

Solid Waste Management Committee

JOHNSON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
OLATHE, KANSAS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020
6:30 P.M.

Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair, Dave Drovetta. Meeting was presented via Zoom due to Covid social distancing restrictions. Introductions followed.

Committee members present: Dave Drovetta, Paul Chaffee, Lindsey James, Don Seifert, Kent Seyfried, Megan England, Anne Melia, Kate Collum, Raymond Manley, Debra Kring, Scott Martin, Dan Jones, Mike Hey.

JCDHE Staff Present: Mary Beverley, Brandon Hearn, Craig Wood, Trent Thompson, Charles Marx, and Commissioner Becky Fast.

Presenter: Victoria Cherrie, After the Harvest

Meeting Summary Approval

July 8th meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

JCDHE Program Updates

The following environmental updates were provided:

- Education and Outreach: Brandon Hearn- Gave an update for ongoing efforts to expand outreach via different methods including Zoom and similar outlets. Normally 70-80 presentations performed throughout the county but due to Covid that number has decreased this year. Recently presented at Shawnee Mission High School North and West. Participated in a “build a city” program discussing the importance of diversion and recycling. Noted that we had to back out of a grant that was designed to help with HOA’s and proper recycling. Still proceeding with “Oops Tag” program, but this has also been limited due to Covid.
 - A brief breakout discussion was had on education issues and distance learning.
 - A graphic for the City of Mission was briefly discussed between Commissioner Fast and Debbie Kring.

- Landfills: Craig Wood- Updated current inspection schedule. All solid waste facilities in compliance. Still receiving elevated tonnages at the C&D landfill. Cell completed in the Waste Management landfill and will be sustainable for the next 2 years. Kudos to Mike Hey and team for a job well done.
- Sustainability: Brian Alferman- Updated the progress on the Climate Action Plan. Held meetings with the expert stake holders. Trying to finish up by the end of the year. Briefly discussed the “Seven Big Bold Idea” platform including focusing on green, building energy, resilience web, local food programs, multimodal transportation, wind and solar. Internally we applied for an air quality grant including a solar hub. Updated the county’s progress on hiring a new e-waste vendor.
- Green Business/Haulers: Charles Marx- Updated hauler inspection and hauler compliance. 15 inspections done year to date. Still performing one per week. A brief Q/A on hauler limitations due to Covid was discussed. Also discussed the challenges of recycling and green business. Talked about the new on-line portal for the Green Business Program development. Having issues with our own internal IT department on getting the program live.
- HHW and Programs: Trent Thompson- Talked about the challenges of splitting staff time to help with the Covid issues. Even with the additional responsibilities we are keeping up with hauler and landfill inspections. Kudos to the team for helping one another and the health side. HHW still running strong. HHW Annual waste report completed and sent to KDHE. HHW diversion numbers will be down this year due to Covid, reduced staff, and not being able to schedule as many residents for drop off. In the process of hiring two more staff at the HHW and should help with the numbers.
 - Kent Seyfried gave a quick update on the City of Olathe HHW. Noted they were resuming Saturday events.

Presentation: Victoria Cherrie, After the Harvest

Ms. Cherrie gave us an overview of her organization. ATH was formed in 2014. Their mission is improving nutrition, fighting food insecurity and reducing food waste by providing rescued, nutritious produce to hungry people in the greater Kansas City area. Since their founding ATH has rescued over 20 million pounds of fruits and vegetables. They feed around 35,000 food insecure people every week. Their biggest program is gleaning which is the process of collecting produce left over in the fields/trees that would otherwise rot in the fields. They also collect a lot of “imperfect” produce that would otherwise end up in the landfill. They partner with Harvesters to help distribute. They partner with over 160 local farmers, supply food to over 360 agencies, and provided four million servings during the first few months of the pandemic.

- Several questions and breakout discussions were asked and had. Low income kids in school and how to increase awareness through head start affiliates was discussed. Families without reliable transportation and getting to food sources was also discussed.

Other Business, Announcements, and Conversations:

-Craig Wood discussed the Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Craig gave an overview of why we do this, our affiliation with KDHE, the BOCC, and the timeline.

- ✓ Mr. Seyfried motioned to approve; Ms. Kring seconded this motion. The SWMPU was unanimously approved.

-Dave Drovetta noted the Unincorporated appointment was still vacant and asked for nominations.

Public Comment

None.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting - The next meeting of the SWMC is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18th, 2020.

- c: Ed Eilert, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners
Solid Waste Management Committee
Tom Winn, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, NEO
Penny Postoak-Ferguson, County Manager
Donald D. Jarrett, Chief Counsel, BOCC
Larry McAulay, Legal Services Director
Gayla Speer, Johnson County Conservation District
Darryl Basham, Waste Management
Nolan Sunderman, City of Shawnee