

**RAMSEY/WASHINGTON COUNTY
RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT BOARD
JANUARY 27, 2011
MINUTES**

A meeting of the Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Project was held at 9:00 a.m., January 27, 2011 at the St. Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Section, Maplewood, Minnesota.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioners Toni Carter, Jan Parker, Victoria Reinhardt, Janice Rettman – Ramsey County
Commissioners Dennis Hegberg, Gary Kriesel, Lisa Weik – Washington County

MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner Rafael Ortega – Ramsey County
Commissioner Bill Pulkrabek – Washington County

ALSO ATTENDING

Peter Barthold, Mary Elizabeth Berglund, Gary Bruns, Zack Hansen, Judy Hunter, Kevin Johnson, Curtis Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Susan Kuss, Trudy Richter, Norm Schiferl, Katie Shaw, John Springman, Warren Shuros, Jodi Taitt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Parker moved, seconded by Commissioner Weik, to approve agenda.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 27, 2010 MINUTES

Commissioner Hegberg moved, seconded by Commissioner Parker, to approve the minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Introductions were made.

SECTION A: BUSINESS - GOVERNANCE

Election of Officers

Chair Reinhardt asked for nominations for the position of Project Board Chair. Commissioner Kriesel nominated, seconded by Commissioner Weik, Commissioner Hegberg for Chair. Commissioner Reinhardt moved to close nominations and elect Commissioner Hegberg as Chair of the Project Board.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Commissioner Hegberg took the Chair and asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Parker nominated Commissioner Reinhardt for Vice Chair. Hearing no other nominations, Commissioner Reinhardt was elected Vice Chair.

Roll Call: Ayes – 6 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

Commissioner Toni Carter arrived.

Appointment of Executive Committee

Chair Hegberg said the Executive Committee is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, and a member of the Vice Chair's County. Chair Hegberg appointed Commissioner Parker to serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee appointees are Commissioners Hegberg, Reinhardt, and Parker.

Appointment of 2012 Budget Committee

Chair Hegberg appointed Commissioners Carter, Rettman, and Weik to serve on the Budget Committee.

SECTION B: ADMINISTRATION

2010 Monthly Report of Budget Activity

Susan Kuss said the 2010 monthly disbursements are routine. There were no questions.

2011 Work Plan & Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Reinhardt moved, seconded by Commissioner Weik, to approve the proposed 2011 Project Work Plan and meeting schedule to date.

Roll Call: Ayes – 7 Nays – 0 Motion Carried.

SECTION C: POLICY

2010 RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT RESULTS REPORT

Judy Hunter summarized the 2010 Resource Recovery Project Results Report.

Staff Updates

Zack Hansen briefly updated the Project Board on solid waste policy changes, regional waste processing changes, and changes in the waste and the economy.

ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT

Updates on Organic Waste Management

Judy Hunter provided an overview of source separated organics materials (SSOM) in Ramsey and Washington Counties. Since the Counties have worked together on organic waste in the past, staff are proposing a joint policy discussion on challenges and opportunities to work on organic waste management.

Policy Discussion: Organic Waste Management

Zack Hansen stated that staff have prepared for a joint policy discussion by the Project Board about organic waste management. Staff have developed some questions and information to assist the Project Board in giving policy direction to staff. Overall policy issues:

- How should Ramsey and Washington Counties approach organic waste management?
- To what extent should the counties work together?
- What range of alternatives do the counties have for organic waste management, implemented jointly or alone?

After much discussion, the Project Board agreed that they would like to work together. The Counties have been very successful without a strict regulatory approach. They would like to see an approach that meets the goals on getting the organics out of the waste stream, that focuses on education or technical assistance. There is strong support from the organics industry to keep the County Environmental Charge in place.

Staff will frame some issues and bring them back to the Project Board in April.

Commissioner Kriesel left the meeting.

Anaerobic Digestion Proposal: Sanimax and Saint Paul Port Authority

Zack Hansen stated that Sanimax, a company in South Saint Paul, has expressed interest in developing an anaerobic digester. Staff discussed this with the Executive Committee, which said that the staff should work on this jointly on analyzing the issue. Sanimax was looking for some type of action on financial commitment from the Counties, but they are having some land acquisition issues right now so this is being presented to the Commissioners for information.

Trudy Richter stated that the Saint Paul Port Authority has been analyzing the technical and financial feasibility of anaerobic digestion as a means to process organic waste and generate energy in the form of natural gas. They have sent a letter to Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, and Hennepin Counties seeking support for an anaerobic digestion project at Sanimax in South Saint Paul. They would like the Counties to allow Sanimax to utilize the private portion of the County's QECB energy bond allocation for renewable projects which is zero interest financing and indicate the County's willingness to negotiate a contract to support the delivery of organics to Sanimax.

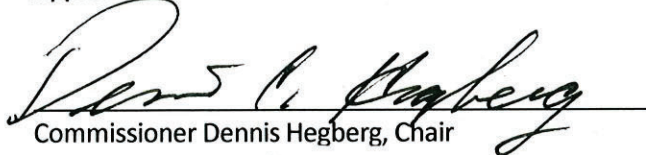
OTHER BUSINESS

Judy Hunter announced that Washington County has four Commissioners to the Resource Recovery Project Board per the Joint Powers Agreement. In the past, they have had three Commissioners from Washington County and one representative from Newport. Basil Loveland, Newport Representative, will no longer be appointed to the Project Board. He was unable to make it to the Project Board meeting and will be recognized for his 20 years of contribution to the Project Board at the April meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hegberg adjourned the meeting.

Approved:


Commissioner Dennis Hegberg, Chair