

HEART OF FLORIDA SOLID WASTE WORKING GROUP

October 30, 2009

MEETING MINUTES

I. Chairman's Comments:

- a. We will be reducing the amount of reproduction of documents and use of bottled water at our meetings.
- b. Noted that pricing for milk jugs has increased. There is reported to be a process available now to convert milk jugs to crude oil.
- c. Sumter County has approved the sale of their surplus glass crusher to Lake County. This will be a win-win transaction and a good example of inter-county cooperation. They are seeing a good market for crushed glass.
- d. Lake County will have a Green Fair on November 14th at Wootton Park in Tavares.
- e. Lake County has a contract with Bio-Diesel for waste oil.
- f. FDEP was selected as recycler of the year by NORA.
- g. Apopka is apparently investigating the feasibility of a City owned Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- h. Points out that the HOF Group needs to stay on top of all the latest trends and scam proposals and keep the elected officials informed of these developments. On this note Marion County agreed to provide their report on its recent attempt to obtain alternative disposal proposals for posting on the HOF web site. The focus needs to be directed to realistic options and productive efforts that can help manage wastes in cost effective manner.

II. There was no discussion of Minutes of September 18, 2009 Meeting:

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

A presentation was made by Diana Ferguson, Florida Association of Counties (FAC). Ms Ferguson has been working on the recycling goal legislation for some time along with several other issues. She predicted that solid waste and water will be big issues for the next session. She said that FAC will be looking at adding a solid waste component to the Commissioner training program.

Ms Ferguson said she was starting to look specifically at a solid waste bill for the next session. She said Senator Constantine will likely introduce a bill on recycling. In last year's discussion on the solid waste legislation, the cost of the recycling goal was never discussed. She said the recent report on the law from FDEP was not consistent with what was passed. She also noted that this will be Senator Constantine's last session as he will hit his term limit. Thus action on solid waste may be deferred until 2011.

Discussion ensued as to the ability of the group to craft a position statement on this issue for local delegations. It was pointed out that county control of the waste stream is critical for the purpose of financing solid waste infrastructure which is the responsibility of the counties. It was also noted that the cities will oppose this concept. The need to focus the position statement on a few key points was suggested. The following discussion points were suggested:

- 1) Diversion goals vs. recycling goals
- 2) Waste and diversion accounting
- 3) Need for new or better markets
- 4) How to fund required new programs
- 5) Need to improve renewable energy revenue provisions such as net metering or renewable portfolio standards

It was noted that the trash tax could come back this year. It was also noted that FDOT could be helpful in developing markets for recovered materials.

Ms Ferguson reviewed the organizational structure of the FAC. It has a Board of Directors and is a membership type organization. She will provide a copy of the incorporation documents and by-laws to the HOF Group. They also form various committees with specific chairpersons. They also have the ability to lobby, which is a key need for the HOF Group.

Richelle Sucara, Alachua County Deputy County Administrator made a presentation about the structure and function of the North Florida Broadband Authority (NFBA). This organization was formed to facilitate a focused approach to pursuing broadband stimulus funding. The partnership is made up of 14 counties and seven municipalities. It has an executive director and one delegate from each member organization. Through an RFP process the Government Services Group (GSG) was selected to help expedite the formalization of the organization in order to pursue grant funding for broadband infrastructure. GSG obtained all Interlocal agreements in two weeks in order to make grant application deadlines. The organization then shifted

from a partnership to an Authority type organization. It has a contracted General Manager. GSG provides all of the administrative activities (i.e., administration, public meetings, etc) and is working at risk until funding is obtained. The grant funding being sought could be as much as \$32M.

Ms. Sucara reviewed the organizational structure. Under FS Ch 163 allows for formation of authorities. There must be a minimum of two entities to start an authority. More members can be added later. Authorities function under Home Rule, thus allowing for assessment of fees, issuing of bonds and acquisition of debt and distribution of earnings. The NFBA was able to acquire a \$500k line of credit from a bank. The Sunshine laws apply to appointed Board members. One option for HOF could be as an advisory group to a regional authority formed for the purpose of general regional cooperation. Ms Sucara suggested that HOF may want to hear a presentation from GSG.

Dean Hybl provided an overview of myregion.org. This group represents an area that includes a population of 3.7 million. It started out as a forum for discussion from the East Central Florida Planning Council and the Orlando Chamber of Commerce. It is a 503 C3 not-for-profit organization. It has a Board of Directors and an Executive BOD. The president and staff have day to day operational responsibilities. The organization's membership represents seven counties and 86 cities. Approximately one third of the membership is composed of private sector, public sector, and civic organizations. The original BOD was too large at 103 members. Thus an Executive BOD of 37 members was created. The organization is further divided into 8 economic centers. The grouping of organizations within the economic centers crosses traditional political boundaries in order to facilitate groupings of members with common interests.

Funding is provided by membership fees. The organization has an annual operating budget of about \$200k and funds various projects. Thus there is a pay-to-play concept for membership. Mr. Hybl said that the HOF Group should expect members to make a financial commitment to the organization. He also pointed out the Central Florida School Board Coalition was formed for the purpose of forming a strong legislative voice for the region and that HOF Group may want to look at that organizational model.

This organization has funded several projects including a report entitled "How Should We Grow?"

A suggestion was made to move forward with forming a not-for-profit organization. The suggestion was deferred for further discussion a later date.

IV. Local News of Interest:

Marion County reported they are still looking for regional partners and at expanding their landfill.

Lake County offered a tour of their facilities after the meeting. Lake County suggested that if anyone has any news of interest they can send it to Gary Debo and Gary will distribute to the entire group. The County also reported they have a proposal for school programs for students to conduct recycling efforts going before the BOCC shortly. Finally Lake County reported on the results of a meeting with seven counties including Lake, Citrus, Alachua, Levy, Marion, Hernando, and Sumter. This meeting was a more formal meeting of HOF entities that included elected officials and senior county staff members to discuss regional solid waste management. David Dee also participated in this meeting. One topic of discussion was to identify legislative issues. Also discussed was how to best work with the cities. The geographic scope of the “region” was discussed. Lake County was tasked with an assignment to gather statistical information about the costs for solid waste management on a per capita basis. Daryl Smith asked each county to provide their estimate of the total per capita costs for solid waste management to him by November 25th. A form was provided to facilitate the formatting of the information requested.

Alachua County reported they will be providing their legislative delegation with a flyer on flow control issues and the new waste reduction goals. The flyer will emphasize the need to provide authority to control the waste or remove the responsibility for managing it.

Covanta offered to host the next meeting and provide a tour of their facilities.

Citrus County reported they approved America Recycles Proclamation and they have three construction projects associated with their landfill ready to get started.

V. New Business:

It was agreed that the next meeting will be hosted by Covanta at 10 am on December 18th.