

# CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD

Cherry Island Landfill

October 2020

## Notes

The October 6, 2020 meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Board (CAB) convened at 5:05 p.m. via Zoom.

Attendees:

### CAB

Vince D'Anna  
Sandra Smithers  
Sam Guy  
Kelly Williams  
Jaehn G Tindley Dennis  
(dial in)

### DSWA

Robin Roddy  
Mike Parkowski  
Jason Munyan  
Justin Wagner  
Uriel Mendonça

### DNREC

Chad Dolt  
Zach Taylor  
Michael Griffin  
Alex Johnson

### ***Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Update***

DNREC reported there have been no odor complaints since 2013.

DNREC reported there have been no citations for yard waste since June 2018.

As it is written in DSWA's Permit, DSWA must notify DNREC immediately of any reportable incidents. Since the last CAB meeting in October 2019, DSWA has reported three (3) incidents of leachate seeps. These incidents were properly reported as required by permit and were resolved to DNREC's satisfaction.

In April 2020, DSWA was issued a Notice of Violation for landfilling clean yard waste at Cherry Island which is a violation of the permit.

Since the October 2019 CAB meeting, Zach Taylor has been promoted within the Division. Michael Griffin has been hired to replace Zach as Environmental Compliance Specialist for the Cherry Island facility. In the meantime, Zach along with Alex Johnson, who is the other Environmental Compliance Specialist at the Waste Management landfill, have been maintaining a presence at Cherry Island, until Michael Griffin fully transitions to the position.

According to DNREC's latest onsite compliance assessments and daily monitoring by DNREC's Environmental Compliance Specialists, DSWA is operating in accordance with their Solid Waste Facility Permit.

### ***Cherry Island Landfill (CIL) Update***

#### **▪ Overview of CIL's Operations**

Mr. Wagner reported that since the previous meeting, the Christina River Forcemain Project which is on the property adjacent to Cherry Island is completed. Cherry Island, operations have been pretty much normal. DSWA has maintained operations during the COVID-19 pandemic and tonnage has been relatively steady.

Landfill gas generation is approximately 3,700 scfm. As mentioned by DNREC, Cherry Island has not received an odor complaint since 2013.

#### **▪ Overview of Solid Waste Management**

Ms. Roddy provided an overview of Cherry Island and what's going on statewide with DSWA accompanied by a power point presentation.

Mr. D'Anna asked what is the status of recycling right now financially compared to where we were and what does the future look like as far as the price?

Ms. Roddy responded that in general, recycling markets are depressed. DSWA is assuming that these conditions will continue into the future and plans to continue to subsidize its recycling programs.

Mr. Parkowski elaborated to indicate that our recycling programs are very active and well used, but reiterated that recycling markets and material value are depressed and have been for the past several years.

Mr. D'Anna asked if people are being driven out of the market for municipalities?

Mr. Parkowski responded that there are towns and municipalities in the United States that have not been able to afford to pay for their recycling, but we don't have that problem here in Delaware.

Mr. D'Anna inquired about the per ton cost of recycling.

Mr. Parkowski responded that overall, recycling is operating at a loss. Mr. Parkowski indicated that there is potential for paper to increase in value if domestic markets for paper

recycling successfully develop. Mr. Parkowski indicated that the current value of combined single stream recyclables is approximately \$24/ton. He further explained that after collection and processing costs, recycling is negative.

Ms. Smithers inquired do you guys ever see it changing or becoming a profitable market where you will not be operating at a loss?

Mr. Parkowski responded that when you factor in all the cost that goes into recycling, it's never going to be profitable, but you can probably break even. There has always been a cost for recycling. There is just a greater cost now than there has been in the past.

Ms. Smithers inquired if there is a cost benefit with regards to comparing it to what is happening with the environment?

Mr. Parkowski responded that there is a lot of analysis on the benefits of recycling. Not necessarily a cost benefit, but more of an environmental benefit, like greenhouse gas reduction, virgin resource reduction and landfill space.

Mr. D'Anna inquired that assuming the industrial landfill goes out of business, what impact would that have on Cherry Island?

Mr. Parkowski replied that we would expect to see more material come to Cherry Island. However, most of the material from the Delaware Recyclable Products Inc. (DRPI) is from out of state, so we wouldn't see that volume, because we don't accept out of state waste. Mr. Parkowski further explained that DSWA would likely see an increase in material at its construction and demolition recycling facility in New Castle.

Mr. D'Anna asked what is the tipping fee for industrial waste and is the rate the same for residential?

Mr. Parkowski responded that he doesn't know the DRPI's rates as they vary for each user. Our gate fee is \$85/ton for everything but contractually it is \$75/ton (for C&D), but there is a difference in residential.

Mr. Guy inquired as to what is the difference?

Mr. Parkowski responded that for residential trash, the haulers get a rebate. So, they pay \$85 at the gate and they get a \$16 rebate on the tonnage of waste they bring to the landfill.

### ***Next Meetings***

A discussion ensued regarding the number of CAB meetings. The Board members agreed to have one (1) meeting in 2020 and two (2) meetings in 2021, with the option to add more meetings should the Board deem it necessary.

Mr. Guy requested the history of the CAB at the next meeting. For example, why was the CAB created? How was it created? What were the goals of the community in the creation of the CAB? Mr. Guy also requested a copy of the CIL Permit and if there are any videos to share, he would appreciate that at the next meeting.

Mr. Dolt provided a link (see below) from the DNREC site for access to the permit.

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/waste-hazardous/management/solid/facilities/>

Ms. Smithers requested a General overview of the CAB for new Board members and also to have it in writing, nothing technical, as an informational packet to pass out to the community.

Mr. D'Anna suggested that we move to Zoom meetings as he feels it will help with attendance.

Mr. Parkowski responded that when the Governor's allowance for public meetings to be held electronically ends, we will resume in person meetings, but we most certainly can combine the meetings with Zoom.

The next meeting is scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

**DSWA Cherry Island Landfill Summary for the Citizens Advisory Board**  
**Prepared by Chad Dolt, DNREC / Compliance & Permitting Section**  
**October 6, 2020**

1. DSWA has not recorded a complaint in their Odor Complaints Log for Cherry Island Landfill since 2014. As a requirement of their permit, DSWA must record all odor complaints concerning the landfill in a timely manner, and also maintain records of the odor complaints as well as DSWA findings and any actions taken to preclude landfill odors from moving beyond the property boundary.
2. There have been no citations issued for yard waste disposal since June of 2018. For a yard waste citation to be issued to a permitted hauler, more than 10% of the trash load must contain yard waste.
3. As described in the Cherry Island Landfill permit, DSWA must notify DNREC immediately in the event of “Reportable Incidents”. Since the last CAB meeting in October of 2019, there have been three reported incidents; all three incidents were leachate seeps which were properly and immediately reported and each had been followed with a written report submitted to DNREC within the five (5) day window denoted in the permit. Each of these three “Reportable Incidents” were satisfactorily resolved.
4. In April of 2020 DSWA was issued a Notice of Violation for landfilling clean yard waste at Cherry Island Landfill. Landfilling clean yard waste is a violation of Cherry Island Landfill’s permit.
5. Since the last CAB meeting in October of 2019, Zack Taylor has been promoted within the Division to an Environmental Scientist. Michael Griffin has been hired to replace Zack as the DNREC Environmental Compliance Specialist for Cherry Island Landfill. Zack, along with Alex Johnson, DNREC/CAPS other Environmental Compliance Specialist, have both maintained a presence at the landfill until such time that Michael is trained and fully transitions into that position.
6. According to our latest on-site Compliance Assessment as well as daily monitoring by DNREC’s Environmental Compliance Specialists, DSWA is operating the Cherry Island Landfill in accordance with the conditions of their solid waste facility permit.