

OKALOOSA COUNTY SOLID WASTE PUBLIC WORKSHOP
MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2009
Okaloosa County Water & Sewer Administrative Building
BOCC Meeting Room

Introductions

Danielle greeted the audience and stated this is the kickoff of the Solid Waste Workshops. There will be six workshops: three in the North end and three in the South end of the County. Danielle had each attendee introduce themselves. Commissioner Janazzo welcomed everyone and stated he wanted good honest input letting us know what their hopes or expectations are for this upcoming contract. He wants the providers to tell us what they can and cannot do up front. Danielle introduced County staff and stated that tonight's slideshow along with the minutes will be provided via email upon request and will have them posted on the County Connection Website <http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/index.asp> . We will also develop an email group from the participants of this meeting to ensure you get the latest up dates and responses to any questions we receive. Danielle stated that the County desires input from the citizens we serve as well as the providers of service.

Review Planning Issues for 2011

Danielle stated the current contracts for solid waste collection, disposal and transfer station management will expire in April 2011. The current provider is Waste Management. We want to look at how we manage collection and disposal of solid waste in the County. Currently, we regulate household, but not commercial solid waste, and will look for opportunities in these areas as part of this exercise. Another area we are looking at is how we manage household waste. At this time garbage is picked up twice a week and once a week for recycling, bulk, and yard waste. For the upcoming contract we want to look at frequency and the guidelines that we have for that waste.

We will take the information gathered from the providers and citizens to develop a set of request for proposal (RFP) with alternatives. We will determine a model by which we will analyze what your bid actually is and who has the actual low bid. From this we can build a model based on our average tonnages that we receive now. We will give several alternatives from once a week, twice a week, whatever else we determine is a good alternative based on feedback. We want you as providers to give us good information and we are also very interested in the municipalities' input into what we are doing. We want to know what the providers have seen that works and what were problems. With all this information we want to give the providers good solid information so the providers can give us a good bid that is financially feasible for them and a good product for our citizens. The municipalities are welcome to participate and the consolidation of services is certainly an option in these financial times. We have a year to do this in and six workshops with a whole lot of communication in between. We hope to offer an array of alternatives that the providers can bid on.

Danielle explained the handout and chose to skip over the definition section, but encouraged everyone to look over it and if they didn't understand something, send us a note. Also, in the

handout is the Florida Statutes that governs Solid Waste Management, so if anyone wanted to research them, they would know where to go to get additional information.

Danielle introduced Cindy Halsey, Environmental Services Manager, and stated that she would go over the majority of the handout along with Jim Reece, Recycling Coordinator, who would discuss recycling and yard waste. Danielle mentioned that if anyone had questions to please let us know, and we would stop and address them.

Cindy addressed the audience discussing two components. The disposal component is our transfer station contract and the collection component is our franchise agreement and both components are currently contracted with Waste Management.

The disposal component has two transfer stations, one in Fort Walton Beach, which is operated totally by Waste Management. They operate the tip floor and the scale house. The second transfer station is in Baker where the County operates the scale house and Waste Management operates the tip floor. The disposal component also consists of Class I garbage, yard waste, recycling, white goods and tires. The Class I garbage component has several areas to consider. Currently, we have transfer stations with no operational county landfills. We want to look at the option of having in-county landfills, an energy plant in the county, out of county energy plant with transfer stations in county, along with plasma arc technology, or any waste to energy technology. We want to keep all our options open on disposal. We will be looking at all technologies so any suggestions will be welcomed.

Another key component of disposal is the Baker Transfer Station, which is unique with the County operating the scale house. What's the best option out there? The Baker Transfer Station is a twenty acre site and owned by the County. Do we operate as we do now by contracting out the actual processing, loading, hauling and disposal or lease out all operations at Baker as we do with the Fort Walton Beach Transfer Station? What is best for the County? Do we lease buildings and would the County be responsible for the up-keep of the buildings or would the vendor be totally responsible?

Jim Reece addressed the recycling component. Currently, the County provides recycling service via its contract with Waste Management to approximately 26,000 homes and it is collected once per week. Waste Management just expanded this service to a single stream recycling program from a curbside sort program. With this expanded service it allows citizens to expand their recycling. This new recycling program will run through 2011 until we re-bid. For the unincorporated non-franchised areas primarily in the north end of the county, drop off opportunities are available at the Baker Transfer Station. In the south end of the county if someone lives in a multi-family unit, which does not have curbside service, they can take recyclables to the transfer station in Fort Walton Beach. Waste Management has instituted a commercial single stream program and is marketing it now.

Yard waste is collected once per week at the curb. The county operates the disposal site for yard waste currently located at the old Wright landfill in Fort Walton Beach and at the Baker Landfill in Baker. We mulch material at this site, and we are working with Florida DEP under an innovative recycling grant to take out plastic from yard waste in order to develop a market for it.

White Goods are collected as bulk material by Waste Management once per week and has to be scheduled by calling the hauler. Residents can bring White Goods to Baker and Fort Walton Beach transfer stations where we haul to a vendor, who purchases them from the County.

Tires are accepted from the public at Baker and Fort Walton Beach Transfer Stations at no charge. We currently accept five tires per customer, per month.

Household Hazardous Waste is accepted from conditionally-exempt small quantity generators and residents. The county also, has inter-local agreements with ten other counties to provide annual mobile collection events.

Question From Audience

Where is Waste Management processing recyclable material?

They take it to a vendor in Pensacola, where it is processed and materials that cannot be handled by that vendor are trucked to Orlando and processed.

Cindy commented that C&D currently is taken to privately owned C&D landfill sites. She also stated that some C&D is accepted at the transfer stations, but the majority goes to the private landfills and all are located in the north end of the County.

The second component is collection, which is a franchise agreement and is currently with Waste Management and the contract expires 2011. The County has five areas which are under this agreement. We are looking to see if density would allow vendors to branch out in the north end of the county. At this time, we have three small haulers that are picking up in the non-franchised areas in the north end and the contract is between the hauler and individual citizen. We will be looking for options in this area.

Waste Management is utilizing a rear loader for yard waste pickup and they utilize the recycling truck for the pickup of recyclables. In the near future they plan to switch to rear loaders for recycling for compaction purposes and to make the route easier. Danielle expressed interest in the rear end loaders along with concerns.

The Okaloosa County Water and Sewer department bills for citizens in the franchise area and approximately 1,300 homes are billed by the vendor. Seminole is coming under the Water and Sewer billing soon. At this time $\frac{3}{4}$ of Crestview residents in the franchised areas are billed by Water and Sewer and the remainder by the vendor.

Options for bulk pickup, currently is on a call in basis. Should we continue or change?

Jim stated the Governor signed House Bill 7135, in July 08 which is called the Florida Energy Bill. Currently, our program is focused on the residential sector. We must look at commercial recycling. House Bill 7135 mandates a goal of 75% by 2020 and has included the incentive that renewable energy counts toward the 75% goal. Currently, the goal is 30%, which in the State of Florida, we have not yet met. The House Bill also, promotes green building that meets national standards and green lodging by stating any State workshop or conferences must be held at certified green lodging facilities. HB 7135 will be a strong driver in this upcoming process.

Danielle asked the providers to give us information on what they think is a good program. How do they feel we need to handle our landfills and recyclables. Providers need to tell us what they want and what they feel is a reasonable Consumer Price Index. Would it be fuel, labor component and whatever it is it would need to be reasonable. What does the City of Ft. Walton Beach want? Do they bid and us take over? She wants to take all the information we gather, develop a request for proposal, go out for bid, and have a contract by fiscal year 2011. What is cost effective? Once a week pickup with an extra can for a fee? We want what is best for the citizens. We want to have a seamless transition for our citizens.

Dianne from the Bay Beacon, commended us on what we are doing. She feels we are right on target. She also stated that having lived overseas she has experienced solid waste pick up once a month but with the heat here in the south we would need more but not twice a week pick up. Danielle wants the Bay Beacon to encourage citizens for their input and attendance. We want to cut cost and improve service.

Jim commented on single stream recycling, which was a business decision Waste Management made. What we are telling the public is, that if they have more than what will fit in their recycling bin, then they need to put the excess in a plastic bag or cardboard box which are both recyclable or in a tote or laundry basket.

Commissioner Jannazo wants us to give the citizens incentive to recycle, he wants citizens to be ashamed not to recycle. He wants to get the point out about recycling stating there is so much bad information out there.

Pam from Allied Waste mentioned that Santa Rosa County sends letters out to residents to help get recycling done.

Danielle stated that ordinance and contracts will be put on the county website. She stated that the current contract has hefty fines if performance is not met and this portion of the contract will not change.

General Comments/Questions

Danielle welcomed any comments or questions, and none were offered. She thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting adjourned.