

Ontario County
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 3, 2014

Committee Members: *BAKER*, Angelo, Evangelista, Sheppard, Singer, and Venuti

Attendees:

Committee Members: Supervisor Angelo, Supervisor Baker, Supervisor Evangelista, Supervisor Sheppard, Supervisor Singer, Supervisor Venuti

Necessarily Absent: Supervisor Baker, Supervisor Sheppard, Supervisor Evangelista

Staff: Tom Harvey, Linda Frasca, Tim Jensen, John Garvey, Darlys McDonough, Kris Thorsness, Nellie Puma and Supervisor Vedora, Supervisor Marren

Consultants/Guests: Steve Healy – CSEA, Jerry Leone - Casella Waste Management, Dave Shaw (Finger Lakes Times),

Call To Order: Supervisor Singer called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. and noted that Supervisor Baker is necessarily absent.

Privilege of the Floor: Supervisor Singer offered Privilege of Floor for those present. There were no requests for the floor.

Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2014

A Motion to accept and approve the August 13, 2014 minutes as presented was made by Supervisor Angelo, seconded by Supervisor Venuti. Motion carried.

360 Expansion Permit: Tom Harvey stated that a letter had been received from the DEC stating the permit(s) application process is complete, a technical review has commenced and that we had received a Notice of Complete Application for the project. Mr. Harvey requested Jerry Leone, Casella Waste Management report on the next step process to take place. Mr. Leone reported that Barton & Loguidice has submitted the Part 360 Technical Response letter and the only thing remaining outstanding in that packet is a completion of a property description for the page easement that we have executed with the required pages – there is a deceased elder and a will so Casella is working through that process with them but it is not holding up the change to the plans in the other engineering and technical items that the State requested. On a parallel path, there is also the item relating to the operator – want to know who the operator is. Casella has confirmed that the correct operator was included on the last permit renewal form that had been submitted not too long ago. Casella feels that the DEC did not realize that that entity had been included on the form previously submitted and will inform the DEC of this. These are the present activities going on with the State and expect to have submission to them (the State) pending the submission of the Town of Seneca documents which is the last piece of the incomplete notice. Mr. Leone shared that the Town has set a special meeting for September 9th and they will be seeking a motion for execution of the property and sale agreement for the future borrow area, as well as the remaining documents associated with the operation maintenance and lease agreement for the Town Host modification benefit. Mr. Harvey stated that the air permit renewal was the issue and requested that Mr. Leone provide a report on the matter. Mr. Leone stated the Title V Permit for Clarity renewal had been

submitted three (3) years ago and the State has just now placed notice of the renewal; and, within the last day or so, the State has placed notice for a public comment period. Following that the EPA will have its own public comment period. The new permit will then be issued and then ultimately the department can then procedurally move to issue the expansion permit. All of this was a procedural matter that the State realized needed to be completed before they could go to the next step.

Tom Harvey stated, for the record, that he was surprised that had not gone ahead and scheduled a public hearing as the comment period is thirty (30) days with DEC to comment or request a public hearing. Mr. Leone stated that he believed this was correct. Since this did not happen, Mr. Harvey stated, for the record and the committee awareness, that as the timeline now moves along just about anyone for cause could now request a public hearing. Supervisor Singer asked if any individual could request a public hearing or do there have to be a certain number of people requesting it. Mr. Harvey responded that anyone with a good reason could request it.

Solid Waste Management Plan: Using a draft 2014-15 Strategy for Implementation of the SWMP – Waste Division document, Tim Jensen gave a brief overview of planned initiatives for 2014 and 2015. This included primarily data collection regarding the composition of the waste stream. Further updates will be provided as needed. Supervisor Singer stated that a while back the EQC had hired a consultant to do a PR campaign and questioned whether the pamphlet that had been produced had been very good. Mr. Harvey shared that in 2015 planning staff will begin to spend a lot of time and monies to develop an information, portal, internet site, advertise it, keep it updated, and get the public use to it to get information off of it, as well as out to newcomers to the county. Supervisor Singer feels that some of the information provided in the video/pamphlet/palm cards was very useful and should be included on the new site when it is developed. Mr. Harvey will look in to finding this information (video/pamphlet/palm card) and will bring a copy of them to the next EQC meeting.

Landfill Operational Update: Mr. Leone was pleased to introduce Dennis Pantano, the new Regional Vice President, and Kevin Shaw, the new General Manager for Casella. Mr. Leone shared that Mr. Pantano replaces Randy Jensen who has retired, and Mr. Shaw has taken Bob Walls position as Mr. Walls stepped down due to health issues. EQC members welcomed both gentlemen. Mr. Leone stated there were a few updates of ongoing landfill operations, and reported that Casella continues with the daily and intermediate covering of various gas collection pipes throughout the landfill site per their prior commitment. At last month he made reference to the litter fence that had been installed, and shared that Casella is now looking to expand it to make the current fence already in place taller. Utility locations – Frontier Communications was on site today, with Time Warner being the only one remaining to update their equipment location. Mr. Leone informed the committee that Casella will be holding their Annual Household Waste Day event on 9/20/14. Mr. Leone reported there had recently been a fire at the landfill in the early morning hours last week. He shared that investigators at this time have not been able to pinpoint where the fire actually ignited. Luckily all systems were in place with early warning systems and the sprinkler system working great. There was no structural or property damage other than a conveyor belt which they are in the process of replacing. MMR Trucking Incident: Mr. Leone reported that approximately two (2) weeks ago a transfer truck coming from the Bronx entered their construction and demolition facility located in Painted Post, NY called Hakes Landfill. At that time, the truck tripped off the radiation detectors (there are several detectors throughout Casella's southern tier landfills), at which point the truck load was no longer acceptable as construction demolition material. In response, Casella sent a qualified technician to the site with a Geiger

counter who took initial measurements that confirmed that the material was safe and did not pose a threat to human health or the environment. Consistent with their protocol and policy, Casella contacted the DEC of this event, and shared with them the results of the scan and the associated spectrum. The spectrum was sent to the Los Alamos lab in New Mexico and the DEC was unable to identify this particular isotope. Mr. Leone did share that they commonly see iodine isotope from the medical practice industry. They have protocol and policy for dealing with this and iodine isotope has a half-life of just a few short days. In this case, however, the DEC wanted to err very much on the side of caution. They (DEC) identified the next day that this particular compound/isotope was cobalt with a half-life of several days. At this point they instructed Casella staff to go to the closet landfill operated by Casella as quickly as possible so that the item could be extracted from the load at a site that included a tipper (a piece of mechanical equipment that will detach the engine part of the truck from the actual trailer end of it, pick up the trailer part and tip it so the load tips out). The closest location was this landfill. In the morning when Casella learned of the isotope, the DEC requested that Casella contract with a qualified physicist, and also requested that they quarantine the truck in the unoccupied former Murph facility which they did. Also throughout the process they requested/dispatched the help of Ontario County hazmat team. The physicist team, the DEC, and County hazmat team were present when the truck's contents were tipped and the container located. The contents of the truck were screened by the physicist and the county hazmat team and confirmed to be nonradioactive in any manner. The container was then brought down to the parking lot and official forensics were attempted to be made of it relative to its markings and was unsuccessful. The container was then containerized at which time Casella was requested to store the container till further notice. They isolated it a former office of the Murph facility while Casella awaited further instructions which came from the Department of Health (DOH). They informed Casella the container would be picked up by a qualified transporter and brought back to a forensics lab. Pick up the container took place on 8/25/14. EQC members questioned the size of the container and the amount of cobalt in it. The container was no larger than 3 inches long, and there were trace amounts of cobalt in it – enough that it set off the detectors.

Open House – Kevin Shaw reported that last year Casella had begun offering their open houses to the landfills to basically educate the public a bit more and to get to know them more. Unfortunately, the timing was off and the even did not work out; so they looking to reschedule the even for this year. Tentative date will be expected to be in October sometime on a workday. A tour of the facility and refreshments are in the plans As soon as a firm date is decided upon Casella will let us know. A public notice will be put out so the public is away of the event.

Landfill Odor: Mr. Leone stated he had a couple of things to update/report.

1. The backup generator for the flare(s) is due for delivery in 5 weeks. Preparations to set up the generator when it arrives are in progress. They are committed to purchasing 1 or 2 The back flares will be replaced. One (1) will be a low nitro-oxide flare – the flame will not be seen.
3. Horizontal and vertical gas wells – expect approval to install them by the end of September. Question by committee member on whether odor will be noticeable when installation takes place. Mr. Leone stated yes, when the vertical wells are put in. Committee requested the public be notified in advance of this. He reported that earlier this summer eight (8) wells have been installed. Supervisor Singer re-iterated that the public needs to know beforehand when there odor issues will happen.

Mr. Harvey shared that SCS was scheduled to meet with Casella and the County sometime the week of September 29th.

Technical Data – No discussion/questions at this time.

Other – Supervisor Venuti questioned the fact that the landfill accepts contaminated cover. Because it is not hazardous waste he understands we accept it but questioned whether the contaminated soil is caused by the products. Wanted to know how this all fits in – where does it all go? Mr. Harvey stated he didn't have an answer for him but would contact the DEC to see if they could provide information on his questions and will provide a report at the September meeting.

There was no executive session

Adjournment: There being no further business before the committee, at 5:40 p.m. a *motion was made by Supervisor Venuti, seconded by Supervisor Angelo to adjourn. Motion carried. The 9/3/14 EQC meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Frasca
Senior Clerk