

Athens-Clarke County
Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the
Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 February 17, 2016

Location of Meeting:

Solid Waste Administrative Office
725 Hancock Industrial Way
Athens, Georgia 30605

Present at Meeting: Commissioner Jared Bailey, Commissioner Sharyn Dickerson, Jared Harper, Michael Brugger, and Suki Janssen.

Guest Present: Joe Dunlop, Sydney Bacchus, Christy Tweedy and Charles Nash

On May 18, 2016, the quarterly meeting of the Solid Waste Citizens Advisory Committee of Athens-Clarke County was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed by Commissioner Jared Bailey.

I. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Public Comments:

Sydney Bacchus asked for clarification to a statement made at the Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 in reference to “the decline in recycling”. She stated that she didn’t get a meeting notice, therefore, was absent from the February 17, 2016 meeting. However, after reading the minutes at the May 18, 2016 meeting, she asked if the sentence noted in the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes, page 2, section III. Reports #2, 2nd bullet would be the answer to her question.

Suki answered yes and stated that the recycling markets are the worst they have been in 20 years and it doesn’t seem to end. There are programs in many communities that are greatly altering and reducing their recycling services because the markets for recycling are struggling and the markets are bad for several reasons as explained in the last meeting as follows:

- When petroleum prices are down then recycling plastic markets always drop with those petroleum prices.
- Too much supply and not enough demand.
- Flexible packaging – ex: baby food jars, sour cream containers, etc., are changing from glass jars to flexible plastic packing. A lot of companies are moving to flexible packaging. This item is affecting recycling because it is not recyclable and is taking the place of materials that were recyclable

- The move to Single Stream and roll carts has made contamination a big issue. The MRF has multiple stations to pull contamination out to be able to make the best bale possible to make the most revenue available.

Sydney stated that for years there has been talk about collecting food separately so that it doesn't go in to the landfill and it gets composted instead. Has there been any progress on that or what is the status?

Suki stated that we have Let Us Compost, community compost business who does residential and small business compost through subscription for a fee.

Sydney asked if we are testing airborne particulate matter surrounding the "dump."

Suki responded, no because EPA does not require this test.

Sydney asked what EPA requires to require us to test.

Suki responded that EPA doesn't require us to test for airborne contaminants from the compost.

Sydney responded, so you don't have data of airborne particulate matter because you not testing for it.

Suki responded, because it is not necessary for what we are composting.

Michael responded that if Sydney wanted to compost in town, the Catholic Center is composting and is asking people to bring their vegetable matter to their church.

2. Committee Comments:

No comments from Committee.

II. Approval of Minutes

With the exception of correcting the noted typos, Commissioner Jared Bailey requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2016 meeting. The committee unanimously approved the minutes.

Roman 1. Item 2, second bullet. Change the spelling of Ollie to Olli.

Roman III. Item 6. No. 1. Change the spelling of valve to value.

III. Reports

1. **Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB)**

Suki Janssen read an overview of a report as printed by Stacey Farrell. **See Attachment 1 'and 2''.**

Additional upcoming event includes:

Trash 2 Treasure yard sale:

Friday, May 20, 2016 (pre-sale with admission fee), and Saturday, May 21, 2016. Event is located at 1005 College Avenue (CHaRM). All proceeds from this sale support the community beautification programs of KACCB.

Litter Index:

Reminders will be sent to Mayor and Commissioner, Manager and Assistant Manager to participate in the survey. The Litter Index is an annual program in June to try and get folks to go around in the community and score how littered a section of a road is, then turn in the results for KACCB to compile and they will share roads that need a lot of attention. It helps KACCB pinpoint whether there is a need for more Adopt-A-Highway groups or hotspot crews to hit.

Website Link:

Sharyn asked if there was a link on the website for citizens to complete survey on line.

Suki will get with Stacey about adding a link on the website.

Green School Program

The Green School Program is a partnership between the Recycling Division, KACCB, Public Utilities, Transportation and Public Works, Planning and Cooperative Extension. The Green School program started in 2004. This was after Sharyn Dickerson left ACC but when we had the 1st two green schools, Barrow and Whitehead Road Elementary. Barrow Elementary School is in its 12th year of being a continuous Green School. List of Green Schools are:

- **2015-2016** Green Schools - Barrow, Chase Street, Fowler Drive and Whit Davis, Barnett Shoals, Burney Harris, Cleveland Road, Athens Montessori, Gaines Elementary, and Whitehead Road Elementary Schools, Athens Christian and St. Joseph Catholic Schools, Hilsman and W.R. Coile Middle School.
- Chase & Whit Davis received ten years of participation and received \$100.

Sydney asked if KACCB program keeps a list of schools that use landfill compost.

- Suki will email KACCB and Cooperative Extension Office to see if they keep records of schools that use the compost.

2. **Recovery Material Processing Facility (RMPF)**

Some market appears to be getting better. March Recycling Facility tonnage was 1,761 tons. Staff has not received April tonnage report as of this date. Materials are still coming in with contamination. PR is going out in the next few months about contamination. Film plastic, food, and Styrofoam are the top 3 contaminants in the recycling stream.

Staff is working on expanding the recycling programs and composting to divert as much material possible from the landfill.

Film Plastic picked up from - Trex
Business accepting film plastic and Styrofoam – Publix
List of Businesses that give credit for not using plastic bags - Target & EarthFare

- **Green Fest Winners for the Recycling Division:**

Cora Wright – long-term employee with the Board of Elections. She started the recycling program and won the recycling Oscar of the Year.

Coca-Cola received the Business Waste Reduction Award of the Year, and an employee of Coke-Cola, Michelle Lassiter, started the recycling program, therefore, she received an individual Waste Reduction Award.

Cleveland Elementary School won the Waste Reduction Award of the Year in the school category.

Staff also participated in International Compost Awareness Week

3. **Collections Report**

Suki Janssen read an overview of a report as printed by Andrew Bielecki. **See tonnage Attachments 3ⁱⁱⁱ.**

In addition to the report Suki reported the as follows:

Mayor and Commission approved the budget to add a Litter Tech position for the Solid Waste Department in the downtown area. Plans are to use the Litter Tech Wednesday through Sunday, 40/hr week. The Litter Tech will be responsible for picking up litter on the ground and maintaining some of the solid waste infrastructure in the downtown areas (pedestrian trash cans, recycling bins, cleaning and monitoring, cigarette receptacles and downtown events.) Staff is working on providing pet waste containers because they are seeing more pets in the downtown areas possibly coming from the residential housing downtown.

Along with CVS and other new businesses in the downtown area, including our first fast-food restaurant in the downtown area (Zaxby's), they are producing quite a bit more waste and that presents some challenges for the Solid Waste Department.

The Collection Department will be meeting with the Downtown businesses to discuss ways to reduce the amount of waste in the downtown area.

Sydney requested that dogs be DNA tested. Testing will signify whose dog the poop belongs too. This is already in process in South Florida.

4. Landfill Report

Suki Janssen read an overview of a report as printed by John Mincemoyer. See Attachment 4^{iv}. See tonnage graph report - Attachments 5^v.

Tonnage is up at the landfill. A little bit of that is because bio-solids are not being used as much for daily cover, but are landfilled or being composted. About 25% of the bio-solids brought from Public Utilities are composted

* In addition to the report, Suki reported as follows:

The staff is in the middle of evaluating the landfill on-call consultant. Bid proposals have been received from four (4) consultant firms. Staff is now reviewing those proposals and an agenda report will be sent to Mayor and Commission in June for voting in July.

A public meeting was held at the ACC landfill for residents on Dunlap Road and the Billups Grove Baptist Church in March. There were five residents in attendance. Staff presented a management plan on "how to handle odors" detected in the landfill area and beyond. Staff has been asked to come and present the same presentation about Odor Management at the July 12 work session.

Sydney requested that it be included in the minutes that Suki received a letter expressing why the church and the Dunlap Road community did not want to attend the Odor Management meeting, why they were offended by the location of the meeting, why they didn't come out and why they didn't feel that discussing management of odors after years and years of being subjected to odors and contaminants that wasn't really appropriate.

Sydney stated that the community has set up an alternate meeting for June 9th but Solid Waste have not gotten confirmation nor been contacted.

Suki stated that staff has not received confirmation of the date and time from the Dunlap Rd or the Church at this time.

Sydney spoke of a meeting held at the church nearly 3 years ago with Blaine Williams in attendance as a spokesperson shortly after he was hired at Mayor Denson request. At that meeting, she expressed questions that she received from the citizens of Dunlap Road and the nearby community and her concerns are noted:

- Blaine Williams stated that the meeting was to strictly address the odor problems.
- Sydney said that she made a point of asking when they were going to address all of the other health related problems; and they never got a response to that. Blaine said that he was only addressing odors at that time. So we have been waiting and we have never got any response from this request.
- Sydney stated that from Google maps you can see that a stream is coming straight out of the manmade pond that's next to the compost sludge facility and the stream runs straight into the Big Creek.

Suki responded that the pond is contained and is connected to a pump station for overflow and staff has to do testing on the pond. There is not a stream connected to that pond feeding into Big Creek.

Sydney stated she was just telling her what someone else told her. But at any rate the stream is contaminated and wonders if it is leaking out of the compost pond. Sydney stated there was a report with this stream contamination reported.

Suki interrupted stating that she has not seen the report where the stream is contaminated.

Sydney stated that she sent that information out at least a year ago maybe before that, and it comes from multiple sources. It could be from groundwater

leaching or airborne contaminants because the pathogens are in rain gutters and roofs so how it's going to get there except by airborne.

So those kinds of things are still waiting for staff or elected officials to step forward and start addressing. That also was in that letter, so you can just reference that letter.

Sharyn Dickerson interjected by stating that she has not seen any testing so if you have test results, it is your responsibility to get it to us because I haven't seen anything.

Sydney responded by saying it is not our responsibility to test the air around the dump. So what we are saying is, if there are airborne contaminants, and people are being made sick by breathing those contaminants and this includes people above the dump in the Dunlap Community but even on the other side of Dunlap Road they are having difficulty breathing and are being made sick by the water and air.

And we already know the court has determined, and if you want to go and look at the court case, the court has already determined that the groundwater contamination went under Dunlap Road contaminated wells on the other side of the road. And there is a woman right now, that I didn't realize, that is still on groundwater, she's drinking groundwater from the other side of Dunlap Road where the court has already determined that the groundwater was contaminated from the dump. So you know, it is not citizens' responsibility to test it. So I am very sorry if EPA is not requiring the dump to test air. But I remind you that EPA wasn't requiring the results that they had from polluted rivers to be made public. So it is not like EPA sits there and makes sure that no one's air and water is contaminated. I know that for a fact because I used to work for them. So, just because EPA is not requiring you to do that does not resolve you from ramifications of contaminated air, water and soil, for the record.

Sharyn said so you saying, if you are claiming, that there is contamination in that stream, then you need to prove it. It is your responsibility as a citizen, because I haven't seen it.

Sydney stated that she has proved it. The reason you haven't seen it because when that information comes out and the lab is identified then the sludge companies go after those labs and they shut them down. So until the things go to court you will not be seeing any labs results with the lab identified.

Commissioner Dickerson stated that "you just said you sent us the information, now are you saying you haven't".

Sydney said no, I have sent you the information. I haven't sent you the actual name of the lab because when that happens the sludge companies go after those laboratories and shut them down.

Sharyn said I don't understand or know what you mean by the sludge companies, but the reality is that we test and we have requirements, and all of ours are subject to open record requests. Then I guess we go to court.

Sharyn said if they are using a well and if they are within the specified boundary, then they are illegally using that well, all those wells within the boundary we required everybody to be on public water. That was done when I worked with ACC.

Michael Brugger spoke - wells are inspected and tested by the State Board of Health. It's not the ACC Government it is the State.

Suki stated they we would be happy to test any well water at no cost, in the landfill area, and we made that clear at the last meeting with the community members that came. That's something we have always done at no cost. We will come and sample it, and test it and get the results back.

Commissioner Jared Bailey commented:

Now with all this we are kind of getting into some arguments but I will say that I am glad that we aired some of this and I am not trying to cut anybody off but we need to move on down the agenda.

5. Other Business

Jared wanted clarification about the price of the recyclables does it means that we have less recycling going on? But I hear that's not the case, correct?

Suki stated that we have seen some decrease. There are some private haulers, when times are bad, they are probably taking some loads to the landfill or they might take loads to other processors. We don't track every private hauler movement, we don't have the ability, staffing, or finances to do that. And as processing fees increase, many communities are facing these increased processing fees and they are near what landfill tipping fees are in many cases, so many municipalities and haulers are struggling with recycling programs due to increased cost.

Commissioner Jared Bailey clarified his question again by asking:

ACC Solid Waste is not reducing the amount of recycling because price is down.

Suki stated no. We did have to close College Avenue drop off site because we had some contamination issues. So we went ahead and put the College Ave drop off site on the same schedule that the CHARM is on. If the Charm is moved someplace else, then we won't have a central recycling drop-off site

6. Schedule Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2016 at the Solid Waste Administrative Building located at 725 Hancock Industrial Way, Athens, Georgia at 5:30 p.m.

Attachments:

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful Update
May, 2016

March

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful staff attended the February Mayor & Commission meeting to formally receive three 2015 Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation state awards.

KACCB accepted an award for helping the Clarke County School District achieve 100% participation in the US Green Building Council's Green Apple Day of Service Event. This is a first for any district in the nation.

KACCB worked with the ACC Stormwater Division to organize the Ripple Effect Film Project

KACCB presented information to the Downtown Businesses to further the Cigarette Litter problem downtown.

April

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful staff helped with the planning and execution of the GreenFest Awards Ceremony. On Friday evening they attended the event and presented awards to the Beautiful Business of the Year (Marker 7), The Keepin' It Clean Citizen of the Year (Geoffrey Tull), and the Adopt-a-Highway Group of the Year (Sigma Beta Rho).

KACCB Board purchased and distributed "Compost. A Family Guide to Making Soil from Scraps" book to 23 area schools and youth programs for ICAW

KACCB helped to host a Monarch's Across Georgia Workshop for area educators. The event reached 16 educators and took place at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

KACCB staff presented at Oglethorpe Avenue School Presentation honoring citizen volunteer Phil Caskey.

33 Adopt-A-Highway Groups participated in the Great American Clean-up/Adopt-A-Highway Challenge.

May

KACCB staff presented a Junior Master Gardening session to Athens Christian fifth graders on herbs and beautification.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful FY 2015



We educate and empower citizens and businesses with the resources to take action as environmental stewards of litter prevention, waste reduction, and beautification

State Affiliate of the Year



8 beautification programs 7 litter prevention programs 8 recycling programs



6,626 youth educated 21 classroom presentations 20 designated Green Schools



88 community improvement projects 1,088 plants distributed 461 trees distributed

Collections Division

The Collections Division will be meeting with the Office of Sustainability to discuss feasibility of ACCSW and possibly other departments making the move to CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) for heavy/vocational trucks. This would significantly reduce emissions output from vehicles such as: garbage/recycling trucks, dump trucks, transit busses, and any other ACC truck with a GVWR of 26,000lbs or more. In addition to cleaner running engines, the cost per gallon is considerably less than diesel. The possibility of a CNG fueling station with public access will also be discussed. This would open doors and opportunities to out of towners that currently are unable to refuel a CNG vehicle in Athens-Clarke County.

The Collections Division is continuing to explore options for the next round of automated collection trucks. Options include CNG, a different type of chassis frame, a smaller and compact body and a new technology in packer types that would allow for collection of food scraps, organic materials, trash and recycling to all be collected with the same type truck. This builds redundancy and efficiencies into the operation.

The Collections Division is now able to see positive results in collection of the new jail by means of compactors. When the announcement of the jail expansion was made, the Collections Division saw an opportunity to make some changes that would prove to have great results in efficiency gains for both departments. Historically the jail had several front load dumpsters in multiple locations within the jail property. ACCSW was servicing the jail for trash and recycling (5) days a week. Each trip required the driver to contact the SW office so a call could be made to the jail and have a jail staff member open the gate and supervise the visit. With the introduction of the compactors, SW staff is only servicing the jail every 2-3 weeks.

Landfill Report

1. The landfill remains at approximately 300 tons per day. Of that amount during the past quarter, the average daily tonnage was 254 tons of Subtitle D trash and 46 tons of recyclable material.
2. The landfill sold 527 yards of compost during the annual International Compost Awareness Week sale (customers were limited to 2 yards, maximum, per visit).
3. Atlantic Coast Consulting visited the landfill in mid-April to conduct the semi-annual groundwater event.

April 1, 2016

To: Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners

From: John Mincemoyer, Administrative Secretary,
Athens-Clarke County Landfill

Subj: OGLETHORPE COUNTY C&D LANDFILL TONNAGE

This is a request for Oglethorpe County 2016 First Quarter C&D tonnage.
Please fill out and return in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

If you have any questions, please call: (706) 613-3508.

First Quarter C&D Tonnage:

January: 1049.85

February: 1299.21

March: 1536.47

Total: 3885.53

Signature: Pete Cron

Date: 4-5-16



Date: May 17, 2016

To: Solid Waste Citizen's Advisory Committee

From: Brad Rickard
Landfill Superintendent

Subj: Quarterly Tonnage Report

The following tonnage information is provided for FY16 (3rd Quarter):

- Tonnage (including recyclables): **23,861.34**
- Average daily tonnage (including recyclables): **313.97**
- C&D tonnage for Oglethorpe County: **3,885.53**
- Tonnage (less recyclables) placed in Athens-Clarke County Landfill subject to host fees: **18,406.14**
- Host fees paid: **\$44,726.92**
- Per contract, host fees are currently **\$2.43 per ton**.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information: (706) 613-3509.

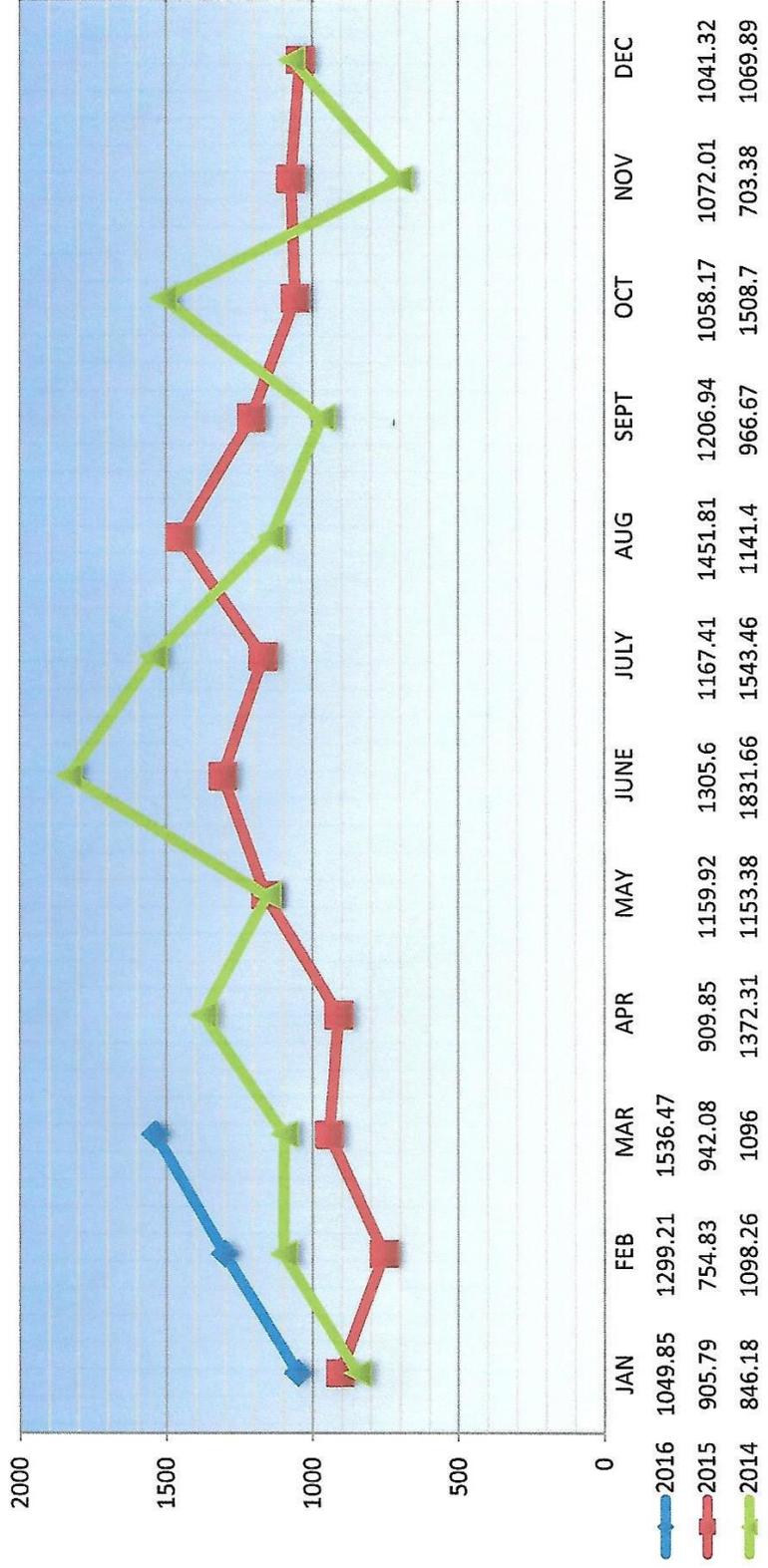
cc: Chairman, Oglethorpe County
Blaine Williams, County Manager
Suki Janssen, Solid Waste Director

SOLID WASTE / LANDFILL

P.O. Box 1868 • Athens, Georgia 30603 • (706) 613-3508 • FAX (706) 613-3511



**OGLETHORPE COUNTY
LANDFILL TONNAGE
MONTHLY COMPARISON (CALENDAR YEAR)**



**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LANDFILL
 SUBTITLE D TONNAGE
 MONTHLY COMPARISON (CALENDAR YEAR)**

