3.275 million, will be filed prior to the September 24, 2021 deadline. These applications will be submitted through DCED single application on-line system, for the first time. She indicated that DEP will immediately begin reviewing the applications in hopes of awarding those grants, yet this year. She indicated that all municipalities in compliance with ACT 101 are eligible, and this will be a very competitive cycle.

Ms. Meeks reported that she has also put together a grant application for the Authority, which includes the following items: Reimbursement for the fencing and gates that were installed in June of 2020, at the recycling center, replace our current skid steer, install a roof over baling area including engineering that was previously completed, repair and paint roll-off containers, seal the parking lot and replace our 96-gallon toters that are used for paper recycling at the recycling center. The total grant amount is \$109,474 which will require a 10% match by the Authority. Upon a motion by Mr. Moll, seconded by Mr. Sacco the Board unanimously approved submittal of this grant application, prior to the September 24, 2021 deadline.

D. 2022 County Budget

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has been in contact with the Budget office regarding their review of our 2022 allocation. She doesn't believe they are looking to make any changes for 2022 and she expects to have additional information on the actual allocation for our November meeting, at which time the Board will vote on our 2022 budget.

E. Recommendations for SWAC appointments by County Commissioners

Ms. Meeks reviewed the list, shown below, of recommended Solid Waste Advisory Committee members with the Board for our next Solid Waste Plan Revision. She indicated that Act 101 requires the members to represent certain categories of municipal and private sectors.

Position - Required by Act 101	Proposed member	Representative/Municipality
City Representative (City of Reading)	Charlie Jones	
1st Class Township	Jim Bobeck	Asst. Manager (Muhlenberg)
2nd Class Township	Brian Potts	Manager (Bern)
Municipal Representative	Brian Cole	Manager (Kenhorst)
Citizen	Brian Clements	
Citizen	Charles Mowbray	
Citizen	Mike Gombar	
Private Solid Waste Industry	Josh Clements	AJ Blosenski
Private scrap/recycling Industry	Diane Solomon	Alleghany Towing & Salvage
	Don Moll	B & G Glass
Recycling Coordinator	Jane Meeks	

The Board agreed to submit the recommendations to the Commissioners' or appointment. Ms. Meeks indicated that once the members are appointed by the board of commissioners we would then move forward with notifying DEP and our municipalities of our intent to begin the revision process, which is required to be completed by October of 2024.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks indicated that 155,000 residents have used our electronic recycling center since opening in July of 2010 recycling over thirteen million pounds of electronics.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she is continuing to assist our municipalities with filing their 904 Performance Grants, which are due December 31, 2021 and must be filed through DCED website, as was the case in 2020. She indicated that she has assisted fifteen of our municipalities with their applications to date.

Ms. Meeks indicated that we are currently using a second part-time employee to assist with the baling of paper at the recycling center. She indicated that the second part-timer also assists with electronic recycling, which is working out very well. 198 tons of paper was baled in the first eight months of this year, resulting in \$10,500 in revenue from the sale of that material, up from \$3,200 from this same period of time last year.

Ms. Meeks also shared a video, from the Recycling Center security system, as it relates to a complaint received late last week. The video shows a large dump truck, on site with two very large televisions being dropped off. This required one of our employees to climb up into the bed of the dump truck, while another employee operated our bobcat to assist in lifting these items out

of this large truck. This is not the type of service that we offer and our employees have been instructed not to offer this help in the future, due to liability. In addition, the resident was not only out of his vehicle, which is prohibited, but was assisting to unload from the back of his truck, while unmasked.

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

Ms. Kircher indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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