**Portage County Solid Waste Management**

**Policy Committee Meeting**

**April 11, 2024**

**Roll Call**

Ed Dean

Anthony Badalamenti

Patric McCon

Joe Diorio

Tracy Wallach

Melanie Knowles

**Absent**

Judy Nelson

**Also Present**

Dawn Collins

Bob Gaetjens

The meeting was called to order at1:34 p.m. by Melanie Knowles. Dawn Collins made comments regarding the Township Trustee appointment of Ed Dean in place of John Kovacich and the City of Kent reappointment of Tracy Wallach to represent the City of Kent.

Dawn introduced Bob Gaetjens who started as an administrative assistant in place of Hannah Moats. The Policy Committee introduced themselves. Melanie Knowles is chair and works at Kent State University and represents commercial and industrial. Tracy Wallach is a former City Council member for the City of Kent and represents the City of Kent. Pat McCon is a safety engineer for Zurich Insurance and represents the Public. Joe Diorio is the Portage County Health Commissioner. Ed Dean is a Deerfield Township Trustee and represents the Township Trustee Association. Tony Badalamenti is a Portage County Commissioner and represents the Board of Commissioners.

Dawn: Pat and Melanie’s terms expire June 18. I will put the legal ad in the paper. Judy’s position is not up until June 8, 2025.

Dawn made note that Melanie and Kent State received the Environmental Excellence Award from Ohio EPA.

Joe made a motion to pass the minutes from 12-14-23. Tracy Wallach seconded with typo correction. Motion carried.

Tony made a motion to remove Hannah as clerk. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tony made a motion to appoint Bob as Clerk. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dawn Collins – District Plan Update

The Solid Waste Plan is a detailed plan about the waste diversion, landfills, and transfer stations that we use in Portage County. The amount of composting and the climate. I have been working on the plan update for months now. The base quote to have the plan written was close to $40k. The price to have it edited was $255/hr.

Melanie: Dawn and I spent time going through the spreadsheet and there are more tabs than you can imagine.

Dawn: Our previous plan cost 42k to write. The information in the plan must come from the District so I would prefer to pay for edits rather than the cost to write the plan, it requires a lot of time.

Joe – would need to establish cost not to exceed.

Tony: We as a committee, have to submit draft to OEPA in August?

Pat: if there’s something in there we don’t like, we need to edit that out.

Dawn: Questions: are there things we aren’t doing that we want to do in the future?

There are no active transfer stations in Portage County and no active landfills.

Joe: Your transfer station is active. One of the things that we need to add is have all the landfills marked. We have closure status of landfills. We’ll add to what Dawn puts in there. All the landfills in Portage County are dormant, in various phases of closure.

Dawn Collins: I have not seen a spot in this plan for dormant landfills, but I will check again.

Joe: They’re closed but some are considered orphaned landfills because they were not closed properly. The owners walked away; EPA needs to come on a site visit so they can visually see the status of our sites in hopes of getting proper funding to close them.

Discussion regarding tipping fees.

Dawn: Have completed most of the appendices for the plan update. It’s a lot of data that is tough to understand.

Melanie: Could set time to walk page by page through the plan as a Policy Committee.

Pat: wants to see it before Commissioners and EPA

Tracy: we don’t need to say HOW we’ll do it; it needs to say what we MIGHT do.

Pat: current plan doesn’t contemplate some of the stuff we’re doing now, most interested in big picture, executive view of what it all means.

Joe: Seemed to work well, reviewing chapters at a time.

Discussion of consultant

Tony: Want you go in direction you need to go in time you have.

Tracy: Contract could say if additional time is required then we can negotiate that.

Dawn: Need to meet again by June 18 to select members.

Melanie: 2-hour meeting set for May.

Dawn 1:30-3:30 May 23 next meeting.

Tony made the motion to adjourn. Pat seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:34p.m.

Minutes by Dawn Collins