

***Ontario County***  
**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**January 20, 2016**

**Committee Members:** *RUSSELL*, Baker, Evangelista, Singer, Venuti, and Wickham

---

**Attendees:** Supervisors Russell, Baker, Singer, Venuti, Evangelista, and Wickham

Staff: Tom Harvey, Mary Krause, Mary Gates, Tim Jensen, Linda Frasca, Kris Thorsness

Consultants/Guests: Supervisors Marren and Vedora, Nellie Puma – County Finance/DPW, Jerry Leone - Casella Waste Management, Steve Healy, Dave Shaw – FLT, and George Kotlik – Student Aid

**Call to Order:** Chair Russell, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., and declared all members present. Chair Russell thanked Supervisor Baker for his many years as Chair of the EQC and thanked the rest of the committee for remaining members as well.

**Privilege of the Floor:** Chairman Russell offered Privilege of Floor for those present. Supervisor Vedora stated that he is concerned that trash vehicles continue to use Main Street, Geneva as a travel route when they are not supposed to – it is part of the OML agreement. He has received complaints about trucks coming from Route 14 south of the city and then turning onto Hamilton St. Mr. Vedora would like to know what is going to be done about this as they continue to use the main road when they very clearly are not supposed to. Jerry Leone stated that they are public roads and the only thing Casella can do is advise the truckers to not use them. He requested that in the future Mr. Vedora obtain the name of the truck company (in this case it was MBI) and get their number and report it to Casella. Casella can then follow up with the company. Committee members commented that neither the County nor Casella can dictate the use of public roads, but that the County and Casella committed to advising all haulers of the preferred truck route. The Committee requested that Casella follow up with a reminder letter to the haulers that there is an established route they are to be using. Mr. Harvey stated that the preferred route was a part of the EIS consideration. Supervisor Baker reiterated that Casella should follow up and if the haulers will not comply, Casella could refuse them access to the landfill. Mr. Leone stated Casella would follow up as requested.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chair Russell requested a motion to approve the draft December 9, 2015 minutes as presented. *Supervisor Singer made a motion to approve the 12/9/15 minutes as presented; motion seconded by Supervisor Wickham. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Solid Waste Management Plan** – Tim Jensen briefly reviewed the SWMP Strategies for 2016 (provided in the agenda packet). The new planner (Regina Connelly) has been hired and started 1/4/16 and is doing very well. Mr. Jensen reported staff continues to work on getting the recycling surveys task completed. At this time, more outreach is needed and staff plans to be more proactive in order to obtain information from the individual municipalities. Staff has met with Casella regarding Household Hazardous Waste collection events for 2016. Presently there are two (2) events scheduled for the first half of 2016 and if there are enough registrants not able to be served by the first two, a third event could be scheduled in the fall. Staff is working on the creation of an updated website with comprehensive information regarding options for recycling and waste diversion in Ontario County. Engaging the towns and the cities investigating methods

to implement 'Pay As You Throw Programs' – in order to incentivize recycling and diversion and reduce waste going into the landfill. We have looked into the work needed to complete the Landfill Site Master Plan. The contract with B&L expired in 2012. Staff will contact B&L to make sure we understand the exact status of the plan and what needs to remain to be done in order for it to be completed, and will scope it out more and report back to the committee. Mr. Harvey has committed to work with the County Attorney's office to compile the current solid waste, hauler registration, recycling, and related laws the county has on the books and then working with the committee on rewriting, amending, or eliminating them as needed to implement the SWMP.

Supervisor Evangelista stated that he does not feel the plan overall is anywhere near complete or ambitious as he had hoped it would be. Feels that one of the easiest things we do is recycling, which we have already paid a premium for, but would like to know what we are we going to get for our money. We know we have educational and monitoring components in place, but what more will be done. What he would like to have included is how we can divert more waste from the landfill, and feels the new planner should take on more responsibility of the SWMP – at least have more involvement with it so that it isn't all on Mr. Harvey and Mr. Jensen. Mr. Harvey outlined some of the inventory work that is being done by Ms. Connelly. She, Mr. Jensen, and Ms. Jordan will be reaching out to municipalities to collect better information on their disposal and recycling programs. This is a vital piece of information needed to begin to develop programs tailored to each municipality that we would consider funding part of in order to implement the SWMP. Mr. Harvey reiterated that bringing Ms. Connelly on board at the beginning of the year and prior to receipt of any landfill expansion success payments was meant to give the Planning Department resources in order to gather better data in preparation for implementing individual projects in the SWMP. That work is going on in earnest. Supervisor Evangelista suggested that as part of the outreach, the department call a meeting with the local municipal representatives, the green committees in various municipalities, and with schools and larger institutions to pick their brains for ideas. Mr. Harvey suggested they also use that as an educational forum to explain the goals and projects contained in the SWMP. At the suggestion of Mary Krause, the planning department will develop a more formal project schedule to move the individual components of the SWMP forward.

2B. SWMP Funding and Success Payments: Mr. Harvey reported that the recent amendments to the OML dictate that the first success payment will occur 120 days after the issuance of the last permit, being the modified Title V air permit. The only thing that could occur to lengthen the time frame would be a court order preventing Casella from doing construction or placing waste. If there is no comment from the EPA, the DEC is expected to issue the modified Title V permit soon after the January 25. Mr. Harvey recommended the committee come up with a plan as to how to use the success payments. In the agenda package was Resolution 465-2003 that established a plan for the use of the Success payments. Mr. Garvey had proposed a plan where annually ½ of the success payments would be used for the general fund and the other ½ for implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan. To implement Mr. Garvey's plan or any other that deviated from the plan laid out in Res. 465-2003 will require action by the entire Board. Mr. Harvey encouraged the committee to work with staff to make a recommendation that could then be presented to other committees. Supervisor Singer stated she understands the 50% for programs but does not want to throw out some of the original intent – feels it needs to more refined. Supervisor Wickham would like to see plan that has a number associated with it before we just hand money out to individual municipalities to implement projects. Supervisor Evangelists stated he does not think we can overemphasize the fact that we, as a county, have a

unique opportunity more so than any other county because even though every county has to have a SWMP the harsh reality of it is that it cost dollars to implement these things. We have a unique opportunity to not only do the right thing but to essentially position ourselves as a county for when the landfill closes. We can associate the dollars in really being impactful and to actually reduce the amount of waste we throw out as a county. We have twelve (12) years to make some significant changes on how our county residents dispose of their waste, and we have an associated amount of money to do these things; no other county in New York State will be in this position. We have a wonderful opportunity to do some really great things and feels that we have in the past done some really progressive things to date and does not want to see the success payments go into a general fund, etc. – would like us to be judicious and use good planning with the success payments. Supervisor Russell stated we could be the county that writes the model for SWM. Mr. Harvey stated it is what the DEC hopes we are going to do. Supervisor Russell stated we need to get strategies in place as this will help us decided. Supervisor Venuti feels that most of the success payments should go towards the SWMP. Mr. Harvey shared that Mr. Jensen has met with Assistant County Attorney Reinhardt concerning the need for funds for the self-insurance fund.

### **Landfill Operational:**

**3A. Operations Report** - Jerry Leone reported that since the last meeting Casella has done the following:

1. operating staff - two new positions created, one for landfill gas monitoring and the other for overseeing our upcoming construction projects. Casella has internalized the monitoring of the gas system which they used to contract out. They believe this will result in improved system operation.
2. improved waiting times - the wave of incoming MBI trucks arriving later in the day seems to have ceased and had been largely back to normal over the past few weeks. Previously, combined with access road construction activities and the limited areas available for placing solid waste, this had created longer waiting times during mid and late mornings especially.
3. operations - we have moved waste placement activities to the east side of the site and off of the upper north face.
4. engineering designs - Casella has been continuing with the development of engineering designs for the upcoming permit expansion projects including the new cell construction and leachate infrastructure improvements.
5. gas system upgrades - Casella is anticipating the installation of new vertical gas wells to replace wells that were decommissioned as part of the final cover removal project along with a gas header relocation effort.
6. access road failure – Casella is continuing repair an exterior slope failure that occurred on 12/31/15 on the new east side access road; repairs are expected to continue for another 1 - 2 weeks.

Supervisor Wickham stated the Casella is a great neighbor and doing a great job. He receives calls from them to let him know what is going on/to happen. When this happens he will contact Supervisor Russell as needed.

**3B. DEC Inspection Reports:** Supervisor Venuti asked how the DEC figured out the numbers on the reports. Mr. Harvey provided an explanation. Supervisor Venuti questioned

the BUD material count – it is not included? If not, what is the reason we take it in? Mr. Leone stated the landfill uses it as fillers.

**3C. Discussion on Audit/Consultant:** Mr. Jensen stated that we get an annual report from C&S. What we discovered is that the bulk of what they were reporting on is a duplication of what the NYSDEC is providing three times a month and what Planning Department staff is monitoring. C&S goes twice a year and inspects operations and then report on their findings. A lot of what they are doing is what the DEC already reports. Mr. Jensen discussed what type of financial monitoring was going on, if any, as this is not part of the C&S report. Mr. Jensen discussed the financial monitoring the county would like to see and whether C&S would be able to provide it. C&S responded that what the county needed was really not within their sphere of expertise so they are no longer interested in doing the report. In the past, under the OML, Casella was paying up to \$10,000.00/year to C&S for the annual report. Supervisor Evangelista feels that C&S did not necessarily do anything to monitor the landfill – their report was more of a snapshot of operations and logistics. Staff stated they feel the County is doing a better job monitoring the landfill and should continue to stay on top of it. Staff will come back to the committee with a concrete plan on how we should audit the landfill. The Town of Seneca’s audit is very well done and the County would like to follow suit. Staff will work with the Town of Seneca to see if we can combine efforts. Mr. Harvey suggested that in addition to fiscal monitoring, the remainder of the resources might be better spent on getting additional technical engineering resources. He reminded the committee of the success they had hiring SCS Engineers to work cooperatively with Casella and their engineer, Barton and Loguidice over odor control and the landfill gas collection system. Staff will bring back a proposal in the future once the cost of the financial auditing is known.

### **Landfill Expansion**

**4A. Permit Status Report** –Tom Harvey reported all permits have been granted except the Title V Permit at this time. The Time Period for comment by EPA expires on Monday, January 25. If the EPA makes no comment, DEC can issue the final modification to the Title V air permit any time after that date.

**4B.** Nothing to report at this time.

**4C.** Nothing to report at this time.

**Other:** No additional topics of discussion at this time

**Adjournment:** There being no further business before the committee, a *motion was made by Supervisor Venuti, seconded by Supervisor Singer to adjourn at 4:50 pm; motion carried unanimously.* Respectfully submitted,

*Linda R. Frasca*

Senior Clerk