

# CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

April 16, 2007

## Notes

The April 16, 2007, meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) commenced at 5:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Cherry Island Landfill Office.

Attendees:

### CAB

Thomas Mitten  
Vincent D'Anna  
Alfonzo Plant, Sr.  
Deborah Deubert

### DSWA

Rick Watson  
Robin Roddy  
Pam Williamson

### DNREC

Nancy Marker  
Bryan Ashby  
Robert Hartman

### ***Introductions***

Mr. Mitten noted that two new members for the Citizen's Advisory Board were present. Mr. Alfonzo Plant, Sr. has been appointed by State Representative Hazel Plant and Ms. Deborah Deubert has been appointed by Theodore Blunt, Wilmington City Council. It was announced that Mr. Scott MacKenzie has resigned from the CAB. Staff from DSWA and DNREC introduced themselves.

### ***DNREC's Quarterly CIL Summary***

Mr. Hartman presented on overview of DNREC's activities for the first quarter of the year. There were no odor complaints lodged with DNREC during this time period. On January 3 a new DNREC onsite inspector, Mark Lyon, started at CIL. This position was required by the new operations permit. On January 12 Soil & Water Conservation Division was onsite to do a sediment and erosion control inspection. They found a couple of violations with the sediment fence. DSWA is working with the division to correct the problems. On January 14 an ice storm destroyed a section of the litter fence. DSWA is still in the process of having it repaired and has brought in portable fences to be used until it is complete. There has been no offsite litter problem. Mr. Plant was concerned about asbestos being blown. Mrs. Roddy explained that the asbestos is not included in the regular trash. The asbestos is disposed of in a special area that does not have compactors running over it. There are procedures that are followed to make sure that the asbestos is not exposed. Mr. Plant asked Mr. Hartman if the bags that have been buried had deteriorated by now and would it be mixed in with the soil that would be blown by the wind. Mr. Hartman said there was a requirement for a certain amount of soil to be placed over the asbestos in a certain area of

the landfill. Mr. Plant wanted to know if there would be any issues with water runoff from it. Mr. Hartman said there is no runoff problem with the asbestos. Mr. Hartman continued with the first quarter activities. On February 28 excessive dirt was observed on 12<sup>th</sup> Street. It was not associated with the landfill but came from VFL trucks. DNREC Enforcement contacted VFL to resolve this issue. Mrs. Roddy explained that on a daily basis DSWA picks up litter on 12<sup>th</sup> Street and all four ramps on I-495. A sweeper truck also runs on 12<sup>th</sup> Street daily or more as required. Twice a week DSWA goes all the way to Governor Prince hand picking the trash on both sides of the road. Mr. Hartman continued that on March 29 DNREC's Air Quality Division conducted a compliance assessment at CIL and the air was in compliance. He then explained that DSWA employees had rejected asbestos in regular trash on three occasions. This is known as emergency reporting. It is usually noticed by the compactor operator or DSWA compliance staff and they in turn contact DNREC Enforcement and report it to have it removed from the site. There were also nine reports of medical waste during this time. Three geotechnical instruments were also damaged during this time period. They were repaired and no monitoring events were missed. A copy of the report is attached as an addendum to the notes.

### ***Discuss Gas Plant upgrades and wellfield improvements***

Mrs. Roddy updated the CAB on the landfill gas collection system. Some of the improvements include increasing the size of the pipe that goes to Conectiv. It increased from a 6" pipe to a 12" pipe. Other upgrades allowed for more vertical pipes to be installed. Horizontal pipes are constantly being added in the landfill. Ms. Deubert asked if there was a profit from the gas sent to Conectiv. Mrs. Roddy responded that there was a positive sale of gas. Mr. Mitten wanted to know what the incentive was for the operator. Mrs. Roddy said that Enpower, the operator for DSWA, gets a cash incentive for increasing the amount and quality of gas. Mr. Plant wanted to know if the quality of gas increases as time goes by. Mrs. Roddy said that the gas contractor wants the methane content to be as high as possible. This happens as the waste degrades during a certain period of time and then trails off. Mr. Plant wanted to know if the methane gas became more explosive over time. Mrs. Roddy said that there had to be a certain percentage of methane and air in order for it to explode. DSWA monitors for methane in all the buildings and above ground pump stations at CIL. DSWA also conducts monthly sampling of perimeter wells and methane is monitored in these sites. The gas operators also wear body monitors. Mr. Mitten is concerned about what the public's perception is regarding the activities at DSWA. So much is being done and maybe the public should be aware of it. Mr. Plant said that when the public smell odors they are concerned with what might be in the air, that it might be something harmful to them. Mrs. Roddy said that the landfill now has an employee that goes around daily to check for odors. If there is a problem it is addressed immediately. Mrs. Roddy said that there are back-up flares that do burn the gas in case of problems sending gas to Conectiv. DSWA is using current technology to control any odors even though the treatment system is expensive. Mr. Hartman reported a spill on April 2 at the gas plant. 25-gallons of leachate (condensate that comes out of the gas) was spilled but did not reach soil or surrounding water. Mrs. Roddy said that there were two measures the contractor put in place to prevent a future spill: 1) doubled the size of the tank and 2) put

containment on it. The leachate is eventually piped to the City of Wilmington wastewater treatment plant.

### ***Update on Cherry Island Expansion Project***

Mrs. Roddy updated the CAB on the activities of the expansion project. Wick drains are still being installed around the perimeter. The wick drains direct the moisture from the dredge spoil to go down to the aquifer and stabilize the soil. They are not being installed in the area where waste is disposed. The berm that is being constructed will be a mechanically stabilized wall using soil and geogrid. This design allows DSWA to make the wall steep, being wide at the bottom and tapering up. It will take three years to construct and construction is in year one now. Mr. Plant wanted to know what happens to the run off from the rain on the landfill. Mrs. Roddy told him that there is a leachate collection system throughout the landfill that collects several hundred thousand gallons of liquid. It goes to a pump station that sends it to the City of Wilmington wastewater treatment plant. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know what was going to happen to the southwest disposal area of the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Mrs. Roddy said that the Corps rotates between two areas for the dredge spoils. She thought that they were going to have to ask the same questions that DSWA did about continuing at the site and the amount of money it would take to maintain it. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know if DSWA would be able to use the area. Mrs. Roddy said that our current permit doesn't allow for DSWA to use it and the Corps would probably use it at least one more dredging session. If DSWA were to acquire the property there would be a lot of work that would have to be done in order to use it as a landfill. Mr. Watson said that plans are being developed for DSWA to take over the site sometime in the future.

### ***Update on Yard Waste Ban***

Mrs. Marker said that DNREC has been contacted by composting operations that might want to set up in Delaware. Mr. Mitten said that before the CAB could finalize a letter in support of the yard waste ban the start date was delayed. Mrs. Marker discussed Senate Joint Resolution 2 (SJR2) the memorializes all the changes to the ban. SJR2 includes items for DSWA and DNREC to do and how the ban will be implemented. Mrs. Marker noted that it doesn't postpone the ban it just delays the enforcement of the ban until January 15, 2008. The permit that DNREC has issued to DSWA still says effect January 1, 2007 but DNREC is taking the language in SJR2 to delay enforcing the ban. SJR2 directs DSWA and DNREC to work with the haulers to make it as simple and economical as possible. DSWA and DNREC will also have to open 3 demonstration community yard waste sites. DNREC has been working on this since January. They have an area in Bear that citizens could drop off yard waste. Ms. Deubert wanted to know what the timetable was for benchmarks. Mrs. Marker said that once the legislation was passed a definite time line would be established. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know if the composting site would be similar to the one Newark has. He wanted to know what was going to happen to the material once it is at the site. Mrs. Marker said that they were going to contract out with

someone to come in and take it away. The site would be a collection site only. Mr. Mitten wanted to know who did the research that said having collection sites was a better option than tax incentives or making curbside pickup free, that people would be more willing to use the sites then to pay \$3 to come and have it taken away. Mrs. Marker said that the legislators developed the language. DNREC went into the ban hoping that the private sector would step in and take the yard waste. Mr. Mitten wanted to know how many people had signed up for the curbside program before the ban was delayed. Mrs. Roddy said that though she didn't have specific numbers, there had been a significant increase in participants. Mr. Mitten wondered if anyone had told the legislators that more people had signed up for the program. Mrs. Marker said the information was provided to the legislators, including what programs the haulers had set up also. The legislators had calls from citizens protesting the yard waste ban. Mrs. Marker said the DNREC and DSWA will report on their progress to the legislature quarterly until December. Mr. Mitten would like to know how many refunds were given. Mrs. Roddy said she would try to find out the number for the next meeting.

**MOTION A** – Moved by Mr. D'Anna

“Rescind the previously passed motion from the January 9, 2007, meeting to send a letter to legislators responding to House Bill No. 1.”

**Second** – Mr. Plant, Sr.

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, D'Anna, Plant, Deubert)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(Unanimous)

**MOTION B** – Moved by Mr. D'Anna

“Have Mr. Mitten draft a letter to respond to Senate Joint Resolution No. 2.”

**Second** – Mr. Plant

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, D'Anna, Plant, Deubert)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(Unanimous)

**MOTION C** – Moved by Mr. D'Anna

“To draft a letter to the Mayor of the City of Wilmington stressing the importance of appointing someone to the Citizen's Advisory Board and to draft a letter to the Governor to re-appoint someone to the Citizen's Advisory Board.”

**Second** – Mr. Plant

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, D’Anna, Plant, Deubert)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(Unanimous)

***Unfinished Business***

Nothing discussed.

***New Business***

Mr. Mitten designed letterhead for the CAB to use. The next meeting date is July 16, 2007. The October meeting is rescheduled for October 22, 2007. The July meeting will be the annual meeting at which DSWA will make a report on the overview of the status of solid waste management in Delaware and the status of Cherry Island Landfill operations.

**MOTION D** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“Compile and issue CAB notes within two weeks and the CAB to have two weeks to comment and vote on issuing them.”

**Second** – Mr. D’Anna

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, D’Anna, Plant, Deubert)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(Unanimous)

**MOTION E** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“To adjourn meeting.”

**Second** – Ms. Deubert

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, D’Anna, Plant, Deubert)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(Unanimous)

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.