

## SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVE FUNDING TASK FORCE

MAY 24, 2010

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Curtis Binney (Chairman)  
Mr. Dan Gorden  
Mr. Gary Hammond  
Mr. Donald Taylor  
Mr. Peter Tarby  
Ms. Brenda Boggs (arrived at 8:35 a.m.)  
Mr. Richard Grier (arrived at 9:10 a.m.)

### MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dr. Kathleen Farner Thomas  
Commr. Welton Cadwell

### OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Sandy Minkoff, Interim County Manager  
Ms. Wendy Taylor, Executive Office Manager, County Manager's Office  
Mr. Daryl Smith, Environmental Services Director  
Ms. Susan Boyajan, Recording Secretary

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Sandy Minkoff, Interim County Manager, announced that he was filling in that day for Commr. Welton Cadwell, who unfortunately was ill and could not attend the meeting. He noted that Ms. Kathleen Thomas, one of the members, indicated that she could not be present for this meeting, and Ms. Brenda Boggs would be late this morning. He related that the date of July 1, 2014 stuck out in his mind as important, which was the expiration of the waste energy contract that the County had with Covanta, and they had to have in place by that date a solid waste disposal plan. He commented that four years was not a lot of time to plan and implement a course of action. He noted that the Board of County Commissioners has taken this committee extremely seriously, and the Commissioners have worked hard to choose the members of the Solid Waste Alternative Funding Task Force who they thought would be good participants. He opined that the Board believes that this solid waste issue is one of the most important issues that they would decide in the next two or three years for the County. He explained that for the last several years and expected through 2014 there has been several million dollars each year from ad valorem tax money in the general fund paid to prop up the solid waste fund. He related that in the 1980's when the agreement with Covanta was originally entered into, there were a couple of problems that the Board would like to avoid this time, including a failure of the County and the cities to work together to develop that contract and a lack of transparency and openness of the process with no publicity given of the meetings where important issues were voted on. He stated that the Board of County Commissioners has decided to create this committee to make sure that those two problems especially do not recur, and they included Mr. Peter Tarby, the League of Cities representative,

on the committee. He also mentioned that the Board has directed staff to make certain that the cities are involved in this process, and the second thing that they have been directed to do is make sure that this is a very public and open type process, including creation of a link from the County website which would contain all the materials given to the members, any studies, and any comments that they receive. He related that at some time in this process they may ask the public for comments during some public meetings.

Mr. Minkoff had the members introduce themselves. Mr. Dan Gorden, a long-time resident of Lake County and the Chief Operating Officer for Hawthorne Retirement Community in Leesburg, related that he used to negotiate the solid waste agreements for Hawthorne and got to know some of the people involved, and he mentioned that Hawthorne was about one mile from the incinerator. Mr. Gary Hammond, Director of Public Works and Facilities for the City of Mount Dora, stated that it would be good for a city to get involved in this and see how it is going to come together in the future. Mr. Donald Taylor related that he was a resident of Lake County since 2002 and a former infrastructure contractor from Illinois, which would be his area of expertise. Mr. Curtis Binney, a certified public accountant, stated that he represented South Lake Chamber, and he specialized in governmental auditing and sat on the hospital board and the School Board Audit Committee. Ms. Brenda Boggs related that she formerly worked as the public education coordinator for the Lake County Department of Solid Waste. Mr. Peter Tarby stated that he was President of the Umatilla City Council and represented the League of Cities.

Ms. Melanie Marsh, Acting County Attorney, instructed the members about the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law, and she explained that everything the members do as a government committee needs to be open to the public so that they could see how their decisions are made, what their process is, and what they based their decisions on. She referred to a detailed packet that was handed out to the members that explains the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Law, and she strongly suggested that they read through it, since there were a lot of nuances to those laws that she would not be able to cover that morning. She summarized that the Sunshine Law's basic requirements were that their meetings were advertised and held at a place that was accessible to the public, and minutes of the meetings were taken and recorded. She assured the members that County staff would take care of the advertising, typically in the Orlando Sentinel or the Daily Commercial newspapers, as well as the minutes of the meetings; and they would be having their meetings in the County's government buildings. She explained that the Sunshine Law would apply whenever two or more members of the committee get together and discuss some item that could foreseeably come before the committee for a vote, and this would apply to any setting in which the members would happen to meet, as well as phone conversations, e-mails, social networking sites, or any other type of electronic communication. She also related that under the Sunshine Law, the public has the right to attend their meetings, but whether they would participate would be up to them as a board to decide.

Ms. Marsh explained that public records are anything that comes to the members that would perpetuate knowledge that they were working on, and she pointed out that if they get e-mails from citizens to their personal accounts, they need to make sure to forward those e-mails to the County Administration staff so that they could keep track of those and always have a record of those documents. She suggested that they set up e-mail sites just for their committee rather than using their personal accounts, which would protect their accounts from the possibility of a court going through their private e-mail if a person challenges what is in those accounts to decide what would be considered public information. She noted that the County's e-mail system does record every e-mail that comes in and goes out, and they had a data base to search them.

Mr. Binney asked whether it would be possible for the County to assign an e-mail address for the committee as part of the website, so they could be contacted through the County. Ms. Marsh responded that she did not think their Informational Technology (IT) Department could do that, but she would check with them regarding that.

Mr. Minkoff stated that if they receive e-mails from the public, they would put those on the website so that they would be available for everyone to see. He went on to explain that the members could throw away anything they get from the County, but they should send a copy of anything that they get that was original from someone outside the County to Ms. Wendy Taylor, Executive Office Manager, so she could make it part of the record. He also summarized the Sunshine Law by telling the members not to talk to each other by any method, including e-mail, about solid waste.

#### REVIEW ENABLING RESOLUTION

Ms. Marsh related that the point of this committee was for them to look at alternatives for solid waste when the Covanta contract expired in July 2014, and their duties were to review the County's current disposal system, review and evaluate disposal options that are likely to be available in 2014, look at regional partnerships and public/private partnerships, and to come up with some ideas to help the County with the solid waste issues they would be facing in 2014. She stated that even though the first interim report was due to the Board on June 1, they could change that date to one that they feel was more reasonable and bring another resolution to the Board to have that date adjusted, as well as change the deadline of March 2011 to make a final report to the Board if the committee wanted to do that as they approached that date. She informed the committee that they would be choosing a Chairman and a Vice Chairman at this meeting as established by the resolution and would be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, which would guide them regarding procedure. She explained that a quorum for this board is a majority of the appointed members, which would be five out of eight.

#### ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Gorden and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0, the Solid Waste Alternative Task Force voted for Mr. Binney to be Chairman of the committee.

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Gordon and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0, the Solid Waste Alternative Task Force voted for Ms. Boggs to be Vice-Chairman of the committee.

#### SUGGESTED STEPS FOR COMPLETION OF TASK 1

Mr. Minkoff pointed out that the last page of the handout package contained an outline that he and Mr. Daryl Smith, Environmental Utilities Director, put together which they thought the committee might like to use. He stated that in the County's existing system, the haulers who pick up the waste were different than the disposers, and in some of the cities the people that were picking it up were also disposing it for the city. He explained that most of the County disposal is at the waste-to-energy facility, and most of the rest of it went to the County's landfill. He explained that the cities each have their own way of disposal, with some bringing it to the County's waste-to-energy plant and some sending it to private or other disposal systems. He added that they also deal with recycling, hazardous waste, and other types

of solid waste programs that they wanted the committee to discuss. He recommended that the committee tour both the waste-to-energy facility and the landfill operation, which he thought would give them a good foundation of Lake County's solid waste system as well as the costs that were involved. He added that they would attempt to have the members tour the transfer station operated by the Villages where waste was dropped off and then transferred out.

Mr. Smith added that they would be able to see the whole scope of the solid waste management systems and operation here as well as other places.

Mr. Minkoff commented that they would be experts on solid waste by the time this process was done, which was necessary to make recommendations in the future, and they would be seeing the whole range of disposal options, including burying it in the ground, sending it out of state, and burning it. Then, they would be looking at how they should set up their system and what alternatives they should look at.

#### FUTURE MEETING DATES, TIMES AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Mr. Binney inquired whether the committee needed to formally request that the Commission extend the June 1 deadline as dictated by the resolution.

Mr. Minkoff responded that they were looking at the Commission making the final decision in the summer of 2012, which would be the absolute latest for that deadline, so the latest the committee could present their findings would be March of 2012. He also mentioned that he thought they should extend the March 1, 2011 deadline to report to the Commission regarding available options, because they would need probably 20 to 24 meetings to accomplish that.

On a motion by Mr. Gorden, seconded by Mr. Hammond and carried unanimously by a vote of 6-0, the Solid Waste Alternative Funding Task Force moved to ask for an extension for the first interim report to December 1, 2010.

Mr. Binney commented that they had a lot to do in a short period of time for a voluntary board, and he suggested that at a minimum they hold monthly meetings.

Mr. Gorden suggested that they meet more frequently than once a month.

Mr. Tarby opined that twice a month to start with would be good, and then once they received the information they needed, they could start meeting once a month towards the end to come up with some good constructive information to bring back to the meeting.

Ms. Boggs suggested that the committee have an all-day meeting with different presentations from County and city staffs throughout the day and round table discussions between different sessions.

Mr. Grier arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Ms. Smith recommended that they have the tours separate from the meetings and meet at one of the locations.

Mr. Binney clarified that the committee would meet bi-monthly. There was discussion about the most convenient meeting times for members to meet, with some preferring mornings and others preferring late afternoons or evenings. It was decided that the bimonthly meetings would be at flexible times and that the next two meetings would be scheduled for Monday, June 7 at 9:00 a.m. and June 21 at 4:00 p.m. in County Commission Chambers in the Administration Building, with meetings lasting about two hours.

Mr. Binney recommended that they allow limited, controlled public input of not greater than two minutes related to the material that they were discussing at the end of the meetings and that the citizens who speak fill out a form which would identify the speaker.

Mr. Gorden commented that at his council meetings, they gave a three-minute time limit, and he pointed out that the Chairman would have to control that and keep people from repeating the same issue.

Mr. Binney stated that he was amenable to a three-minute time limit.

Mr. Minkoff stated that they would make sure to note the public comment period on the agendas, and he explained that the only comments they would probably have would be from haulers and people who were involved with the solid waste issue.

Mr. Gorden commented that there might be times when they would want to ask for some public input regarding an issue the committee was studying.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Minkoff stated that they will start the presentations about the collection systems at the next meeting, and they would get the information to the members about a week before the meeting by posting it on the website for the members to download.

Mr. Tarby commented that it was a pleasure meeting all the members, and he looked forward to working with them.

Ms. Boggs suggested that name tags be printed up for the members.

Mr. Binney stated that he was looking forward to serving on this committee, and he encouraged the committee to share their thoughts and have a healthy debate.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Doug McCoy, District Manager for Waste Management, stated that the committee would be seeing him at these meetings and that he looked forward to providing the information that he felt was relevant to making a decision regarding 2014. He noted that they were the largest unincorporated hauler in Lake

County for a number of years, and he looked forward to working with all the members to come up with solutions for the future.

Mr. Joseph Treshler, Vice President of Business Development, Covanta Projects, Inc., related that they run the waste-to-energy facility, and he looked forward to providing input and information to help them make a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Gorden and carried unanimously by a vote of 7-0, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m., there being no further business to be brought before the Lake County Solid Waste Alternative Funding Task Force.