

**BERKS COUNTY SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
March 16, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Berks County Solid Waste Authority (the “Authority”) was held virtually and was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on March 16, 2021.

The following members were present:

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

Also present:

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No question or comments were received prior to today’s 12:00 p.m. deadline, in accordance with our meeting notice published in the Reading Eagle on December 29, 2020.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Gombar, the minutes of the regular meetings of January 19, 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 Ms. Kircher, 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 on the following three items. Mr. Georgeadis reported that the litigation between Berks County and Delaware County Solid Waste Authority has been settled. Delaware County Solid Waste Authority has submitted payment to Berks County for the \$2.149 million dollars in past due host fees covering all of 2019, 2020 and interest. Delaware County Solid Waste Authority will continue to pay the County a \$2.00 per ton fee on all out of County waste received at their facility and will also pay the County an additional \$ .10 per ton until they repay the County of the \$300,000 in legal fees that the County incurred on this litigation. Ms. Georgeadis indicated that as part of this settlement the County will not fight the current expansion permit but does retain the approval to challenge future expansions.

Mr. Georgeadis reported that the New Morgan appeal has not yet been scheduled and that once it is the case will be decided entirely on briefs and no oral arguments will be held.

Mr. Georgeadis stated that the Authority has also received two Right-to-Know requests that he has been working on along with their Executive Director.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. BCSWA 2020 Annual Report

Ms. Meeks reported that a copy of the draft 2020 Annual Report was previously sent to all Board members in electronic format along with the Board package for today's meeting. Ms. Meeks recommended having the Board review the document and submitting any comments to her prior to our May meeting. She indicated that there is some information that is not yet available such as the recycling rate and financial information both which will be available by our May meeting. Ms. Meeks recommended that this document be discussed and approved at our May 18, 2021 Board meeting.

## 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. She indicated that the advertisements will begin running in the Reading Eagle the week March 28<sup>th</sup> and then again the week of April 11<sup>th</sup> in both digital and print form. Ms. Meeks reported that Brian Pawlowic who supervised our fall hazardous waste collection events for MXI will be in charge of our events again this spring. Ms. Meeks indicated that Berks is one of their largest events in Pa and is confident they will provide the adequate staffing to ensure a successful collection. Our spring collection will once again require mandatory pre-registration and indicated that we currently have 426 of the 1,300 spots taken. 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 set a \$20,000 limit on the amount of pesticide disposal they will pay for, from our household hazardous waste collections in 2020. She

indicated that any pesticides over the \$20,000 limit, will be reimbursed at the 50% rate by DEP, through our Act 190 grant.

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

Mr. Clements questioned who updates the Authority website and recommended adding the hours of collection for the Hazardous Waste event to our website. Ms. Meeks indicated that she maintains our website and stated she will update that information.

Ms. Meeks also recommended that we schedule our fall collection dates for October 16<sup>th</sup> and October 23<sup>rd</sup>. She indicated that she has had preliminary discussions with VRC regarding holding a fall shredding event with pre-registration and they are interested in participating in a fall collection. Ms. Meeks indicated she will firm up dates for both our hazardous waste and shredding events with our contractors with additional discussion at our May meeting.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Meeks reported that the annual recycling reports are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 at this time, only a few municipalities have not yet filed their reports.

Ms. Meeks indicated that RKL will begin our 2020 Audit on April 12<sup>th</sup> and should have a final Audit report for our May Board meeting.

Ms. Meeks reported that it has now been one year that we have stopped using the trustees from the County prison to assist us in baling our paper. She indicated that we have one additional part-time employee that is taking over this task and also is able to help with other projects, including working at electronics, unloading vehicles and loading trucks. She indicated that this is working out very well and recommended keeping this process in place.

Ms. Meeks indicated that approximately 18,000 residents used our electronic recycling center in 2020, recycling 1.2 million pounds of electronics. Over 13 million pounds of electronics have been recycled through our site since opening in July of 2010.

Ms. Meeks stated that the Berks County Solid Waste Management Plan will once again need to be revised. The currently plan will expire in October of 2024 and the guidelines recommend that this process begin three years prior to the termination of the existing Solid Waste Plan. She indicated that the 2014 Solid Waste Plan took approximately 18 months to complete. She indicated that the first step would be to request the Commissioner appoint members to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Mr. Clements indicated that those members are required to be appointed from specific businesses and classes of municipalities as outlined in the Act. He recommended that the Authority develop a list of qualified candidates meeting those requirements and make a recommendation to the Commissioners on who

should be appointed, like we did for the 2014 Plan. This subject will be discussed again in more detail during our May meeting.

Ms. Meeks also recommended that she work with our Solicitor Mr. Georgeadis and Manko Gold to put all of the landfill Agreements in one file and make them available to the Commissioners, Planning Commission and any other relevant County office for future reference.

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 18, 2021 at 3:00 PM and will be held virtually by Microsoft Team Meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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