

The September 7, 2023 meeting of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ellen Nerbak and was conducted at the Warren County Commissioners meeting room. SWAC members present were Ellen Nerbak, Emilio Lois, Thomas Fey, Gregory Gaertner, Linda Gabel, Lynn Rutkoski, Donald Niece, Ingrid Gray, Robert Finke and Rob Colontrelle. Excused was Jan M. Lee. Also attending were David Dech, Jon Knittel and Chris McCormick. The Chair confirmed the presence of a quorum (10).

Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by forwarding a schedule of regular meetings of the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council to the Warren County Clerk and The Star-Ledger and by posting a copy thereof on the bulletin board in the office of the Board of Commissioners. Formal action may be taken by the Warren County Solid Waste Advisory Council at this meeting. Public participation is encouraged. In order to assure public participation, those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend the meeting should submit any requests for special accommodations one week in advance.

#### MINUTES

The minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting were reviewed. With no exceptions or corrections, it was MOVED by Mr. Fey to accept and approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 meeting, seconded by Ms. Gabel. All in favor, the motion carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dech reported receipt of an application for a five-year renewal of a permit for the landfill. Mr. Dech also received an application from the NJDEP to permit the County to stockpile storm debris temporarily. He also mentioned that ANJR request that a survey regarding mattress collection is to be completed.

#### Solid Waste/Recycling

The paper shredding event held June 24, 2023 produced 10,500 pounds of paper. Mr. Fey asked about a shredding event in the fall, but Mr. Dech said the next event will be in the spring. At this time, Mr. Dech is waiting for the DEP to release recycling enhancement grant money.

#### REHS

Mr. McCormick reported a small food recycling compost facility is operating in Allamuchy. Compost piles and accepted food waste will come from Hunterdon County. The operation was ceased, it is not yet permitted. Waste is now being diverted from Allamuchy to another facility. The DEP is overseeing this; The operation will need a Class C Recycling Center permit.

Mr. Finke asked about guidance for farm composting; he was referred to Mr. Knittel. Mr. Knittel replied there are guidelines in existence; there is no space at the landfill to include such an operation.

#### PCFA

Permit modification. 5 years. Started taking ID 10 waste, pros and cons to that. This is the biggest change at the landfill in the last five years. A Household Hazardous Waste collection will be October 8, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, open to all county residents. Mr. Fey asked if there will be a flyer showing what is allowed and what is prohibited, the response was affirmative.

DEP

No one present.

Warren County Commissioners

No one present.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Corporate Recycling Solutions is proposing a research, design, development (RDD) project in Phillipsburg. This would require an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan to allow for solar panel recycling. Consultant Guy Watson appeared on behalf of the applicant to explain the project; he was accompanied by two owners representing the company. Solar panels are currently not classified as A, B, C or D, so this is relegated to the DEP as an RDD project requiring administrative action by SWAC and the Board of County Commissioners to add the facility to the Solid Waste Management Plan. NJDEP will then need to approve.

Mr. Watson explained that batteries, mercury lamps, and solar panels are universal waste and classified as Class D. After speaking with the NJDEP, he learned solar panels will probably be similarly categorized. This is a proposed Research, Design Development (RDD) project in a leased warehouse in Phillipsburg, for which a permit will be required. He explained the capacity as 6 tons per day x 5 days; if the panels and inverters are still functioning they can be resold; the deframer machinery will separate the panels to be sent to another facility for further processing. The building is in a light industrial zone; there may be three trucks per week delivering material.

Questions from SWAC members and Mr. Watson's responses follow.

Q. Where do the panels come from? A. Installers or owners, a caretaker would handle the recycling. Only west coast firms are known to do this at present.

Q. If a panel fails (power supply), can it be replaced? A. That varies, this is similar to a CRT. There is an agreement with a shredder in Pennsylvania which is looking to buy equipment.

Q. Was this proposal made to Phillipsburg? A. No; copies of the application were supplied to Phillipsburg but the County and the NJDEP will ultimately decide. It was originally proposed to be a Class D recycling facility but the DEP said that it had to be treated as an RDD. This is a dismantling facility.

Q. What happens to the inverters? A. These are a power source and they will be sent to a permitted facility.

Q. Noise? What about trucks coming and leaving? A. There is no noise to the operation. It is expected three trucks will come per week, three coming in but an unknown number leaving. Other products will be going out, such as aluminum from the frames.

Q. How many employees are anticipated? A. This is a small business, perhaps 10 or 12 people.

Ms. Nerbak suggested a committee be formed to visit the facility. Volunteers are Robert Finke, Emilio Lois, Tom Fey, Ellen Nerbak, Jonathan Knittel and Chris McCormack.

Mr. Dech said that there are a few items that are still needed before he can consider it a complete application where he will send a letter to the Town informing them and requesting their comments and recommendations. They would have 45 days after receiving the letter to respond to SWAC.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Secretary

**Next meeting:  
November 2, 2023**