Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board
Minutes for March 29, 2017 Meeting

The meeting of the Davidson County Solid Waste Regional Board was held on March 29, 2017 at 4:00 PM at the Metro Courthouse.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Sherman, Chairman, and roll call was taken. The following members were present: Robert Diehl, Jennifer Hackett, Daniel Lane, Jeff McCormick, Kenneth McMichael, Vanessa Paz, John Sherman and Dinah Turner.

Mr. Sherman recognized Mr. Daniel Lane who has spent many years serving on the Davidson County Solid Waste Region Board. Mr. Lane is stepping down effective April 1, 2017. Mr. Sherman presented a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Megan Barry.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of last meeting from the September 22, 2016 meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Jeff McCormick and seconded by Mr. Danial Lane to approve the minutes and was passed unanimously.

Mr. Sherman then opened the floor for nominations for Board chair and vice-chair. Mr. Robert Diehl made a motion to nominate Mr. John Sherman to service as Board chair and Mr. Kenneth McMichael to service as Board vice-chair. Mr. Danial Lane seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board then heard a presentation on the 2016 Annual Progress Report required by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC). Jeffrey Ezell, Public Works Recycling Coordinator, provided an overview of the Annual Progress Report sections and then presented the education, outreach and media activities during the last calendar year.

Clay Hand, Solid Waste Engineer with Metro Public Works, provided an overview on solid waste and recycling, the region's collection services, area landfill tonnage, reported recycling tonnages (both residential and commercial), waste stream trends and current landfill capacities.

Mr. Daniel Lane asked if there were methods other cities used to facilitate collecting tonnage data from private recyclers. Sharon Smith, Metro Public Works, recognized Seth McCormick from TDEC who was in attendance at the meeting. Mr. McCormick informed the board of some creative ways other counties try to engage the private recyclers such as providing them with greenhouse gas emission models showing how their recycling had impacted the environment and letting private recyclers know they can enter into a proprietary agreement with TDEC if they do not want their tonnage data to be made public.

Chairman Sherman allowed for public comment. Council Member Mina Johnson asked that the Board recommend to Council that the zoning code be changed to require all multifamily and mixed use construction projects show space for waste and recycling containers on their plans and submit a recycling plan for residents or tenants before the project is approved. Council Member Burkley spoke on encouraging recycling by charging residents for 2nd trash carts. Mr. Jonathan Hall spoke on landfill siting and the interest in District 1 for expanded recycling instead of landfills. Mr. John van der Harst asked that Public Works enter NES wood waste numbers as a separate line item going forward and Mr. Bruce Wood spoke on the importance of food waste diversion.

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After public comment Mr. Daniel made a motion to accept the 2016 Annual Progress Report, Mr. Kenneth McMichael seconded and the motion prevailed without objection.

Zack Daniel with CDM Smith gave an introductory presentation on the upcoming Solid Waste Master Plan. Work on the plan will begin after the contract has been signed and approved by Metro Council. The Master Plan will involve a waste characterization, public meetings, research on different waste diversion methods, interviews of environmental groups and more. The Solid Waste Region Board will be updated quarterly. Ms. Vanessa Paz requested that information at public meetings be presented in other languages if possible.

Tara Ladd, Metro Attorney, provided an overview of the Jackson Law. Earlier this year an ordinance was introduced to enact the Jackson Law in Davidson County. If the Jackson Law was enacted in Davidson County, it would require landfill expansions to go through more rigorous public meetings and Metro Council would need to approve both new landfill applications and landfill expansions. The proposed ordinance was deferred on 2nd reading and a special called meeting of the Metro Council Public Works committee was held on March 28th.

There being no other business, a motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Daniel Lane, seconded by Mr. Robert Diehl Motion passed without objection.

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