

Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority

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The Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority held its first meeting of the year on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

*BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Rick Stehouwer, Dennis Hameister, Ashley Snook, Mark Henry, Jerry Lese, Tim Miller**
ABSENT: Trilby Mayes,

OTHERS: Ted Onufrak, Joanne Shafer, Jeia Forsyth, Mimi Cooper, Amy Schirf, Ed Hicks, Dave Watson, Regan Hosterman, Tom Schrack, Dan Bright, Katrina Pope*, Jon Bunyaratapan - Pennsylvania Solar Center, Galen Dreibelbis – Centre County citizen [*attended via Zoom]*

- **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Dennis Hameister called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** – Daniel Bright - Solicitor opened the floor for the election of officers.

Rick Stehouwer made a motion to retain the current incumbents for another year of service; Jerry Lese seconded. Motion carried.

The 2024 confirmed officers are as follows:

Chair – Mr. Dennis Hameister

Vice Chair – Mrs. Trilby Mayes

Secretary – Mr. Mark Henry

Treasurer – Mr. Timothy Miller

No committee adjustments were made during the meeting.

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Ashley Snook made a motion to approve board meeting minutes from December 18; seconded by Mark Henry.
- **CITIZEN INPUT/NEW AGENDA ITEMS** – Galen Dreibelbis expressed concerns in regards to the solar project sales tax exemption resolution as well as structural and engineering assessments; these topics were addressed by Jon Bunyaratapan, Program Manager - Pennsylvania Solar Center.
- **CORRESPONDENCE** – none.
- **FINANCIAL REPORT** – An accounts summary was included in the board packet as 2023 year-end figures continue to be compiled, they will be included in the February packet. Added note, the WM credit is approximately \$93,504. Katrina praised Kathy Fye's diligence in maximizing the ELAN credit card rebate which has increased more than \$6,500 over last year.
- **OLD BUSINESS** –
 - **Strategic Plan Update** | Minutes from the December staff meeting were available for board review. As part of the Communications Committee, developed in response to the Long Range Strategic Plan, Amy

Schirf reported results from a follow-up communications survey. Employee responses suggest that implemented programming such as CCTVs and HR check-ups are a useful addition to most employees.

- **NEW BUSINESS –**

Solar Panel Bids | Authority staff, along with Jon Bunyaratapan, Project Manager with the PA Solar Center, reviewed responses from final proposal submissions. Jon gave an overview of the summary information.

Authority staff recommended the board move forward with Envinity Inc. for the solar panel project. Ted mentioned several educational initiatives including an educational display in the Interpretive Center for future tours and general use information; Jon noted the Authority is a great candidate for a West Penn Power grant and Envinity has experience with the application process, (grant application deadline - January 24).

Jon and the staff took time to address citizen concerns voiced by Galen Dreibelbis of Centre County.

*Ted noted a \$1M** solar equipment loan quote from Fulton Bank, outlining a term of 3-year fixed/10-year amortization at 5.79%. **Loan amount to be lesser of \$1M or 100% cost of solar equipment.*

Mark Henry made a motion to approve moving forward with Envinity Inc. contingent upon contract review by the Authority Solicitor and final plan approval by the Authority board. Dennis Hameister seconded. Motion carried.

- **CAT Lease** | Resolution 2024-01 the Authority received an equipment lease quote from Fulton Bank for the purchase of a 2024 caterpillar 914 14A wheel loader over a three-year term. Ashley Snook made a motion to approve the new lease; Mark Henry seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS

- **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** – Ted reported MSW for December was up slightly and recycling tonnage was down. For the year, the Authority was about 2,000 tons of municipal waste higher than 2022 and about 400 tons lower in recycling.

An Organics Legislation discussion has been scheduled for Thursday, January 18 at 2:00 pm.

Ted reported outbound tonnage for December was around \$130,000 due to higher OCC prices (\$109/ton); for the year, sale of recyclable materials was about \$600,000 under budget.

The Authority completed the pilot using Burgmeier's split compactor; staff will compile gathered information and provide a recommendation to the Board.

Ted noted that following last month's decision to contribute toward the Dependent Care program, eight employees (13 children) chose to enroll.

February's board meeting is confirmed for Monday, February 26 at 4:30 pm.

- **RECYCLING COORDINATOR** – Joanne submitted an official retirement notification to the board, stating that her last day with the Authority will be Thursday, February 29. Work on the propane tanks is progressing.

- *OPERATIONS MANAGER – Regan Hosterman reported the canopy at the RNG station is 90% complete, motion sensor lighting is being added; Regan noted that due to his optimism, he expects delivery of the new wheel loader on January 9.*
- *EDUCATION COORDINATOR – Amy provided a written report.*
- *ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – Dave provided a written report; the Fedor clean-up resulted in 7,480 lbs. of scrap metal material, 660 lbs. of MSW and 19,280 lbs. for 153 tires.*
- *ASSISTANT RECYCLING COORDINATOR – Mimi provided a written report and noted the HHW registration application began today and she will be attending the PA ReMade Conference: Advancing Circularity later in the month.*
- *COMMERCIAL RECYCLING COORDINATOR – Ed provided a written report and added that they will be compiling information from the Burgmeier pilot and confirming container inventory.*
- *KCCB – KCCB is meeting later in the week and will provide a full report in February.*
- *SOLICITOR – Dan Bright had nothing to report.*
- **COMMITTEES** – *In light of Joanne’s retirement, the personnel committee will meet to discuss organizational chart amendments.*
- **ADJOURNMENT** – *The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.*
- *The Authority’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26, 2024 at 4:30 pm. End Report.*