

# CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

January 9, 2007

## Draft Notes

The January 9, 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

Scott MacKenzie  
Marvin Thomas  
Thomas Mitten  
Vincent D'Anna

### DSWA

Tom Houska  
Angela Marconi  
Pam Williamson

### DNREC

Nancy Marker  
Bryan Ashby  
Robert Hartman

### General Public

Alan Muller

### ***Cherry Island Landfill Overview***

Mrs. Marconi said the operations at the landfill are normal. The expansion project and the landfill gas systems are both in progress. Mr. Hartman wanted the CAB to know that DNREC and DSWA were available to answer any questions that they have.

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

Mrs. Marconi said that the wick drain installation would continue through February. Mr. MacKenzie wanted to know where the water from the wick drains was going. The Delaware Solid Waste Authority (DSWA) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) explained that the water was coming from the dredge spoils outside the landfill. The water is flowing down to the aquifer now and the wick drains are designed to hasten the process to make the dredge spoils more stable. The dredge spoils are originally from the river and were put on Cherry Island around fifty years ago. Mr. Hartman said that there is a system of groundwater monitoring wells around the landfill to check for groundwater quality. After the wick drains are in, construction on the mechanically stabilized earth wall will begin. Mrs. Marconi explained that the wall would be constructed of earth and geosynthetic material. This type of wall is similar to what is found in highway construction for overpasses. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know if fly ash/sludge was

going to be used. Mr. Houska said that stabilized sludge is not being used at CIL for the expansion project. Mr. D'Anna asked if Delmarva Power has the right to dispose of fly ash at CIL. Mr. Houska said that there was an agreement with Delmarva Power to dispose of strictly fly ash from their Delaware plants but, because there would be a fee involved with disposal, Delmarva Power does not want to do that. Mr. Houska invited the CAB to make an appointment to visit the landfill to view the construction.

Mr. Houska informed the CAB that DSWA had just sold \$100,000,000 in bonds to pay for the expansion project. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know how much time that would be CIL. Mr. Houska and Mrs. Marker said it would take CIL to around 2025. Mr. Thomas wanted to know if DSWA had considered more innovative technology. Mr. Houska said that the Governor's Solid Waste Management Technical Working Group looked at alternative methods and compiled a report. (available at <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/SWMTWG/index.htm>). Mr. Houska said that the issue with alternative technology was the price. Landfilling is still the least expensive way to manage waste. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know what it would cost to build a something like a Swedish incinerator. Mr. Houska said to build a waste-to-energy plant that would manage Delaware's waste would be approximately \$300,000,000.

### ***Update on Cherry Island Landfill Gas Treatment System and Flare***

Mrs. Marconi updated the CAB on the status of improvements to the CIL gas treatment system. The Lo-Cat system and the flare were start up tested about three weeks ago. The system is being tied into the compression plant and will then be operating full time around the end of March. Mr. Houska informed the CAB that DSWA owns and is in control of the gas plant now. DSWA has a sub-contractor running the gas plant but DSWA controls all the decisions and makes all the repairs. Mr. D'Anna wanted to know what the DSWA would net on selling the energy. Mr. Houska said it would be about \$2,000,000 a year. Mr. Mitten wanted to know if DSWA has considered running the plant in-house. Mr. Houska said that DSWA would run it as an alternative. The sub-contractor has an incentive to produce as much gas as possible and share in the revenues of the additional gas.

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

Yard waste was banned from CIL on January 1, 2007 per the DNREC permit for the Cherry Island expansion. DSWA had meetings with haulers and civic organizations to prepare the public for the ban. There are options for the public that include DSWA's curbside recycling program, private haulers, and also the homeowner taking their yard waste to CIL to be put in a yard waste pile that will be used for mulch. House Bill 1 would end the yard waste ban at CIL. It is in front of the legislature now. Mr. Houska said that DSWA has several different recycling programs with municipalities. DSWA has worked with them to tailor a program to fit their needs. The majority of Delaware's residents are in un-incorporated areas. There would have to be a generic program that would serve everyone. Mr. D'Anna asked how many participants there were now in the curbside program. Mr. Houska said

there were 12,000 customers statewide. There are also 140 drop-off centers around the state. Mr. Mitten wondered if more people would use the curbside recycling if households were to get a state tax credit for the amount they have to spend. This would take the burden off of the people and will put it closer to mandatory. Mr. MacKenzie thought the state should give a financial incentive for people to recycle. Mr. D'Anna wondered if it might be better to treat waste haulers as utilities. Mr. Houska said that DSWA approached waste haulers about franchise districts and that didn't go over with them. Mr. Mitten thought that his suggestion would tell the legislature that if they don't want to do mandatory recycling then, do something that shows they are committed to the concept of recycling. Mr. D'Anna thinks that rewarding people to recycle would be a good thing but, the system of altruism or tax credits would not get the support in order to achieve the types of efficiencies that are needed that will make recycling work. Mr. MacKenzie said that his experience with Bellefonte (pop. 800) has been that 65-70% of residents participate in the voluntary recycling program. Mr. Houska said that it does go back to the population base in Delaware being mostly rural. DSWA has talked with neighborhoods and civic associations about setting up curbside recycling programs. Mrs. Marker wanted the CAB to know that the Recycling Public Advisory Council would be meeting on January 17 if any of them were interested. She also suggested that maybe at the next meeting there could be a more in-depth discussion of recycling. DNREC and DSWA could have staff there that deal with recycling. Mr. Mitten thought that it might be a good idea since that was an issue that is on every agenda. He thought that DSWA and DNREC were doing a good job but, need to be more aggressive in terms of identifying how the program is doing.

### ***Citizens Advisory Board Charter***

Mr. MacKenzie wanted to know what the CAB's purpose was other than it was required by the permti. The charter needed to be addressed. Mr. D'Anna said that the objectives were stated on the charter. Mr. MacKenzie said that a good suggestion had just been made and he wanted to know who should be told. Should it go to the Governor, or DSWA, or are they communication vehicles to the local community? Mr. MacKenzie wanted to know if the CAB could recommend to DSWA to push in the legislature the idea of a tax incentive. Mr. Mitten thought the CAB could. Mr D'Anna thought that the charter allowed for that. Mr. Houska said that he thought the CAB was all three things; giving DSWA advice, giving DNREC advice, and you are also a sounding board for your local communities.

**MOTION A** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“The May 2006 draft of the Citizen's Advisory Board Charter be adopted.”

**Second** – Mr. Thomas

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D'Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

**MOTION B** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“Amend the May 2006 draft of the Citizen’s Advisory Board Charter to be in compliance with the letter from DNREC that addresses the distance requirement for membership on the Board.”

**Second** – Mr. D’Anna

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D’Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

**MOTION C** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“Amend the amendment to the May 2006 draft of the Citizen’s Advisory Board Charter to reflect that the Board membership must consist of residents of New Castle County living above the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, removing the five mile limit.”

**Second** – Mr. MacKenzie

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D’Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

**MOTION D** – Moved by Mr. MacKenzie

“Nominate Mr. Thomas Mitten to be the chairman of the Citizen’s Advisory Board.”

**Second** – Mr. D’Anna

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D’Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

**MOTION E** – Moved by Mr. D’Anna

“Nominate Mr. Scott MacKenzie to be the co-chairman of the Citizen’s Advisory Board.”

**Second** – Mr. Mitten

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D’Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

**MOTION F** – Moved by Mr. Mitten

“The Citizen’s Advisory Board designate the April meeting as the official annual meeting at which a report will be prepared and distributed to the appropriate individuals, or legislative bodies.”

**Second** – Mr. MacKenzie

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas, D’Anna)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)

Mr. Mitten asked Mr. MacKenzie to compose the annual report. It should consist of the charter, a list of members, an executive summary, copy of meeting notes and what has been done, and any recommendations. Mr. MacKenzie asked for a synopsis of activities of solid waste management. Mr. Houska said that it would presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Mitten suggested that the CAB meetings continue at 5:00 p.m. at the Cherry Island Landfill Administration office. The tentative meeting schedule is: April 9, July 9, October 15, and January 14. (Meeting dates are revised as follows: April 16, July 16, October 15, and January 14)

***Unfinished Business***

Nothing discussed.

***New Business***

Mr. Mitten thought that the CAB should issue a letter of congratulations to Pat Canzano on becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the DSWA. Mr. Mitten will design letterhead for the CAB to use.

Mr. MacKenzie wanted the CAB to send a letter to the Governor to oppose overturning the yard waste ban. Mr. D’Anna wasn’t sure that it was appropriate. Mr. Mitten disagreed and thought a letter should be sent to all legislatures, if there was a consensus of the CAB.

**MOTION G** – Moved by Mr. MacKenzie

“The Citizen’s Advisory Board will send a letter to the Senators, Representatives, and the Governor in opposition of House Bill #1 and in favor of providing residents incentives to participate in recycling programs.”

**Second** – Mr. Thomas

**Vote** – Mr. Mitten - Yes  
Mr. MacKenzie - Yes  
Mr. Thomas - Yes  
Mr. D'Anna - Present  
Mr. Plant - Absent  
Mr. Brady - Absent

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
**(3 Yes 1 Present 2 Absent)**

Mr. MacKenzie will draft a letter for the CAB members to review. Mr. Houska told the CAB that there was to be immediate action on HB #1.

**MOTION H** – Moved by Mr. MacKenzie

“The Citizen’s Advisory Board is adjourned.”

**Second** – Mr. Thomas

**Vote** – Unanimous  
(Mitten, MacKenzie, Thomas)

**MOTION ADOPTED**  
(unanimous)