

**Middlesex County
Solid Waste Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020
Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

Attendees

*Linda Scott, representing Cranbury Mayor Matthew Scott
*Jason Cilento, Mayor of Dunellen
*Paul Reed, representing Helmetta Mayor Christopher Slavicek
*Frank Troy, representing Highland Park Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler
*Douglas Rex, representing Middlesex Mayor John Madden
*Ralph Jasionowski, representing Milltown Mayor Eric Steeber
*Donna Caputo, representing New Brunswick Mayor James Cahill
*Eric Chaszar, representing North Brunswick Mayor Mac Womack
*Geri Barcheski, representing Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz
*Frank Hoffman, representing Perth Amboy Mayor Wilda Diaz
*Neil Blitz, representing Plainsboro Mayor Peter Cantu
*Bernard Bailey, representing Sayreville Mayor Victoria Kilpatrick
*Alice Tempel, representing South Plainfield Mayor Matthew P. Anesh
*Adriano Soares, representing South River Mayor John Krenzel
*Audrey Rozger, representing Woodbridge Mayor John McCormac
*Angelo Covino
*Thomas Cunningham
*Robert Leslie
*Patrick McGaheran
*Gary Sondermeyer
*Nicholas Smolney
*Seth Hackman, NJ DEP
*Dawn Slawsky, NJ DEP
*Erin Jensen, NJ DEP
*George Ververides, Middlesex County Planning Board
*Doug Greenfeld, Middlesex County Planning Board
*Paul Clark, MUA
*Paul Maticera, MCIA
*Olivia Forte Gardner, MCIA
Robert Romano, Veolia
Michael Pikulin, Veolia
Jasvinder Arjani
Elyse Barone, Sayreville
Erin Senape, South Amboy
Carole Tolmachewich, Middlesex County Solid Waste Management
Fred Stanger, Middlesex County Solid Waste Management
*denotes SWAC membership

I Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 9, 2020 meeting were approved. The motion was made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Smolney, and the motion carried unanimously.

II Correspondence

The following members requested an excused absence: Mr. Slomian and Mr. O'Reilly. A motion to excuse was made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Mr. Sondermeyer and the motion carried unanimously.

III Division of Solid Waste Management Report

Ms. Tolmachewich reported that the DSWM has resumed events with additional socially distanced measures in place and they have been going well so far. The next paper shred event in Cranbury had to be relocated to the Town Hall parking lot. Any town that has a paper shred event coming up on the schedule needs to verify that the event can still take place.

IV Agency Reports

1. NJ DEP Report

Mr. Hackman mentioned that also participating in the meeting from the NJ DEP was Dawn Slawsky and Erin Jensen. The DEP is working on a guidance document for all NJ Counties on the protocol of Plan Amendments as it relates to COVID 19.

Ms. Jensen mentioned that the DEP continues to receive Tonnage Grant reports which have an extended deadline until September 1. They are processing the 2018 Tonnage Grants and hope to have the checks out this Fall and they are working on the 2020 Tonnage Grant guide.

The DEP has received 6 completed Tonnage Grant applications from Middlesex County so far.

2. Environmental Health Division - Solid Waste Enforcement Report

Mr. DiFillippo was not present but the monthly report was made available. Ms. Tolmachewich reported that despite COVID 19, the Division was able to complete or exceed the number of required inspections by the end of the fiscal year which ended on June 30th. There were no verified odor complaints and the staff has begun generator inspections for institutions.

3. MCIA Report

A copy of the MCIA report was made available as an attachment via the virtual meeting. Mr. Maticera mentioned that there has been an increase in curbside recycling rates likely due to the stay at home order for the pandemic and introduced Olivia Forte Gardner. Ms. Gardner is offering MC Green robot educational presentations virtually via Microsoft Teams. In addition, a resource kit was recently completed in order to aid teachers to develop lesson plans around the 3 R's. There is now a link on the website for MC Green. Ms. Gardner is also recommending that towns consider promoting recycling using NJ DEP Public Service Announcements at pop up drive in theatres.

V Old Business – Status of District Waste Facility

1. MCUA Report on Middlesex County Landfill

A copy of the MCUA report was made available as an attachment via the virtual meeting.

Mr. Clark mentioned that the disposal numbers for April and May have been lower, about 14,000 less tons compared to last year, mainly due to less ID13 material being generated due to the pandemic, although ID10 has been stable. The installation of the permanent cap has largely been completed and there have been no odor complaints for months.

VI Other Old Business

1. Plan Amendment 2020-1 (Veolia Transfer Station – Middlesex Borough)

Mr. Rex provided a summary of the SWAC subcommittee site visit held on Thursday July 9. Major improvements have been made to the existing warehouse which Veolia will use to store supplies and the subcommittee saw the area of land where a new building will be constructed for the transfer operation. The transfer of waste will be completely indoors inside the new building under negative air pressure to prevent odors.

One question was posed regarding the impact of the property and improvements on the current Army Corps of Engineers project in the immediate vicinity. There will be no impact to the project from the facility.

Ms. Tolmachewich announced one change to the application that the facility will be listed as a public facility.

A question was asked with regards to the trucks that will be using the facility and Mr. Romano answered that all of the trucks will either be Veolia trucks or authorized by Veolia.

The next step in the approval process will be a public hearing.

Mr. Smolney made a motion to approve Plan Amendment 2020-1 and Ms. Scott seconded it. A roll call vote was made with a yes vote from all those that voted with the exception of abstentions by Mr. Leslie, Mr. Sondermeyer and Mr. McGaheran.

2. Administrative Action 002-20 (986 Jersey Ave / Solterra Class A Recycling Facility – New Brunswick)

This agenda item was tabled.

VII New Business

There was no new business.

VIII General Public Portion

There was no one from the general public.

Ms. Tolmachewich noted that it was Donna Caputo’s last SWAC meeting, as she was retiring in August. Ms. Tolmachewich thanked Ms. Caputo for all of her hard work and dedication over the years.

Mr. Smolney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Scott.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Stanger

Neil Blitz
SWAC Chairperson