

JOINT SOLID WASTE COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, September 18, 2020

ACC Chairman Billy Pittard and Mayor Kelly Girtz, Co-Chairs

Minutes

- I. The Joint Solid Waste Coordinating Committee (JSWCC) members met on Friday, September 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via WebEx.
- II. Members Present: Oglethorpe County Chairman Billy Pittard, ACC Mayor Kelly Girtz
ACC Staff Present: Suki Janssen, Brad Rickard, and Susan Lyon (minutes)

Chairman Pittard called the meeting to order (leading the meeting is alternated between Mayor Girtz and Oglethorpe Chairman). Minutes from the last meeting on September 20, 2019 were presented for approval. Chairman Pittard made a motion to approve as presented, Commissioner Davenport seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Report from Staff

1. Review of Quarterly Reports

- Landfill Tonnage (Brad) – Review report as presented.
-Tonnage was down at the landfill at the beginning of the pandemic. Appointment system was put into place at the landfill, which stopped many small haulers from coming to the landfill. However, the number of larger haulers increased because of no long lines, which resulted in tonnage going up in June. August numbers were off this year due to the decrease of students returning to town.
-Compost screen had a bearing go bad and caught fire. We were without compost for a period of time; however, we now have 1500 yards currently in reserve. SPLOST is scheduled to purchase 800 yards.
-Methane gas facility is low. Three gas wells were recently installed. Expect to see a jump in production.
- Oglethorpe County C&D Landfill (Chairman Pittard)
-Oglethorpe County is looking to make a major modification due to the end of the life of the current disposal area. Chairman Pittard stated that at one time ACC was looking to take back some C&D materials into the ACC landfill. Mayor Girtz would like to continue discussion on this matter. Suki stated that we have not had a formal discussion and this topic will be part of the diversion goals, which are being updated in partnership with Envision Athens. Another meeting may need to be set for discussion. The biggest concern for expanding C&D collection currently is staffing. Staffing would need to be increased at the CHaRM and the landfill.
- Materials Recycling Facility (Suki)
-Tonnage is down due to COVID and some haulers suspended collection. ACC has not had to suspend collections of any material thus far since COVID started. ACC is collecting ¼ of the normal material in downtown due to businesses being shut down and many students not being in the downtown apartments. Some commercial dumpster customers also suspended service.
-Tonnage for paper and cardboard has increased since people are shopping from home for frequently.

- ACC paid lower processing fees in May and June of this year versus the past two years because the markets are improving.
- ACC sent out a Request For Information (RFI) for MRF operations and received interest from Pratt, Republic, Waste Pro, and Greif (formerly known as Carastar). Staff are currently working with consultants to send out an RFP. Current contract with Republic ends in 2021. Our facility is one of the smallest in the US and the RFI was sent to see if anyone had any innovative ideas on how to use the current facility more efficiently. MRF has continued to operate with safety protocol in place for staff.
- Mayor Girtz asked if the new potential companies would be willing to look at C&D recovery. It may be possible to send out an RFI on C&D recovery at the CHaRM and landfill to see if any vendors have any interest in a partnership.
- Chairman Pittard suggested that ACC consider a further partnership with Oglethorpe County with the available property next to the current OC C&D landfill. It is an idea to explore when the new Chairman and Commission take office in 2021.

IV. Other Business

- Mayor Girtz: The component pertaining to Dunlap Road in the Black Lives Matter Resolution passed by ACC M&C in July, needs to be discussed by this committee. The section pertaining to Dunlap Road residents and the landfill. Mayor Girtz suggested starting with a questionnaire to residents. Commissioner Davenport agreed.
- The SWCAC meet and discussed five points that they fill should be addressed over time:
 - Environmental justice concerns that were mentioned and the primary reason this section was placed to the resolution. A questionnaire would be a good idea to gather data from residents and to understand what knowledge and concerns they have on the landfill.
 - Expansion of the landfill created distrust from residents because of an agreement that was made by former ACC commission.
 - ACC receives very few complaints at the landfill.
 - Composting of bio-solids
 - Old historical school house – staff would like to see it moved and renovated.
- Historic Athens has interest in the preservation of the school house.
 - Commissioner Davenport expressed that Billups Grove Church would like to keep the school house where it is currently located, with a buffer zone and fencing and have ACC transfer the house and land to the church. The cost to move the church would be astronomical based on quotes. ACC is looking to see if EPD will allow the transfer of the land. Brad did take the proposal to the Attorney's office in the past and that is where it died. Brad has no problem with turning over the small parcel. Staff must look at the current compost plan to ensure that transferring the land does not interrupt the bio-buffer needed. Suki will take the matter back to the Attorney's office as promised to the SWCAC. She was waiting to address the issue with this committee at this meeting. Oglethorpe County recently addressed the same issue with a school and Chip Ferguson acted as their attorney. Mr. Ferguson could share information and his research with the ACC Attorney.

- A request for a motion was made by Mayor Girtz for a written report from this group addressing the 5 items regarding the BLM resolution; Commissioner Davenport made the motion; Chairman Pittard seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- This is the last meeting with Chairman Pittard. The new Oglethorpe County Commission Chairman, Jay Paul, will be replace Billy. Chairman Pittard was thanked for his dedication and work to the committee and the partnership.
- Dates were set for 2021 meetings: March 19 and September 17. Chairman Pittard made a motion to accept the 2021 meeting dates, motion carried.

V. Chairman Pittard made a motion to adjourn meeting, motion carried and meeting ended at 9:41 am.

Submitted by Susan Lyon, 03.19.21
Approved by Committee, 03.19.21