

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
March 15, 2016**

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 15, 2016, in the Commissioners’ meeting room, 13th Floor, County Services Center, 633 Court Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The following members were present:

Mr. Charles Mowbray
Ms. Michelle Kircher
Mr. Brian Clements
Mr. Tony Rymar
John Pagerly, CPA
Charles Jones, PE
Michael Gombar, Jr. Esquire

Absent were Mr. Tony Sacco and Ms. Dale-Ann Farina.

Also present:

Ms. Jane Meeks, Executive Director of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority
Douglas Paul Rauch, Esquire, Georgeadis Setley Attorneys and Advisors

The 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 Ms. Kircher, seconded by Mr. Pagerly, the minutes of the regular meetings of January 19, 2016, 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. Gombar, 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. Mr. Jones abstained from this vote, due to the payment to Great Valley Consultants for engineering work completed at the Recycling Center.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rauch reported that since the Authority's last Board meeting, he has been working on various Authority matters including issues related to the Covered Device Recycling Act and the effect it has on the Authority's electronic recycling program. Mr. Rauch reported that he attended a meeting with representatives from ECOvanta and Senator Schwank's office to discuss the issues related to our program and the proposed amendment. Mr. Rauch indicated that Ms. Meeks had previously sent a letter to Representative Ross, the author of the current Law and proposed amendment, clarifying the issues that we currently face in operating our program.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Electronic Recycling Center and Contract

As discussed during our January Board meeting, Ms. Meeks indicated that a draft of the second amendment to our electronic waste contract has been developed. A copy of the draft was distributed for the Board to review. As previously discussed she indicated that ECOvanta is requesting a fee to process our non-covered devices in the amount of \$0.18 per pound, based on current weights of each type of material. She indicated that the limits on the televisions and monitors included in the first amendment have been removed and replaced with the fee on non-covered devices. In addition, ECOvanta is requesting that the current \$0.18 per pound fee be renegotiated in the event of a price drop or increase in commodity prices. Mr. Rauch indicated that he recommends adding an effective date related to commodity pricing and also, language that would require ECOvanta to continue to accept our materials until pricing is agreed upon by both parties. In addition, he will recommend changing the effective date of this second amendment to April 1, 2016, rather than March 1, 2016 as suggested by ECOvanta.

Upon a motion by Ms. Kircher, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved moving forward with this second amendment, including the changes suggested by their Solicitor. The Board requested that a final draft be circulated to the Board for final review prior to signing.

B. Approval of 2015 Annual Report

A copy of the 2015 Annual Report was reviewed and distributed to the Board at our January 19, 2016 Board meeting. Ms. Meeks indicated that she has received no additional comments or suggestions from the Board. Mr. Mowbray indicated that he thinks the Report is helpful in clarifying the role of the Authority and the projects undertaken by this Board. The Board unanimously agreed to accept the Report and thanked their Executive Director for putting this information together. Mr. Mowbray requested that Ms. Meeks share this Report with the the County Commissioners.

Ms. Meeks stated that she will post the Report on our website and will send an electronic copy to the Commissioners for their review.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on upcoming collection events

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has submitted all of the necessary permits for our spring collections. She indicated that the advertisements will begin running in the Reading Eagle on April 9th and the billboards will go up on March 28, 2016. The billboards and ads will change each week to reflect the upcoming collections. Ms. Meeks indicated that the magnets have been printed for distribution at our collections and are currently being distributed at the electronic recycling center. In addition, copies of the postcard with information on the medication drop-box program, operated by the District Attorney, listing the current twenty-four locations, will also be distributed.

Ms. Meeks indicated that as previously discussed at our January Board meeting the Department of Agriculture has set a \$15,000 limit on the amount of pesticide disposal they will pay for, from our household hazardous waste collections in 2016. She indicated that in 2015, the Department of Agriculture paid \$14,000 of the pesticide disposal costs. She indicated that any pesticides over the \$15,000 limit, will have 50% reimbursement by DEP, through our Act 198 grant.

Ms. Meeks indicated that we have currently received \$12,000 in cash sponsorships towards our 2016 collection events and have received financial commitments from eight other municipalities and businesses. This is in addition to approximately \$12,000 of in-kind services to be provided by Lamar Advertising and United Document Destruction and Storage.

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 website in order for the County to be in compliance. She indicated that she is continuing to work closely with a dozen of our municipalities assisting them with compiling the necessary reports for filing with the State.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she will be attending the Public Hearing on Act 108 of 2010, the Covered Device Recycling Act on Monday, March 21st. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss amendments needed to the existing law related to the financial responsibility of the manufacturers in dealing with excess amounts of covered devices.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she has been invited to speak at the April 14th Commissioners meeting for National County Government Month on the Authority and our programs.

Ms. Meeks indicated that Great Valley Consultants are moving forward with the permitting work at the Recycling Center for the installation of the new storage building.

Ms. Meeks indicated that both the 2015 903 Recycling and 2013 904 Performance grants have been approved by DEP.

Ms. Meeks indicated that she is currently assisting Lower Heidelberg, Maxatawny and the City of Reading with their final disbursement request and progress reports to close out their existing grants, which expired in 2015.

Ms. Meeks indicated that Reinsel will be doing our 2015 Audit on April 4th and should have a final Audit report for our July Board meeting.

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 which is attached.

Next Meeting Date

Mr. Mowbray indicated that the next Authority meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' meeting room.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3:50 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. Pagerly, seconded by Ms. Kircher the Board unanimously resolved to adjourn.