

Portage County Solid Waste Management  
Policy Committee Meeting  
June 8, 2023

Roll Call

Melanie Knowles  
Anthony Badalamenti  
John Kovacich  
Joseph Diorio  
Pat McCon  
Tracy Wallach  
Judy Nelson

Also Present

Justin Rechichar  
Hannah Moats  
Dawn Collins

The meeting was called to order at 2:31 by Melanie Knowles.

Anthony Badalamenti made a motion to appoint Judy Nelson as a member representing the general public. John Kovacich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Anthony Badalamenti made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 16, 2022. Tracy Wallach seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Dawn Collins - District Update**

Many updates since June of last year. Including updates to the building itself. We started a yard waste collection which seems to be one of our busiest programs. Our drop off is constantly active even with curbside recycling in the surrounding cities and townships.

Tracy Wallach questioned the contamination rates.

Dawn Collins responded that the District's contamination rate is 13.9% for drop off -the national average is 20% and the District's curbside contamination rate is 9%. We have cameras that watch for contamination. We will send letters or call the sheriff's department which helps the contamination rates. Our programs are analyzed based upon needs. We've added the battery program since we were last here, so household batteries as well as lead acid are accepted. Our plastic bags program is going well and we're getting ready to ship out our first 15,000 pounds. These are made into the plastic bench that you see when you first walk in. Our food waste program is getting started. Melanie Knowles asked where the food goes? Dawn Collins responded the food goes to Rubber City Reuse.

As a District, we have been very involved in the community.

Tracy Wallach asked so do you only have a tire collection on Earth Day?

Dawn Collins responded yes currently; however, we just received a grant from the Ohio EPA for tires. The EPA will give us \$32,000 we will match \$8,000. The District will cover the cost of hauling and the \$32,000 will cover the cost of processing. We have 3 events scheduled. We will continue to schedule more events to reach the \$40,000.

Joseph Diorio asked if that in conjunction with the Health Department Program at Bob Sumerel?

Dawn Collins responded, no this is separate. The resolution was just approved today.

We're looking at being able to remove Freon. This will allow the District to accept more appliances. Another key change for us is the loss of the City of Kent. The change will take effect on July 1. We will look at expanding our service to other townships.

### **Plan Update**

There are 3 key changes to the plan. First, changing the access rate from 90% to 80%. I do not believe this will affect our current access rate. Second, we must show our commercial businesses have access to recycling. The District can show this currently. It can also be done through a private hauler. We must show that we are diverting 25% of waste from the landfill and we must provide educational outreach. The Ohio EPA is ensuring market development in the state of Ohio and creating outlets. We need to start the plan update.

### **Keep Portage Beautiful**

We were looking at joining Keep Portage Beautiful, it's part of keep Ohio Beautiful. In essence, it's part of Keep America Beautiful. It is \$4500.00. It develops programs and is a proactive approach to community engagement and bringing communities together for litter prevention. It is a one-time fee, and we could apply for a grant if we chose to hold off for a year. It is a lot of data tracking.

It was agreed that we will investigate this further after the Solid Waste Plan Update and perhaps apply for the grant.

### **Tire Discussion**

July 22 is Hiram Village and Township; August 12th is the date for Streetsboro and Paris. An agricultural tire event will be in the Spring of 2024 at the District. This event will require pre-registration.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting set for September 7, at 2:30 to review any updates submitted for upcoming Solid Waste Plan.

Anthony Badalamenti made a motion to adjourn. John Kovacich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm

Minutes by:  
Hannah Moats