


Douglas County

Department of Public Works

Keith A. Browning, P.E.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

MEMORANDUM

To : Board of County Commissioners

From : Keith A. Browning, P.E., Director of Public Works/County Engineer 

Date : October 29, 2002

Re : Consent Agenda Approval of Annual Review of Solid Waste Management Plan

In 1992, state statutes were revised to require the development of Solid Waste Management (SWM) plans for all counties, and also allowed counties to form regions to develop the SWM plans. Jefferson and Douglas County subsequently formed a 2-county region for formulation of the SWM Plan. The original SWM Plan is dated December 1996. The 2-county region's consultant, Franklin Associates, prepared the plan. K.S.A. 65-3405 requires the plan to be reviewed annually and updated every five years. The 5-year update is due in 2003.

The Douglas/Jefferson Counties Regional SWM Committee met on October 3, 2002 to conduct the annual review of the SWM Plan. K.S.A. 65-3405 has been revised to require that the BOCC of each county within the SWM region adopt the regional committee's report of the annual review. In previous years, the SWM Committee has submitted the report of annual review directly to KDHE.

Six members of the SWM Committee met for this year's annual review. The six members included representatives from the City of Lawrence Public Works, Jefferson County Auxiliary Services, Lawrence/Douglas County Health Department, Hamm Landfill, and Douglas County Public Works.

Attached is a copy of this year's report of the annual review of the SWM Plan. The review references chapters of the original SWM Plan that addressed planned and future changes or additions to solid waste management in the region.

Action Required: Consent Agenda adoption of the report of annual review of the Douglas/Jefferson Counties Regional Solid Waste Management Plan

2002 REVIEW OF
DOUGLAS/JEFFERSON COUNTIES
REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Douglas/Jefferson Counties Regional Solid Waste Management Committee met on October 3, 2002 for the annual review of the SWM Plan as required by K.S.A. 65-3405(c). Franklin Associates, Ltd. prepared the SWM Plan in 1996.

Planned Changes/Additions to Solid Waste Management (Chapter 11-5)

1. Expanded HHW collection services.

Hours of operation at the Lawrence HHW collection facility have been expanded to include collection by appointment in addition to monthly Saturday collections. The Small Quantity Generator program is fully operational, and is available to the private sector. Collections have not been conducted in the communities of Baldwin and Eudora at this time.

Jefferson County continues to operate a HHW daily drop-off center in Oskaloosa. Several fall clean-up day drop-off events are anticipated in other cities within the county.

2. Mobile drop-off center for household recyclables in Jefferson County.

These have not been established due to budgetary considerations.

3. Recovery of non-residential waste paper by the City of Lawrence.

The City of Lawrence has expanded recycling programs for cardboard and office paper. The cardboard collection program is serving over 540 accounts. A collection program for office paper has been started in City offices and has been expanded to businesses in 2002.

4. Rural waste drop-off centers for bulky items.

Drop-off centers have not been established in either Douglas County or Jefferson County at this time. Due to budgetary concerns, the SWM committee is not optimistic these will be established in the near future.

5. City-provided waste collection service (including bulky wastes) for all single-family households.

This is provided in the City of Lawrence. Private collectors serve the other communities in the two-county region.

6. Variable rate fees for grass and leaves collected by the City of Lawrence.

This is not currently being proposed. Grass and leaves are collected for composting at no extra charge.

Potential Future Changes/Additions to Solid Waste Management (Chapter 11-7)

1. City-provided curbside recycling service for single-family households in the cities.

This continues to be evaluated in the City of Lawrence. The long-term viability of such a program is questioned at present due to the high cost of implementation and operation, the lack of markets for many materials which would be collected, and the low value of recyclables that have markets. The City continues to aggressively provide and support the drop-off programs available to residents, and has achieved a 29% recycling rate.

2. Collection of leaves and grass clippings (in Lawrence) in biodegradable paper bags.

The City of Lawrence has a tubgrinder, which allows yard waste to be collected in paper bags and avoid de-bagging from the plastic bags. An aggressive media campaign for use of compostable paper bags has been implemented. Several pilot areas are being provided paper bags so that the public acceptance can be measured and promoted. This greatly reduces collection costs. Brush and other yard waste will also be able to be collected with grass and leaves thereby increasing the diversion of these wastes from the landfill. Collection of brush and other yard wastes with the grass and leaves is expected to begin next year after a new composting site is established.

3. Collection of hazardous waste from small quantity generators that are currently exempt from hazardous waste regulations.

The City of Lawrence has expanded the on-going collection of hazardous waste from SQG's. The program initially focused on governmental units (cities, county, and schools), and has now expanded to the private sector.

Other Items of Discussion.

1. Waste Tire Collections.

Jefferson County conducted a waste tire amnesty collection event in spring 2000, and collected approximately 65,000 passenger tire equivalents (PTE's). Douglas County conducted an amnesty event in summer 2000, and collected approximately 30,000 PTE's. The changes in KDHE's waste tire program were discussed. It was reported that there is funding available for pickup of consolidated pre-law tires.

Both counties feel that waste tires will continue to be a problem in the future. The SWM Committee feels that the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) and the League of Municipalities should examine sponsoring legislative changes to the tire disposal laws.

2. SWM Plan 5-Year Update

The 5-Year update to the SWM Plan is due in June 2003. A subcommittee has been formed to focus on a plan and resources required to complete the update. The subcommittee is comprised of Bob Abel, Bob Yoos, Charlie Sedlock, and Keith Browning. The first meeting of the subcommittee was held in August 2001. It was determined that subcommittee members could perform the 5-Year update. The draft 5-Year update will be presented to the full SWM Committee prior to presenting to the Boards of County Commissioners for both Jefferson and Douglas Counties. It was felt that a public hearing on the update should be held in both counties.

3. SWM Committee Membership

The makeup of the SWMC was discussed and the KSA 65-3405 regarding SWMC membership was examined. Several members felt that a new resolution should be passed by both county commissions stating that the committee will be formed in accordance with KSA 65-3405. It was the general consensus of those in attendance that KSA 65-3405 requirements could be met with fewer committee members, if both county commissions agree. The attending members of the SWMC felt that Bob Abel, Jefferson County Auxiliary Services Director, and Keith Browning, Douglas County Public Works Director, should be named co-chairs of the SWMC.