

HEART OF FLORIDA SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

September 18, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

I. Chairman's Comments:

- a. Previously we discussed the concept of possible stimulus funds for solar powered compactors. According to Dan McKinnis this will not be of any real help.
- b. Referenced an article on the City of San Francisco where it was reported they pay \$22-\$24 per month for recycling plus disposal fees with \$110 per ton tipping fees.
- c. There is a web site for MSDS sheets for pharmaceuticals; www.drugbank.CA/
- d. EPA will be setting limits for pharmaceutical incinerators.
- e. Referenced a recent Florida Specifier article on wastes flow trends and the economy.
- f. Referenced Biocycle article from December 2008 titled "State of Solid Waste in America". This article provides various statistics on solid waste which could be helpful when discussing solid waste issues with various parties.

II. Reading of Minutes of August 7th, 2009 Meeting:

The previous meeting minutes were accepted with one comment; revision to the eighth paragraph in section VI, Local News of Interest. Specifically the last sentence is revised as follows: "This way the County receives closer to retail value for the power produced."

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

A presentation was made by Carol Hinton with Florida's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network known as FlaWARN. This organization was set up to assist water and wastewater utilities during emergency events. Their web site is flawarn.org. There is no cost for an organization to join FlaWARN; however, if they want to be eligible for mutual aid and to access the secure web site, an organization must enter into an agreement to provide assistance if requested. FDEP administers funding of the program through a grant from EPA. UF/TREEO administers the program. There are a number of benefits to belonging to FlaWARN.

The question was asked if there was any reason why a solid waste utility could not be a member. This issue should be explored by any county who may already have membership through one of the other utilities.

Mark Halleen updated the group on the review of the organizational format from the Lake and Alachua County Attorneys. It was suggested that the currently proposed format would create limitations in communication between members due to Government in the Sunshine laws. Thus a not-for –profit (NFP) organizational structure was recommended. There are two types; 1) member structure (e.g., SWANA), or 2) Board only structure (e.g., MyRegion). There was some debate as to the limitations on lobbying by NFP organizations. It was agreed this could be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

There was also discussion about the Florida Government Utilities Association which apparently has an organizational structure that allows for the types of activities HOF is looking for.

IV. Alachua County Pharmaceutical Collection Program:

Kurt Seaburg described the County’s pilot program, which was funded through an innovative grant, and the current status of the program. Through this program residents can dispose of their pharmaceuticals at no charge at one of 12 pilot locations. Presently there are six locations available. The materials are discharged into a container with a weak hydrochloric acid solution that renders the materials “unrecognizable”. Drawbacks to the program include the need for the collection locations to be manned and supervised, thus a reluctance for private sector participation. a good position to influence this issue.

V. Discussion on Participation From Municipalities:

The group recognizes that much of the waste generated in the region is generated within the boundaries of cities which provide their own collection services. Thus while the State has mandated that the Counties shall provide for solid waste management, cities control the significant portion of the waste and can decide where that waste will be disposed. Therefore, in development of a regional approach to solid waste management, it is important to have the major cities in the region involved in the regional solid waste management organization. To that end it was requested that contact information for the major cities be submitted to the Chairman so that he can include them on the email invitation list to next HOF meeting. The University of Florida should also be invited.

VI. Local News of Interest:

Marion County reported that none of the three proposals they received for Waste-to-Energy complied with the RFP. The new guidance from the BOCC is to; 1) seek out a regional partnership, and 2) look at expansion at the current landfill.

Lake County reported the Chairman of the BOCC has been working with Citrus County on a meeting agenda and they are currently working on a date for that meeting. The county is also looking to start up operations of their mobile MRF by the end of October. This will include a two part presort system which will provide the best pricing for materials recovered. It was also reported that a study in Palm Beach County has concluded that mass burn incineration remains the only practical waste management technology alternative to MSW landfills. Lake also said they are looking to purchase a glass crusher from Sumter County. They need crushed glass for use in asphalt and for use at the landfill. If they can procure the crusher, they may be interested in importing glass. There is also a private venture in Alachua County that just started up a system to include glass in the asphalt mix and is paying (?) \$25 per ton for crushed glass.

Alachua County reported they are seeing a lot of bid protests due to the economy.

The City of Gainesville reported they are happy working with Alachua County in improving their solid waste management services to the citizens. The City reported they are increasing the list of recycling materials due to their cooperation with the County.

Covanta reported that they received the Governor's Renewable Energy Award. They also reported that the acceptance on the Hillsborough County facility was completed.

Citrus County introduced the new Solid Waste Director, Casey Stevens from Toledo, OH. The County also reported that they are planning to build an in-school composting and white paper recycling system. In addition they report that tonnages are down 9 percent from the projections made last year. The County has a new single car flat rate that takes effect in October. Regarding their pending construction projects, bids came in significantly lower than the estimates and they have been making good progress on the permits needed for the cell expansion project. Commissioner Bartell is taking the lead for Citrus in regards to regionalization of solid waste management.

Clay County reported they are looking at disposal options or landfill.

VII. New Business:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be hosted by Lake County on October 30th. It was confirmed that Diana Ferguson will be able to attend the meeting.