



Technical Management Committee Minutes of the Meeting on November 17, 2021

SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the SPC EpiCenter, Room 2-304, 2:00 pm on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Members present were Earl Gloster, Willie Joseph, Deb Bush, Robert Turner, William Pickrum, Tracy Meehan, Andrew Butterfield, Michael Gordon, Nan Bennett, Bart Diebold, Tom Nicholls, and Cedric Harris. Pinellas County employee attendees were Paul Sacco, Linda Larkins, Joe Morrissey, and Brendan Mackesey. Members absent without an alternate: Scott Witt. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Earl Gloster, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.

Citizens to be heard

None present.

Minutes

Mr. Gloster entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 meeting.

A motion was made by Deb Bush and seconded by Michael Gordon to accept the TMC Minutes as written. Motion approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Operations Report

Deb Bush, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- Deb reviewed the Operations Report for the months of September and October 2021.
- Cold iron outage started on October 24. Due to unanticipated work on the bearing surfaces of both the turbine and generator rotors, start-up is expected to be delayed by approximately 8 days. It is possible that some level of diversion will be needed until B102 is brought back online.
- Windy weather created excessive litter at the landfill last week. Waste Management was quick to respond to remove the visible litter from the ditches and side slopes.
- Production and availability at the Water Treatment Facility was impacted by the Waste to Energy cold iron.
- The next Mobile Collection event for Household Electronics and Chemicals is scheduled for November 20 at the North County Satellite Site. This event is to be supported by the City of Oldsmar.

- Commissioner Karen Seel and Lauren Peace, a new Tampa Bay Times reporter who is responsible for covering “accountability in Pinellas County Government,” visited Solid Waste for a classroom presentation and driving tour on November 5.
- In 2021, Pinellas County, its municipalities, and Keep Pinellas Beautiful joined Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, and Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful in a regional waste reduction campaign called [Reduce Your Use Tampa Bay](#). The campaign encourages individuals and businesses to take a pledge and share the steps they are taking to reduce waste. They launched the expanded partnership via a “Sustainable September” media campaign. The campaign was a success with the addition of four new businesses and 428 new pledges.

Financial Report

Linda Larkins, Pinellas County Office of Management and Budget

- Linda reviewed the Financial Report of revenues and expenditures for October 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. A copy is included in the meeting packet for review.
- As of the date of this report, the Clerk was still posting transactions for July and August and had only closed through June.
- Duke Electric Sales Revenue are always one month in arrears. In addition, Clerk Finance experienced an additional month delay in posting. Therefore, October – August actuals only reflect 10 months of revenue.
- Other Revenue budget amount is primarily a Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT for the North County HEC3 facility at \$1.48M. This includes \$225K more than originally anticipated.
- Personal Services favorability is due to vacant positions.
- Plant Management favorability: During October – August, nine monthly Covanta service payments were posted. The monthly service payments for July and August were posted in September.
- Operating TRP project payments are less than planned. During October – August, payments total \$3.5M. As of November 8, 2021, no additional TRP payments have been posted. FY21 Budget includes \$5M for Operating TRP expenditures. All TRP projects were anticipated to be completed by the end of FY21. Some Operating TRP projects will not be completed until FY22. Those total ~\$600K and will be funded in the FY22 budget.
- Landfill Management favorability: During October – August, there are actually 10 months of payments that have been processed. The monthly service payments for July and August were posted in September.

Pinellas County Updates

Paul Sacco, Solid Waste Director

- Pinellas County attained a 78% recycling rate; tied with Lee County. They were invited to Tallahassee to accept an award from FDEP. Paul thanked the haulers and municipalities for all they do to support recycling.

- The Department of Solid Waste has experienced an ~15% turnover of staff over the last 6 months. This has not impacted operations, and they have been receiving quality applicants.
- The enhanced metals project will be moving forward. Solid Waste Operations is working with Covanta to begin to finalize numbers. This project is expected to take 2-3 years to construct at a cost of approximately \$20M with a payback of less than 4 years.
- Covanta has asked Solid Waste to site a metals cleaning facility. Currently, this is housed at their landfill in Pasco County. Ash goes through a cleaning process to improve its value. Not sending the ash to Pasco would save on transportation costs by ~\$40K/month. Solid Waste would receive a host fee as well as an increase in metals revenue. They are still negotiating the final terms and conditions.
- Have received the draft of the first of 2 parts of the waste composition study and will share when they receive the second half. This information is key for long term recommendations in the department's Master Plan.
- They have been renegotiating their agreement with Covanta. Covanta is currently being acquired by EQT. They will resume discussions when the acquisition is further along.
- Paul shared that this is Deb Bush's last meeting as she is retiring on December 17. He thanked her for her 31 years of service to the TMC.

TMC Subcommittee Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update

No representative in attendance. The minutes from the November 10, 2021 meeting will be shared once they become available.

MRF/Transfer Station Discussion

Paul Sacco, Solid Waste Director

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is looking for a recommendation on one of the two options to either build a transfer station or a regional MRF. He was invited to speak at the City Managers' Consortium in November. Several were interested in a County MRF but there was concern regarding the need for a flow control ordinance and how that would impact the municipalities that outsource that service. With the capital outlay expense, the ordinance would be needed to guarantee the flow is coming to the facility. The ordinance would only apply to the materials collected curbside, not a mandatory recycling ordinance. The proforma presented by RRS was based on that assumption. If there was an ordinance put in place, the municipalities that outsource those services wouldn't have to bring those materials here until the expiration of their existing contracts.

Q. (William Pickrum) Would this require an interlocal agreement with the haulers to ensure materials come to the facility?

A. (Paul Sacco) It would be an amendment to the existing Solid Waste ordinance. The requirement would apply to anyone collecting curbside recycling.

(Tracy Meehan) Are we notifying the local processing facilities?

(Kurt Salac, Waste Connections) Waste Connections operates a local MRF in St. Petersburg. Hillsborough County is building a MRF and will begin processing their own recyclables in 2023.

Losing Hillsborough County as a customer will open their MRF capacity by 75%. Currently, the City of St. Petersburg brings their recyclables to their facility.

Q. (Robert Turner) Given the information that there is a local MRF that has the capacity to accept our recyclables, should there be three options on the table: build a MRF, build a transfer station, or neither?

A. (Paul Sacco) This body already made the choice to go with building a MRF or transfer station, and the BCC approved of both and asked that you finalize either option. This recommendation will go back to the County Administrator, and he will value it out, most likely testing the private market. But for the purpose of this discussion, the BCC is looking for the committee to make a recommendation based on one of these two options.

Q. (Bryant Johnson) Was the BCC aware that Waste Connections would have the increased capacity in 2023?

A. (Paul Sacco) Not specifically, but they would expect the private processors to step up and engage an offer.

Q. (Bryant Johnson) Would they be open to a third option?

A. (Paul Sacco) It won't be the BCC's decision at this time, it will most likely start with the County Administrator. The BCC is reacting to what the municipalities asked for, which was to find a cheaper option than the private market. We're looking for recycling to be processed at the best rate we can. The County Administrator would be open to a selection of one of these options with added language that you would like him to solicit the private market.

(William Pickrum) The location of a transfer station or MRF is needed to make a decision, as it would impact transportation costs.

(Nan Bennett) On behalf of the cities she represents, they don't feel they can make a recommendation based on these two options with the information they have. The City of Safety Harbor has inquired "why are we only being given two options to choose from? Discounting the public/private partnerships availability of MRFs currently operating in the area."

(Paul Sacco) The BCC's direction was based upon the input they received from several municipalities. The original direction for this committee was to evaluate the feasibility of a regional MRF operated by municipality or local government. The County Administrator will be looking at the private side to ensure all options are considered.

Q. (Rodney Due) Are we locked into transporting our recyclables to Hillsborough County if we went with the transfer station?

A. (Paul Sacco) No, but we may need to look at building more than one transfer station to accommodate the northern municipalities.

(Deb Bush) The proforma is based on the cost to transport to Hillsborough. The cost would be significantly less if it was going to a processor in Pinellas County.

Earl Gloster suggested crafting a recommendation of one of the options with an added caveat to test the open market.

- Option A = build a transfer station with a caveat to test the open market

- Option B = build a MRF in Pinellas County with a caveat to test the open market

The options were put to a vote with eight (8) members in favor of Option B and four (4) members in favor of Option A.

TMC Meeting Schedule for 2022

The proposed schedule of meetings for calendar year 2022 was accepted as written.

Department of Solid Waste Holiday Schedule for 2022

The proposed schedule of holiday hours and closures for calendar year 2022 was accepted as written.

Selection of Rate Review Subcommittee

Mr. Gloster opened the floor to volunteers. In response were William Pickrum, Robert Turner, Michael Gordon, Tom Nicholls, and Deb Bush (on behalf of her replacement). A Chairperson will be selected at the January 26, 2022 meeting.

Additional Items for Discussion

Earl Gloster shared that Waste Con in Orlando was a well-attended and successful event. Recommended attending their next conference in San Diego scheduled for December 5-7.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.

The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Carlee Ward, Recording TMC Secretary