

Ottawa-Sandusky-Seneca Joint Solid Waste District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 8/2/23

The meeting of the OSS JSWMD Board of Directors was called to order by the Commissioner Coppeler at 3:00 P.M., held in person at the OSS Main Office, 1875, E. State St., Fremont. Present were Ottawa County Commissioners Mark Coppeler, Don Douglas, and Mark Stahl, Sandusky County Commissioners Charles Schwochow and Russ Zimmerman, and Seneca County Commissioners Bill Frankart and Anthony Paradiso.

Also present were the following OSS SWD staff: Director Gary Baty and Communications Specialist Tim Hassinger.

Others at the meeting:

Ben Nutter and Brian Ezyk of WIN Waste Innovations:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 6/7/23:

The draft of the minutes from the 6/7/23 Board of Directors Meeting and the 6/2/23 Budget Committee Meeting were presented. Motion to approve the meeting minutes for the 6/2/23 Budget Committee Meeting was made by Commissioner Paradiso, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman. Motion to approve the meeting minutes for the 6/7/23 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Commissioner Frankart, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman. Motion for both meeting minutes to be approved was made by all commissioners present. Motion(s) approved..

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Director Gary Baty presented the financial report for May and June. The beginning balance in May was \$3,913,055.07 with a total revenue of \$172,462.67 and the total expense for the month being \$158,877.07. This makes the end of month balance for May \$3,926,640.67. This includes funds in the balance totaling \$9,039.40 from an EPA Grant the District had received. June's financial report has a total revenue of \$196,138.03 and a total expense of \$204,756.97. This leaves the ending balance for June 2023 at \$3,918,021.73. Director Baty pointed out that there were some additional expenses in June in the form of attorney fees, transfer to OEPA to pay for tire grant funding (reimbursable), upfront costs for The Recycling Partnership grant (reimbursable). The YTD Treasurer's Report has a total expense as of June 2023 for the year at \$1,080,157.90. Revenue for that time was \$1,132,717.68; this leaves the OSS SWD in the positive at this point in 2023 by \$52,559.78. To compare, at the same time last year (2022) there was a total revenue for the year of \$1,028,303.93 and an expense of \$763,318.06. Commissioner Schwochow motioned to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Commissioner Douglas. All commissioners present approved of the treasurer's report. Motion approved.

OSS COMPETITIVE FUNDING GRANT:

Applications for the June round of funding for the OSS Competitive Funding Grant have been reviewed by the grant committee. Director Baty presented the applications and their grades made by the committee for Board review and approval. The OSS grant committee is made of one representative from each of the three counties to grade the applications on a scorecard. Grants are then compiled in order of highest grading to lowest and funding is provided as budgeted. This

year, OSS budgeted a total of \$100,000 for the CFG program to be split in two rounds of funding - once in January and again in June. Applicants for this June round are as follows:

Sandusky Township- With an average grade of 74, Sandusky Township requested \$10,000.00 in funding on a \$16,130.00 project to replace wooden picnic tables in 8 shelter houses with 2 100% recycled plastic benches per shelter house (16 tables total).

Village of Clay Center- With an average grade of 70, the Village of Clay Center requested \$4,225.00 on a \$5,640.00 project of replacing wood mulch at the Village Park play area with 100% recycled rubber mulch.

Bloomville Development Group- Received an average grade of 68 for their grant project to enhance the appearance of the downtown district with benches (4), commercial flower pots (2) and trash receptacles (2) made from recycled content. The total project will cost \$9,244.00 and they requested \$6,426.00 from OSS through the grant.

Village of Woodville- Requested funding for a project to install a pet waste station for the village park as well as a message center board, both made from recycled materials. Funding requested for the project was \$2,941.00 and the total project would cost \$3,375.00. Average score for this grant was 64.

Village of Marblehead- This project for the village would add 5 benches and 5 trash receptacles to James Park made from recycled material. The grant funding requested was \$8,346.00 on a \$11,129.00 project. Score of the application by the grant committee was 63.

Ottawa County Parks- Ottawa County Parks requested \$885.00 on a \$1,180.00 project for a new sign for restrooms at Veterans Park in Genoa that will be made from recycled material. Average score for this grant was 61.

Allen Township- Allen Township will be installing a new "Welcome to Curtice" sign made from recycled plastic. The total project will cost \$2,100.00 and funding requested through the grant will cover \$1,575.00 of the project. Average score from the grant committee was 61.

Seneca Conservation District- A project at the Proving Ground Farm to replace a pedestrian bridge on the hiking trail using recycled composite deck material as well as adding more trash and recycling receptacles (3) made from recycled materials. Average score was a 60 on the grant application that requested \$3,710.20 from OSS on a project that would total \$5,346.29.

Big Spring Township- Requested \$836.39 on a total project of \$1,115.19 to purchase folding tables (4) made from recycled plastics for various township events. Grades for this grant averaged a 59.

Tiffin University- To provide (10) recycled content Adirondack chairs and (8) gliders for student use in outdoor common areas, Tiffin University requested \$6,436.00 on a project totaling \$9,456.00. Average grade by the grant committee was 58.

Clyde Green Springs Schools- Submitted a grant to help fund a project to install a GAGA ball pit at Green Springs Elementary School made from recycled content for students regardless of their abilities to be able to play. Funding requested for the project was \$3,143.70 and the total project cost totaled \$4,191.60. Average grade by the grant committee was 56.

Motion to approve grants as presented was made by Commissioner Zimmerman and seconded by Commissioner Frankart. Unanimous approval of those present was recorded. Motion approved.

Total amount funded for the June round of the CFG was \$48,729.29. The mission of the Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca Joint Solid Waste Management District is to ensure quality waste stream management for its residents and to foster long term positive solid waste habits including recycling, reduction, reusing and buying of recycled products. The CFG program helps support the buying of recycled products locally and encourages a circular economy which is vital to having sustainable recycling programs worldwide.

OSS VOTING RECORD: Commissioner Coppeler wanted to open up the floor for discussion over inaccurate comments in newspaper articles as well as testimonies that were made at the Ohio State Senate floor regarding Senate Bill 119 spoken by Seneca County Commissioners among other individuals. Commissioner Coppeler started to quote from testimony spoken by Commissioner Paradiso, “despite our efforts to advocate for increased oversight funding our county faces challenges within the joint board. The interests of the other two counties often outweigh our own leaving us outvoted on decisions that directly impact our community.”. Coppeler also read a quote from Commissioner Frankart taken from a local news article saying, “Would you ever sign any contract that you didn’t have an escape out of? ‘Hell no’ Frankart said, we’re outnumbered at the Ottawa Sandusky Seneca Solid Waste District. I hate to say it, but it’s a 2 to 1 vote whenever we ask for more oversight they don’t want to hear us”. Lastly, Commissioner Coppeler quoted testimony from resident Nate Heiser, “OSS kept me from being appointed to the solid waste policy committee”.

It was clarified how exactly members of the policy committee board are added. The Policy Committee Board is made of 7 representatives of each county, totaling 21 members total. 4 of the representatives from each county are forced appointments with their job title. (1) county commissioner, (1) county health department representative, (1) township trustee representative, and (1) county seat representative from the largest (population based) city in the county. Those four representatives then vote to approve the remaining 3 open seats for their county in the Policy Committee Board. The three open positions that are appointed by the existing 4 representatives of that county would consist of (1) industrial/commercial generator, (1) public representative, and (1) general interest of the citizens. Commissioners Paradiso and Frankart were not aware of the procedures to formally vote in members of the Policy Committee.

Commissioner Coppeler reflected back on his seven years as a Board of Directors member of the OSS Solid Waste District and could not remember a time when there wasn’t a unanimous vote. Commissioner Frankart could only think of one time when he was at a Policy Committee meeting when he suggested that future meeting times be changed and that the majority of the Policy Committee members voted against that. Commissioner Frankart also added that it is a fact that as it currently is, there is no exit strategy in place if Seneca County wanted to pull away from The District other than making resolutions and having the blessing from the other two counties. In regards to the latter part of his quote, “it’s a 2 to 1 vote whenever we ask for more oversight they don’t want to hear us”, Commissioner Frankart did say that when the Seneca County Commissioners did ask for additional funds for oversight of the landfill that the OSS Board did help in providing that funding.

Commissioner Paradiso said that he may have misspoken in saying that Seneca County is outvoted by the other two counties. Commissioner Paradiso agrees that Seneca County has never been outvoted in any OSS Solid Waste District votes in the past. He says that he would have rather said that Seneca County is outnumbered when it comes to voting. Commissioner Paradiso then argued that Nate Heiser's statement was still correct because he remembers a Seneca County Commissioners meeting where the three commissioners made a resolution to have him join as a member of the OSS Policy Committee. However, that is not how members of the policy committee are voted in, as mentioned earlier. The other 14 members of the policy committee that represent the other two counties have no vote in who the members of the third county are. The vote rests solely on the four appointed positions for that county. That is, 3 of the 4 appointed positions for a particular county in the Policy Committee must be present and vote in favor of having an individual join as one of the remaining 3 voted in seats of the Policy Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ben Nutter and Brian Ezyk of WIN Waste Innovations spoke to update the Board about the current state of Sunny Farms Landfill. Brian Ezyk started by saying that the landfill in Seneca County is running fine and that there have been no violations on the landfill since 2022. Sunny Farms' sustainable gas treatment system has been in operation since June 2023, removing sulfur from the landfill gas stream. Ezyk added that landfill emissions are continuously monitored to ensure air quality standards are achieved. Test results are provided to the Ohio EPA and Seneca County General Health District (SCGHD) every month as well as any additional tests performed by the SCGHD. He ended by saying there have been 150 inspections at Sunny Farms without any violations. Ben Nutter added that WIN wants the same thing the Solid Waste District and that residents want. To be the best run and managed landfill. He mentioned that there are over 100 jobs living and working in this district because of the landfill.

Commissioner Coppeler asked a question he gets asked often about how the railcars sitting and waiting to get unloaded are impacted by rain. Mr. Ezyk responded by saying that the train cars waiting to be unloaded for the landfill are placed on a dock separate from the active tracks. That dock has water runoff funneled to go into water bays which get tested both at the surface and below the surface twice a month for contamination. Ezyk added, the standards of the water tested are drinking water and EPA standards. Not WIN standards.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business at this time.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Frankart moved to adjourn at 3:53 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Schwochow. Unanimous approval of those present was recorded. Motion approved.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

October 4th. Location: OSS District Office, 1875 E. State Street, Fremont. Time TBD.