

APPROVED

## **Solid Waste Advisory Group Meeting Summary**

DATE: November 28, 2023

LOCATION: Solid Waste Administration Training Room

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MEMBERS PRESENT: County Commissioner Amy Fowler, County Commissioner Earl McKee, Carrboro Council Member Randee Haven-O'Donnell, Hillsborough Commissioner Robb English, Hillsborough Commissioner Matt Hughes, Chapel Hill Council Member Adam Searing, Melissa McCullough sitting in for Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger

MEMBERS ABSENT: UNC Healthcare Dan Lehman, Carrboro Mayor Damon Seils, Chapel Hill Mayor Pam Hemminger

STAFF PRESENT: County Solid Waste Director Robert Williams, Chapel Hill Public Works Director Lance Norris, Chapel Hill Public Works Staff Wendy Simmons, Carrboro Public Works Director Kevin Belanger, Carrboro Public Works Staff Kristen Benoit, Hillsborough Public Works Manager Dustin Hill, County Staff: Cheryl Young, Isaac Jones, Caroline Hausler, Wanda McCain, Jason Dunn, and Dena Brown

GBB Staff: Chris Lund and Jennifer Porter

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### **Call to Order**

#### **Approval of September 18, 2023 Meeting Summary – Approved**

#### **GBB – Review of Solid Waste Master Plan of Zero Waste by 2045**

Porter and Lund reviewed the 3 Scenarios and the costs associated with each one.

##### Scenario 1

4 additional employees  
\$200,000 for materials and fees  
\$10 increase in the Solid Waste Programs Fee

##### Scenario 2

Scenario 1 implemented  
2 additional employees  
\$500,000 for materials and fees  
\$20 increase in the Solid Waste Programs Fee

##### Scenario 3

Scenario 1 & 2 implemented  
5 additional employees  
\$175,000 master plan fees  
\$7-12M for Single Stream Recycling facility  
\$250,000 for equipment  
\$1.4M for Organics Program development  
\$60 increase (phased in) in the Solid Waste Programs Fee

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Haven-O'Donnell asks if this plan includes glass.

Porter states we are assuming all current programs, such as Glass on the Side, will continue.

Haven-O'Donnell states she is concerned about the costs to the residents; the people on a fixed income, seniors, the shrinking middle.

McCullough asks about the possibility of Pay as You Throw as a way to proportionately assign fees to households.

Williams states that Pay as You Throw would hit the economically disadvantaged harder.

Porter states there's a projected increase in tipping fees for the additional material the county will be handling, that's currently being thrown away.

Young states that removing all organics in MSW would reduce tipping fees. We are trying to get everyone to participate in a waste sort, which will tell us what percentage is still organics.

Williams states that if Orange County had a facility that they owned and operated, and could handle the hauling of commodities, that would generate revenues for the county.

English asks if we choose Scenario 2, how long would it take to get to zero waste.

Fowler states you can only get to zero waste through Scenario 3.

Vote: The consensus is Scenario 3, if relief can be found for the folks who are affected by the increase.

### **Operational Updates**

#### *Recycling Drop-off Site Replacement*

Williams states that the new site will be located at Jones Ferry Rd and Berryhill Dr. Staff is working on a community outreach plan to inform the community. The site will handle only recyclable materials, no garbage.

#### *Bradshaw/Ferguson Waste & Recycling Center Consolidation*

Williams states that sampling and marking have been conducted at the Orange Grove location. We've also reached out to other Orange County property owners about possibly selling us some land. Expanding Bradshaw and Ferguson sites has also been considered. Keeping in mind the storm water regulations and rules, we don't know what the impact would be, especially in the protected areas of those waste sites now. A lot of work still has to be done, but we're looking at all those scenarios.

### **Next Meeting**

Williams states our next meeting could possibly be either early February or mid-March.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment.

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at: 7:36pm

Name of Minute Taker: Dena Brown