

SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCARTY, LAPIN, FARWELL, KENNEDY, BROCKWAY
March 18, 2020
9:00AM

Present: Representative McCarty, Representative Brockway

Conference Call: Representative Lapin, Representative Farwell

Also Present: Karen Sullivan – Otsego County Solid Waste, Shane Digan – Otsego County Solid Waste

On Conference Call: Jordan Clements – Otsego County Soil and Water, Amy Wyant – Otsego County Conservation Association

Absent: Representative Kennedy

This meeting was offered in-person and via conference call.

Representative McCarty moved to approve minutes from February 19th, 2020 meeting. Seconded, Lapin. Total: 2207; Ayes: 1780; Absent: 627 – Kennedy. Motion carried.

PLANNING/SOLID WASTE –KAREN SULLIVAN

Karen Sullivan stated that the department is looking to submit an application to NYSEC for HHW 2020 and enter into contract agreement with the state to hold event September 18 and 19, 2020

Representative Brockway moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2207; Ayes: 1780; Absent: 627-Kennedy. Motion carried.

Representative Kennedy entered the meeting.

Karen Sullivan stated that May 3-9, 2020 is International Compost Awareness Week. The department is looking to recognize this week in Otsego County.

Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2407; Ayes: 2407. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan stated that the department has received the 2020 DEC Municipal Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant award. She requested the following budget modification:

Increase 0000-3910 \$34,000

Increase A8160-548100 \$34,000

Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Brockway. Total: 2407; Ayes: 2407. Motion carried.

SOIL & WATER DISTRICT –JORDAN CLEMENTS

Jordan Clements, District Manager, gave program updates for the Soil and Water Conservation District:

- He is working on a policy to deal with COVID 19. They are at half-staff with half working from home and half working at the office. The staff is swapping every day. Due to sharing space with Federal agencies, the front door of the office is locked and walk-ins are not allowed. The office is currently appointment only. Three questions are asked of all appointments walking in. They have cancelled all field visits and in-person meetings. Ag and Markets has suspended some performance measures - extended grants deadlines/ meeting requirements. Some districts have shut down completely, some are working as business usual, and the others are in between. They also cancelled Envirothon. Still doing tree program and accepting orders. AS such, they have placed a drop box outside their office.
 - Sullivan: There is opportunity to receive reimbursement from NYS for expenses related to the COVID19. She explained her approach to reimbursable costs from NYS with the Planning/Solid Waste department.
 - Clements: They are keeping track of any extra expenses.
 - McCarty: Asked for a copy of the OCSWCD report to be sent by email.

PLANNING/SOLID WASTE –KAREN SULLIVAN

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following reports:

- Solid Waste totals – 2207.17 tons of Solid waste were collected in February.
- Recycling totals– 279.88 tons of recycling were collected in February at an average cost of 140.35/ton
- Mattress collection for February 2020: 97 mattresses
- Electronics Recycling Cost: \$768 collected/ \$1926.69 net cost
- Discussion of second glass load from the northern transfer station. – 2.3 tons of glass was collected since the last drop-off.
- Annual report to DEC – Sullivan
 - Show totals from both transfer stations. Casella submits these reports annually to the DEC. No questions were asked.

Continuing business

- Sullivan discussed the Town of Laurens Meeting 3-9-2020 – Storke did not attend
- Sullivan discussed the Stony Brook study. IT was supposed to begin March 17 but is postponed TBD
- Sullivan discussed meeting with Montgomery/Schoharie 2/25 – resubmitting application for a sewage line from the Amsterdam landfill to the Sewage treatment plant/ Considering this a shared service between the three counties/ Hoping that the sewage line will reduce costs for transportation of leachate. This is the second application.
- Sullivan discussed the second glass delivery of 2.23 tons from the Northern transfer station to Andela Glass. Everything seems to be going well. Brockway asked for clarification of the location of Andela glass. Sullivan discussed the desire to put a collection point in Oneonta to reduce costs. This is ongoing.
- Sullivan discussed the proposed Electronics collection events in Edmeston (6/6/2020) and Cherry Valley (5/30/2020). Electronics collection at HHW made the process too slow. These two collections will replace the HHW collection. The department will be charging as usual for TVs/monitors. Edmeston event will take place at the fire department. The Cherry valley event will take place at the Town building.
- Clarvoe discussed that Earth day as-is is cancelled. Bill Hardy from the ReUse Center may still be collecting Styrofoam.

New business

- Sullivan discussed the Governor's Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act
- Sullivan discussed the meeting with the Oneonta Environmental Board. Lonnie O'Bryan (Casella), Karey Foster (Casella), Shane Digan, and Karen Sullivan were present. We are working on scheduling a conference call to discuss food waste efforts and the strategy going forward. Closed Loop systems has been in contact with the department about a possible site for vermin based food composting. No decisions/alterations have been made at this point.
- Sullivan discussed a 3 county site visit to Delaware County Solid Waste facility on April 29. Sullivan does not expect this event to be postponed as it is largely outdoors.
- Keith McCarty asked about storm-water requirements with the proposed sewer line from the Amsterdam Landfill.

Other Business

- Sullivan discussed the Governor's Accelerated Renewable energy permitting proposal.
- Sullivan/Brockway attended the solar event in Herkimer County hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Herkimer County, Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Otsego County Conservation Association, and Herkimer County Community College.. She thought the presentation was well attended and the information was useful. With the change in the accelerated permitting process, there is a question of how much local municipalities will have a say in these proposed renewable energy projects. Brockway mentioned that he doubts local municipalities will have much input. He mentioned possible aesthetic degradations from solar farms being local right near roadways. Kennedy mentioned the possibility of 'grading out' farmlands. You can get a higher value for prime farmland if you can steer renewable energy projects to less desirable (soils) land. Sullivan mentioned that planner Tammie Harris is working on mapping with soil types/ active farms. Brockway mentioned that the Laurens project is affecting at least 4 active farms. Sullivan mentioned the opportunity for sheep to graze land under solar farms. There are now providers for this service that will bring sheep to graze grass/ vegetation.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Friday, April 17th at 9:00AM at the Meadows Building and via conference call.