



## **5. Discussion of Future of Solid Waste Program**

- a. Goals and Expectations of County from perspective of local units, businesses and general population

Jennifer Melcher explained that the Solid Waste Management Plan has been approved by two-thirds of the local units of government, the Livingston County Board of Commissioners and the MDEQ. Thus far the county has provided assistance to local units running programs and that they do not run programs themselves. Marcia Strong said that Brighton Township has no stationary place to recycle. There is the ability to get a township wide recycling program, even in small communities. There is a program in Saginaw County where a number of townships got together to form an authority and got curbside recycling and waste disposal from a single company. It was pushed by the townships, not the county. They were able to get a uniform, and lower cost, throughout the communities that participated, and also received rebates for recycling. Lori Cowan said that Unadilla Township is also having trouble finding a stationary recycling site but that perhaps if they worked with neighboring townships it may be easier.

- b. Role of Solid Waste Management Committee

Jennifer Melcher explained that thus far the committee has had an advisory role. She asked for the opinions of the people in attendance. Steve Dawdy said that he believes that the role of the committee has matured since he has been attending meetings. He also stated that he feels like the committee is like a sounding board for Jennifer where she can bounce ideas off of them. Rich Anderson said that the coordinator (Jennifer Melcher) brings the ideas discussed in the meetings to the Board of Commissioners. He said that they are very thorough and the meetings always have a good deal of participation. Steve Dawdy added that the meetings have the best township representation that they have had in a long time

Dianne McCormick the committee helps get the ball rolling in the townships by putting the ideas out there for the townships to pick up. She also suggested that the committee do more to invite the townships to attend the meetings. Rich Anderson said that would be a good idea because the townships do not like to be told what to do by the county and would have more input by attending the meetings. Jennifer Melcher reminded them that there are ways for townships to obtain money from the county for their programs.

## **6. Status of Current Projects**

- a. Superior Sanitation Site

Jennifer Melcher informed the committee that the MDEQ has filed criminal charges against Superior Sanitation for having an illegal dump site. The MDEQ obtained a search warrant to perform soil borings and collect soil and groundwater samples. The results showed there is soil and water contamination. There was concern about the quality of water that the nearby houses may be using. Dianne McCormick explained the Environmental Health Division will be going to the homes to take water samples in the next few weeks. The state may be able to help if contamination is found in the wells.

Livingston County is also pursuing a lawsuit against Superior Sanitation for operating a solid waste facility without the proper approval and not in compliance with applicable regulations. The case has been recently assigned to Ruth Mason with Cohl, Stoker & Toskey and research is being conducted to determine if the MDEQ case will be enough to shut down the dump site, clean it, and prevent further dumping.

b. Household Hazardous Waste Permanent Collection Center

Jennifer Melcher explained that they are getting close to when it will be operational. The building is to be delivered the week of August 23. After delivery she plans to have an open house sometime in the first week of September for the committee, local units of government, and the public to see the building. Collections will begin in September and October and they will send fliers and brochures out to the public to let them know about the program. They have chosen Safety Kleen as the contractor.

\*Note: Dianne McCormick left at approximately 8:55 am.

c. Battery Collection Program

Jennifer Melcher informed the committee that the program is a bigger success than it was originally thought to be. All the townships involved are having a good response to the program. Joan Runkel of Handy Township told the group that they have made smaller counter-top battery collection buckets for businesses that do not want the large buckets visible. Other local units involved with the program include Hartland Township, Deerfield Township, Unadilla Township, Tyrone Township, Marion Township, Green Oak Township, Iosco Township, Howell Township, and the Howell and Pinckney Senior Centers. The Livingston County East Complex also has two drop-off containers.

d. Website

Jennifer Melcher explained that the website has been updated and now contains more information. The Waste Reduction Waste guide is accessible on-line from the website. She encouraged townships to add a link from their website to her website.

e. Waste Reduction Guide

Jennifer explained that she just received the first 100 copies of the guide yesterday and she plans on receiving 2400 more. The booklets will be distributed to the local governments in a week or so and will be available to mail to citizens upon their request. The guide is also available to download and print from on-line.

f. Solid Waste Challenge Grant Program Awards

Jennifer Melcher updated the committee about the success of the program. There was a record number of applicants for the grants this year. There was some confusion at the Board of Commissioners as to the purpose of the grants. Some members thought that the grants should go to local units for clean up days only. Others believed that it should be for any local unit or non-profit wishing to implement a waste reduction project. Don Tinson said that the money should not be limited to the local units. Steve Dawdy agreed and added that the money is seed money to get programs started that will have a long term waste reduction plans. Jennifer asked if anyone would be willing to work with her on revising the program and bringing it to the Board of Commissioners for approval. Paul Persok and Don Tinson agreed.

Jennifer asked for input from applicants on the success of their projects. Barbara Buit reported that Recycle Livingston held an electronics recycling day. They received a number of TVs, VCRs, computers and monitors and the like. The project was very well received and most people were willing to pay the fee to recycle their electronic items. The items will be salvaged for any useful parts and then will be disposed of. Large item collection days were held in Brighton Township as well as Handy Township and Deerfield Township.

g. Illegal Dumping Task Force

Steve Dawdy and Jennifer Melcher have been working on the idea. It is part of the second goal of the Solid Waste Program. Jennifer asked who should be on the task force, how to find members, and what would the task force do. Steve said that there has been an incredible amount of improvement through the year just by posting the metal signs on the side of the road. Paul Perosak said that he works with a volunteer road clean up crew and said that the majority of garbage is from fast food restaurants, cigarettes and cigarette boxes. It was suggested that trash bags that hang in the car could be used to help eliminate the problem.

Steve said that education is a main factor in making any program work. A task force that educates would be needed. As far as forming a task force, spreading the news word of mouth would be the best way about forming the force.

**7. Discussion of Upcoming Projects**

a. RETAP Assessment

Retired Engineers Technical Assistance Program. Jennifer indicated that the program is comprised of engineers with a variety of backgrounds, such as electrical, heating and cooling, etc. A group tailored to your facility is brought in to do a confidential review of a business's waste management practices. They make suggestions to reduce waste, prevent pollution and conserve energy. The report does not have to be followed, but RETAP is also available to help businesses in implementing the changes. The businesses must have less than 500 employees or be affiliated with the government or a school.

b. Environmentally Preferred Procurement and Waste Reduction Policy for County

Jennifer said that she is encouraging the county to get involved. She is making suggestions that are very general and not mandatory to use environmentally safe materials in the county offices. It is still in rough draft and will hopefully serve as a model for local units.

c. New Line Items in Budget for "Community Promotion"

Jennifer indicated that she spoke with Belinda Peters after she had a meeting with Bob Block and Brian Jonckheere. There is a goal in the Solid Waste Plan to educate and it indicates that \$5,000 will be allocated for educational purposes. She is hoping to get \$5,000 for education and Community Promotion. Some of the money should be designated to buying items for the kids at the schools where Jennifer does presentations. She also wants to designate some money to Earth Day events and Recycle America Day events.

**8. Other Matters that May Appear Before the Committee**

a. Solid Waste Planning Cycle

Jennifer indicated that the next Solid Waste Planning cycle may start next year but it is uncertain. There are still counties that have yet to be approved for the prior planning cycle. State budget issues may also delay the planning cycle for some time.

b. Positions available

There is an opening for a member of the general public on the committee and for a Solid Waste Representative.

