

COMMISSION MEETING

January 20, 2010

CDRPC Conference Room

One Park Place, Suite 102

Albany, New York 12205

MINUTES

PRESENT: Willard Bruce, John Graziano, Lucille McKnight, Judy Breselor, Stan Brownell, James Shaughnessy, Fred Acunto, Philip Barrett, John Murray, Robert Godlewski, Barbara Mauro, David Vincent

ABSENT: Michael Whalen, Leon Fiacco, Michael Stammel, Jason Kemper, Paul Sausville, Gary Hughes, Michael Petta

PRESIDING: Phil Barrett, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

1. **Welcome/Introduction of Guests**

Frank LaVardera and Ken Gallagher from Clough Harbor, Resa Domino from NYS DEC, Jerry Sefore from County Waste

2. **December 16, 2009 Minutes**

The minutes were distributed before the meeting. No corrections were made.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to approve the minutes, and Jim Shaughnessy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. **Financial Statement through December 31, 2009**

The financial statement reflects activities through December 31, 2009. For the year, the revenues are at 93.3% and expenses are at 88.7%. There is approximately \$56,000 cash in the bank and outstanding receivables totaling \$120,700.

The interest earnings from the CD's remain unreported at this time, however we do anticipate receiving that information by the end of January. Based on the billings, we will end the year with a surplus of approximately \$31,000 in revenue over expenses.

Action Taken

David Vincent made a motion to approve the Financial Statement as presented and Barbara Mauro seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Proposed 2010 Budget Revision**

CDRPC received notification from the New York State Department of State that the grant application that was submitted to undertake 2010 Census outreach activities was approved. CDRPC, in partnership with five of the other regional councils, submitted the

proposal. However, the amount approved (\$98,000) was less than the amount requested (\$172,000.) CDRPC will now receive \$34,000 instead of the requested amount of \$45,000.

The loss in projected revenues will be offset by an increase in funding for UPWP, Water Quality and CSO programs than originally anticipated.

No changes are proposed in the expense line items.

Rocky is requesting Board approval to approve the revised budget and to hire Joanna King as a full time Assistant Planner. The previously approved 2010 budget included filling the vacant position contingent upon receiving the Department of State Grant.

Action Taken

Lucille McKnight made a motion to accept the Proposed 2010 Budget Revision and to authorize Rocky to hire Joanna King as Assistant Planner. Judy Breselor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. New York State Department of Health Grant Proposal

The New York State Department of Health Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Adult Health and Division of Nutrition is seeking grant applications to prevent obesity, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases in NYS through the implementation of supportive environments that accelerate improvements in individual health behaviors and outcomes. The Capital District Community Gardens will be applying for the grant and has requested CDRPC assistance to address environmental approaches to create community landscapes conducive to physical activity.

The coverage area for the grant is Rensselaer County. Albany and Schenectady Counties are not eligible to participate in this grant program because they are receiving other grant money to achieve similar objectives. Saratoga County is not part of the Capital District Community Gardens Program.

CDRPC's scope of work responsibilities are still being developed in conjunction with Community Gardens.

The grant application must be submitted by February 12, 2010. The grant application is for a 5 year program with up to \$175,000 available annually. The exact amount being applied for and CDRPC's share based on the scope of work will be determined within the next week.

Action Taken

John Murray made a motion to authorize CDRPC to enter into discussions with Community Gardens as a sub contractor under the grant proposal to NYS DOH and Jim Shaughnessy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Capital Region Solid Waste Management Alternative Strategies Presentation

Frank LaVardera and Ken Gallagher from Clough Harbor made a presentation to the Board on possible future alternatives to address solid waste management in the Capital Region.

The City of Albany received a landfill expansion permit from DEC, which will keep the landfill open for up to 8 years. There are three commercial haulers taking waste to the two remaining landfills in the area, Albany and the Town of Colonie. The Albany landfill collects approximately 1,000 tons per day and Town of Colonie about 500 tons per day. When the Albany landfill closes in approximately 8 years, the thousands of tons of waste currently being dumped there will need to be shipped elsewhere costing a great deal of money. The Albany Planning Unit, which includes most of Albany County and a portion of the western part of Rensselaer County is preparing a new solid waste management plan working with DEC, a steering committee and Clough Harbor.

The landfill expansion is coupled with a significant restoration and enhancement project for the Pine Bush Reserve that surrounds the landfill. Clough Harbor has partnered with an ecological firm that has prepared the design plans, all of which have been approved. The landfill expansion will go through 2016.

The goals and objectives of the new solid waste management plan are to look at a 20 year planning period by either maintaining or expanding the membership in the planning unit. Also being evaluated are infrastructure and programmatic needs with an emphasis on reuse and recycling alternatives. DEC is very interested in taking the food waste out of the waste stream and processing that material through a separate composting program.

Mayor Jennings appointed a committee chaired by Bill Bruce and made up of citizens from both the City of Albany and member communities of the planning unit. The steering committee has met over the last year to develop a preliminary draft plan.

As part of the planning process, an inventory of various waste streams was undertaken to determine waste generation. There were three main solid waste streams that were looked at during the inventory: municipal solid waste, construction and demolition debris and non-hazardous industrial waste. The inventory was measured in a few different ways and it revealed a generation waste rate of ten pounds per person per day or 390,000 tons per year. The municipal solid waste was the largest component that was studied.

An extensive two week study was done on the municipal solid waste that is delivered to the landfill and the recovered recyclables and concluded that 19% of the waste is food waste. Other significant components were the non-recyclable paper. For 2008, overall there was a materials recycling and diversion rate of approximately 37% and for the new long range solid waste management plan, it is anticipated that will rise to 65%.

A large part of the solid waste planning process was the development and evaluation of alternatives. A variety of alternatives were discussed and three scenarios were developed to examine what the outcome would be. Alternative Scenario #1 is to retain the current planning unit membership, maximize recovery of designated recyclables and no new landfill capacity. Alternative Scenario # 2 is to add onto the first alternative to establish

waste flow control and to designate additional mandatory recyclables and develop a separator for organic waste. Alternative #3 has all the same components as 1 and 2 within an expanded area with a population of approximately 750,000 persons. Possibly, a regional solid waste management authority would be created to manage the regional facility.

The three alternatives were presented in a preliminary draft form to the steering committee and are under review. The internal review process will come to a close by the end of January and a formal public review process will be ready by mid February.

Resa Domino, representing the NYS DEC Office of Policy, is a member of the Solid Waste Management Plan Steering Committee and is working closely with the City on the Draft Plan. The plan has aggressive goals for waste reduction, reuse and recycling which are critical to both environmental and economic health of the state. The plan is looking more closely at reducing the amount being sent to landfills and incinerators.

Jerry Sefore from County Waste briefly gave specifics regarding single stream recycling which is a new program through County Waste. The new program is changing the way recycling is done in the Region. County Waste is in the process of distributing new 32 or 64 gallon recycling containers to residents for all of their recyclables. The recyclables are now being picked up weekly instead of bi-weekly by one truck that can pick up trash and recyclables at the same time. County Waste is seeing a 24% rise in the amount being recycled since the new bins were distributed.

County Waste has a fiber recycling facility in Albany, which will be turned into a single stream recycling facility operational in August 2010. The recyclables are now being transported to a single stream recycling facility in Massachusetts until the new facility is open. The new facility will create many new jobs.

After a lengthy discussion, concerns were raised by the Board about creating a regional authority with suggestions that other possible structures also be investigated. Questions were also asked about the specific geographic area being considered and the anticipated financial exposure to individual communities should they wish to participate in a regional strategy. Though costs will continue to rise, there has been no detailed cost/benefit analysis. The next phase of the study will include a more detailed investigation of this issue.

7. Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plan Update

There is a meeting scheduled for January 21, 2010 with DEC to discuss the dissolve oxygen issue and to provide a technical response to the concerns that were raised at the December meeting with DEC.

The consultant team and the technical committee are discussing alternative management structures responsible for implementation of the Long Term Control Plan in anticipation of having the Plan completed by August, 2010.

8. Staff Activity Report

There was no discussion at this time.

9. Other Business

Bob Godlewski inquired about CDTA cutting bus routes in Rotterdam. Todd Fabozzi added that CDTA is trying to make all of their routes more efficient and capitalize on those that are most productive and cutting those routes that are being under utilized due to cut backs and budget issues.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next Commission meeting will be held March 17, 2010 at 8:30am.

Adjournment

Lucille McKnight made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Fred Acunto seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Willard Bruce
Secretary