

HEART OF FLORIDA SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

February 5, 2010

MEETING MINUTES

I. Chairman's Comments:

- a. John Schert's wife passed away recently. John is the Director of the HCSHWM.
- b. EPA and University of Florida recently agreed on violations by UF. The reported penalty is \$175,000.
- c. News article about PBS&J launching an internal investigation regarding possible violations of the Foreign Corruptions Act.
- d. TREEO is offering various training courses. SWANA is offering the MOLO course.
- e. Various reports of companies in financial trouble who are involved in the recycling industry, specifically the fiber end of the business.
- f. Clay County is asking for qualifications from firms to site and construct a landfill for the County.
- g. Covanta has acquired Veolia North America, WTE, transfer stations and C&D sites.
- h. A company called InfoSPI is to build a plant near Pompano, FL to convert tires to oil for a seven county area.
- i. FDEP refresher courses are also available.
- j. FLERA 2010 conference call for papers. Conference to be held at the Hyatt in Sarasota; titled Leveraging the Green Revolution.
- k. There is an ISO certification available for construction. This is important for the US to keep up to date with international standards.
- l. Providence, RI has a requirement that you must put out your recycling bins in order to have your other waste collected.
- m. There is a medical waste sterilization process available for small generators.
- n. The Jan. issue of MSW Management has an article on litter composition prepared by MSW Consulting.
- o. Florida Works Group has free training available for green jobs in Alachua and Bradford Counties for people who currently make less than \$25k per year.
- p. Smart Fuels biodiesel plant for Lake County will be using Spanish technology based on vegetable oil waste. They will be making a presentation next month.
- q. Homage to Karen Deter. Karen will be retiring soon and the HOF owes Karen a huge debt or gratitude for being one of the founders and leaders of the group.

Karen's leadership and contributions will be sorely missed. A gift of appreciation was presented to Karen.

II. There was no discussion of Minutes of the December, 2009 meeting as the Recording Secretary was absent from that meeting:

III. Discussion of Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group Organization:

A draft set of bylaws were distributed to those present at the meeting. The bylaws were based on SWANA's model as a not-for-profit organization with a board of directors. The current draft was a balance between having enough structure and having less structure to avoid constraints of sunshine laws. The group was reminded that the original formation of the group was to foster Interlocal cooperation for disaster recovery and for cooperative purchase and sales.

A suggestion was made to become a committee within the Florida Chapter of SWANA. The consensus was that the group was that becoming part of the larger organization would dilute the unique nature of the group.

The biggest downside of the formal organization would be that sunshine laws could not be avoided and thus it would restrict members from having spontaneous discussions when needed. It was also recognized that any issues involving expenditures would still need to be approved by the respective BOCCs. The FlaWARN model was discussed as a possible avenue for some of the benefits (i.e., grant applications) the group would like to have as a formally recognized organization. It was noted that the group could apply for grants through the Hinkley Center. Another observation is that the group could operate through another not-for-profit organization.

It was agreed that these options need to be further investigated. It was also noted that the group needed to consider its longer term aspirations. It was noted that the long term result could be a regional authority but that would not be needed until the point is reached when significant expenditures of funds would be needed. The regional authority could be a spin-off from the informal HOF group. All agreed that an update to the HOF strategic plan, short and long-term goals, was needed. It was noted that MPO could help facilitate this process. Additional discussion on negative aspects of a formal organizational structure followed. It was suggested that the structure could be based on the model used by regional planning councils.

The Chairman agreed to develop a list of some goals for the organization, a list of officers and proposed dates for elections for discussion at the next meeting.

IV. 75 Percent Recycling Goal

It was noted there does not appear to be a lot of support for Sen. Constantine's agenda. Legislative action may not happen this year. In this case most of the requirements in the previous bill will have no effect. The DEP report was an admitted watered down report. The original strong recommendations were edited. The report is available on the FDEP web site. The report prepared by Kessler and Associates for the City of Tallahassee goes into much greater detail of the requirements to meet the goals.

It was noted that the composting requirement is still in place. The counties will try to get this requirement removed this year. The Hinkley Center is conducting a study of Alachua's back yard composting program. This program would still cost counties money to implement. The company that makes the Earth Machines will come to a county to conduct direct sales as a promotion to encourage participation in the program. It was reported that FDEP is looking at developing some reasonable rules for this issue.

Current news is that the State will back off a proposed ban on plastic bags. One of the main issues on the recycling goals is how to account for materials and percentages. One proposed method would have the State currently at about 50m percent.

V. Local News of Interest:

ACSM will be developing a Class I landfill in Sumter County, next to the current County facilities. They are projecting the ability to develop 50 million cubic yards of disposal capacity at the site. They plan to submit permit applications in the next 4-6 months and complete the permitting process in about two years. All of the geotechnical testing has been done.

Florida Disposal Systems (FDS) in Citrus County reported they have started a single stream recycling service for areas of the County using tote cans. They will be taking the recovered materials to the Waste Management facility in Orange County.

Alachua County reported they have applied for an innovative grant with UF and a private company, BioChar, to conduct a pilot project to test the toxicity and soil

amendment benefits of the BioChar product. The project was ranked number one by FDEP; however, funding may not be available this year. Emerald Waste Systems (EWS) opened a transfer station for commercial waste for hauling to the Chesser Island Landfill. They are predicting 4000 tons per month. It is predicted this will start a garbage war in the area. This further highlights the need for counties to have stronger flow control capabilities.

TREEO passed out a flyer for Green Careers.

Citrus County reported progress on their re-closure project to fix a sagging cap on an older closed portion of their landfill. Belair Excavating is the general Contractor. As part of this project Shaw is currently installing a landfill gas collection system on the active landfill area. This project should be done in about 4 months. The Phase 3 expansion should go out to bid in about a month.

Sumter County reported that they have converted all of their office buildings to sewer service. There are no more septic tanks being used at their facility.

Lake County welcomed representatives from the City of Leesburg, who were in attendance. Also reported they will need to perform greenhouse gas monitoring of one of their old closed landfills that has a venting system. They are getting ready to put in another system.

City of Leesburg reported that C&C Peat was conducting a pilot project for composting horse bedding materials. They have set up a 20 acre compiost complex within the city's WWTP site. C&C will produce a final product from the composted horse bedding material.

Putman County reported they are looking at a LFG carbon project. Elements Markets has offered to design and construct a system. The second phase would include utilization of the gas. They report they almost have final certification from FDEP for the Class III closure that was constructed three years ago. Construction of the new cell construction is almost finished. ERC is the general contractor and has done a very good job. They used GPS on all their earthmoving equipment which appeared to speed up the project. NLS is putting in the liner at a rate of 100,000 sq ft per day (This is about twice the typical production rate.) They county is looking at the feasibility of mining a 80 acre area that is about 18 feet deep. If determined to be feasible they estimate they could recover about 45 years of capacity on their site.

SCS reported they attended a composting workshop. The program included information on food waste collection and composting. They will provide notes for the group at the next meeting. It was also noted at this meeting that bans on yard waste disposal in landfills may be repealed in several states.

MSW Consulting reported that the litter study in MSW Management was sponsored by Keep America Beautiful (KAB). It was noted that KAB and other litter groups look at waste differently than solid waste managers. KAB is starting to see the benefits of working with the solid waste industry.

Lake County reported that KAB conducted a cleanup day in the Ocala Forrest. The medical waste program is ongoing through teaming with the Sherriff's office, which pays for disposal and provides security at collection points. The County's new MRF is now operational. It was noted that they are a single stream operation as they sort to two fractions at the curb. This is not a dirty MRF operation.

Waste Management reported that their CEO was featured on "Undercover Boss" which aired after the Super Bowl.

VI. New Business:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be hosted by Lake County at the Ag Center at 10 am on March 19th.