

**Heart of Florida Meeting Summary  
December 18, 2009  
Lake County, Florida @ the Covanta Waste-to-Energy Plant**

**Present:** Jimmy Wise, Sumter Co.; Karen Deeter, Alachua Co.; Ed Lontz, Alachua Co.; Casey Stephens, Citrus Co.; Carmen Bruno, Citrus Co.; Darryl Smith, Lake Co., Gary Debo, Lake Co., Emilio Bruna, Lake Co.; Kathy Traexler, CDM; Bryant Johnson, Waste Management; Terry Lowery, Jones Edmunds, Rhonda Rodgers-Bardsley, Hinkley Center for Solid & Hazardous Waste Management; Shani Kruljac, SCS Engineers; Mark Halleen, Consultant; Clay Pucket, Waste Management; Tim Nick, Senator Dean's Office; Randy Musser, F.D.S. Disposal; Dan Strobridge, CDM; Ray Bilodeau, Orange County; John Locklear, HDR; Teri Staniec, Covanta Energy; Jeff Cooper, Lake County; Joe Treshler, Covanta Energy, Roland Lewis, Weaver Boos; Leslie Turner, CDM

Emilio Bruna opened the meeting discussing topics/newspaper and magazine clippings of interest. He mentioned an organics recycling system developed by BioHitech America. It claims to break down organics within 24-hours and is good for use by schools, hospitals, etc. Along these lines, he mentioned that Dr. Anne Wilkey from the University of Florida agreed to come speak with the Heart of Florida group at an upcoming meeting.

Emilio also pointed out the Section 187.201 of the Florida State Comprehensive Plan states that the state of Florida needs to move away from using landfills.

Daryl Smith mentioned the upcoming greenhouse gas regulations and reporting requirements that are beginning on January 1, 2010. He asked the group who is doing what in terms of preparation for this. He said Lake County has participated in several trainings, webinar, etc. given by consultants but is still struggling as to what extent it pertains to them. Karen Deeter with Alachua mentioned that an Alachua County landfill closed in 1998, which is now used for gas to energy (but is only producing a very small amount of gas) is applicable to the new regs. She mentioned that a very important part of the statute involves equipment calibration. She also pointed out that is wells are headed, then monitoring will have to occur.

Emilio recommended everyone read the current Florida Trend magazine article on Cap and Trade. There was also an article, dated December 17, in the Wall Street Journal on the same topic.

The next item of business addressed was the organizational structure of the Heart of Florida Solid Waste Working Group. Pursuing non-profit status was agreed upon as a viable option, though other options should still be explored. Daryl Smith implored the group to not lose sight of what they are here for. He stressed that they certainly do not want to lose the intellectual property aspect that the group provides. Mark Halleen explained the Florida Chapter of the SWANA organization and suggested it may be an appropriate model for the Heart of Florida group to use. Discussion ensued which resulted in an agreement to draft a set of bylaws similar to those used by SWANA-Florida Chapter. Mark, Karen Deeter and Shani Kruljac agreed to embark upon this task and have a draft ready by the next meeting.

## County Updates

**Citrus:** Casey informed the group that they are in the process of re-closing the old landfill. He explained that due to design failure, DEP is mandating a new cap be placed on the landfill. Carmen Bruno also mentioned that the County recently acquired a new, rebuilt compactor from CAT. Buying a rebuilt compactor rather than a new one saved the County and estimated \$150,000.

**Lake:** Daryl Smith said he had been informally instructed to “expand their reach” in terms of exploring regionalization options for solid waste management in the future. So far, Lake County has been in touch with Counties to the southeast of Lake. They received a formal notice from Sumter County that they do not want to participate in regionalization. Along these same lines, the County also met with Lake County municipalities, two weeks prior, to discuss plans after the Covanta contract expires in 2014. Daryl mentioned the County is in jeopardy of falling short of the commitment amount of waste to be delivered, and in turn are falling short of the electricity delivery amount agreed upon. He projected a 10-15,000 tons shortfall.

Gary mentioned that they are experiencing off-site migration issues at the landfill.

Emilio reported that the County’s MRF is up and running and reported they have a very high quality paper coming out of their recycling program.

**Orange:** Ray Bilodeau reported that on December 1 the County increased their Class I and Class III tipping by six percent. They will increase again six percent next year, and then three percent for several years after that. Last year the County increased tire tipping fees from \$99 to \$148 ton and are now seeing a decrease in the waste tire cell as a result.

He also mentioned that the Waste Management licensed hauler contract was renewed for seven years. This renewal is the last one allowed, next time they will have to go out for bid again.

In recycling news, the County is looking for a glass market and is focusing on recovering more aluminum.

A member of the group asked Ray what Orange County’s tipping fees are. He replied: \$34.80 for residential waste; \$25.60 for commercial and \$29 for yard waste. Someone else asked what kind of tires they accept and what do they do with them. He answered that they accept all tires, even with rims ( they receive \$65/ton for recycling the rims). The County sends their tires to Wheelabrator at a cost of \$82.60/ton (including transportation). The County cuts up large tires that Wheelabrator won’t take and puts them in their Class III landfill.

Finally, he mentioned that the County is actively looking at flow control (via ordinance and enforcement) to get commercial waste delivered to their landfill.

**Alachua:** Karen Deeter mentioned that Alachua is also looking at flow control again. She also talked about the Hinkley Center doing a backyard composting study for the County which will attempt to quantify the extent backyard composting is taking place in the County. They hope to use this study to

justify counting this activity towards their recycling rate, especially in light of the pending 75 percent recycling goal legislation. The study will be modeled after a similar one done in California.

**Sumter:** Jimmy Wise updated the group that the City of Bushnell had annexed the property next to the County closed landfill/transfer station. The City then approved a change in zoning so that a private landfill can be built at this location.

#### **Other Reports**

**Hinkley Center:** Rhonda Rogers reported that the Hinkley Center held a very successful drywall symposium. If anyone is interested in viewing the events, she encouraged them to go to [www.drywallsymposium.com](http://www.drywallsymposium.com).

**Closing:** Everyone was encouraged to take advantage of the tour being offered onsite by Covanta at the close of the meeting.

#### **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is to be held on January 29 in Alachua County.