

A Report of the Operations and Planning Committee Meeting

November 17, 2020

A meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020, at 3:30 P.M. at the Authority's Administrative Office in Conway, South Carolina. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting were mailed to the news media.

Present were Committee Chairman Pam Creech, Committee Member Amos Berry and Ex Officio Committee Member Bo Ives. Committee Member Sam Johnson was absent.

The following were also in attendance: Board Member Carl Schwartzkopf, Danny Knight, Executive Director; Mike Bessant, Director; Esther Murphy, Director; Jan Bitting, Director; and staff members Stephanie Todd, Cecil Terry and Cindy Keith. Amelia Wood represented the public attending the meeting. There were no members of the media in attendance.

Ms. Creech called the meeting to order and Mr. Ives rendered the invocation. Mr. Berry led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Update on C&D Landfill Construction

Ms. Creech asked Mr. Bessant to begin the meeting by explaining the first item on the Agenda, an update on construction of the C&D Landfill expansion. Mr. Bessant showed a video of the area and stated that construction was progressing and that cutting was complete on borrow area #5, which is on the 1187 property. Ms. Creech asked how the timber was sold. Mr. Bessant answered that the timber was sold per ton, by type. He explained that DHEC had been to the landfill and was impressed with the progression of construction. Mr. Bessant explained that bids for project #2, which is construction of the bridge and borrow area backfill, are due December 17, 2020. He said that there had been approximately fifteen contractors at the bidder's interest meeting. Mr. Bessant remarked that a virtual pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 20th and attendance is mandatory for anyone planning to bid. Ms. Creech asked if there had been any issues with the construction completed to date. Mr. Bessant responded that everything is going smoothly and he is pleased with the progress.

Santee Cooper Green Power Contract

Mr. Bessant explained that staff reviewed the existing landfill gas contract with Santee Cooper which was originally signed in 2000 and renewed in 2008. Mr. Bessant stated that Santee Cooper invested \$250,000 in the SWA's landfill gas system in 2008 when the contract was renewed. He explained that the contract expires at the end of December and after meeting with Santee Cooper and the SWA's engineers, staff suggests signing a one-year extension, with an option to extend the contract in one year increments. Mr. Bessant stated that the extension would

allow the SWA the opportunity to research other possibilities. Ms. Creech asked if any research had been done thus far. Mr. Bessant answered that some research had been done, but it had not been extensive. He stated that a task order was signed several months ago with the SWA's engineers and that they had begun to explore other possibilities. Mr. Ives asked if Santee Cooper hoped to continue the relationship with the SWA. Mr. Bessant stated that Santee Cooper wanted to continue working with the SWA, in part because the SWA's system goes down less than any other landfill gas system in the state and the SWA system was the first landfill gas systems in the state. Mr. Knight remarked that Santee Cooper's fate is uncertain, so other possibilities need to be explored. He stated that the landfill gas system is complex and is a big undertaking. Mr. Bessant said that the employee that Santee Cooper has on site has been very helpful to the SWA.

Mr. Berry moved to recommend that the full Board grant the Executive Director permission to sign a one-year extension with Santee Cooper with the option to extend the agreement in one year increments. Ms. Creech seconded and the Motion carried.

Electronics Legislation Update

Mr. Knight remarked that the Association of Counties and DHEC are working to re-file the electronics bill which is set to expire. He stated that the lobbyists will attempt to initiate extended producer responsibility, which makes the manufacturers responsible for disposal of the electronics they produce. Mr. Bessant said that some counties want the landfill ban of electronics removed. Ms. Creech remarked that although she understands that electronics disposal is a sizeable expense for the counties, it is not acceptable to dispose of electronics in the landfill because of the toxins they contain. She stated that the legislators need to make informed decisions and that she hopes they are aware of the consequences of what they choose to legislate. Mr. Knight stated that after the December meeting, the SWA will have a better idea of how to respond.

Steritt Swamp Cemetery

Mr. Knight explained that the Steritt Swamp Cemetery is in the middle of the landfill, although it is not the SWA's property. He remarked that it became an issue because residents on Mill Hill Road were upset about two people illegally residing on the property. Mr. Knight stated that people cannot be restricted from visiting a cemetery, but you can set time restraints on visitation hours. He said that the SWA is going to construct a gate and will restrict use of the road to access the cemetery during evening hours. Mr. Knight explained that the SWA could help clean and define the property and be a better neighbor. Mr. Knight remarked that he had spoken with the family as well as the sheriff and the trespassing situation has been resolved. He expressed his desire to put a sign at the entrance to the cemetery and to be respectful because it is an active cemetery.

Roundtable Discussion

Mr. Bessant remarked that the landfill construction would be discussed at future Operations and Planning Committee meetings. Ms. Creech asked if the equipment at the MRF was operating as expected. Mr. Bessant answered that things were running smoothly and that he had been contacted several times by other counties who would like to enter into an agreement with the SWA to bring their recyclables to the MRF. Mr. Knight stated that the SWA learned a lot from entering into a contract with Charleston. There was general discussion about the Charleston facility and their contract with Repower.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 P.M.