

Advisory Committee Meeting December 11, 2012

Summary of Group Questions and Discussions

A group discussion exercise was held during the second half of the Advisory Committee meeting. The Advisory Committee was randomly seated in four groups. Two questions were given to all of the groups to discuss and provide comment. After a small group discussion of each question, each group provided a verbal summary generally organized into categories of pros, cons, factors to consider, and conclusion.

Solid Waste Plan 2040

Question 1:

Nationally, 34% of the municipal solid waste is recycled compared to about 18% in Lincoln. Should the Solid Waste Management Plan 2040 set a numeric goal for recycling?

All groups noted a “yes” along with these additional comments:

- Goal must be reasonable, practical; don’t make unrealistic
- Goal must needs to compare apples-to-apples; this is hard to quantify
- Goal should be voluntary with community incentives
- Need milestones, benchmarks and keep cost in mind
- Initial cost might cause concern (don’t make it punitive)
- Provide citizen education

Summary of written notes:

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give community a target & direction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost (initial) • Resistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide reason to measure • Measuring provides ability to manage • Incentive to recycle • Could create a competitive spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce waste • We need to encourage more recycling • To extend life of the landfill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the optimal & ideal recycling goal • Why can’t Lincoln meet a national rate?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a goal to judge how well program is working • Increase public perception of problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not make the goal • Goal may look to be unrealistic to public
FACTORS TO CONSIDER	CONCLUSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punitive thing or pro-active <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • education, • community • working for the good of the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in proactive, voluntary manner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has to be measured so that we can manage our waste • Monitoring waste reduction at household level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, set goal - it is reasonable and practical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we willing to set a goal in line with future national recycling averages • Are our recycling rates comparing apples-to-oranges • Newspaper size & weight - might not compare to larger cities newspapers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of achievement • How to determine the goal • How complicated is it for citizens to achieve the goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, set goal

Question 2:

The Needs Assessment describes the current solid waste management system, facilities and programs (the “Status Quo”). Should these be considered the “minimum level of service” for future planning purposes?

All groups noted a “yes” with these comments:

- Public expecting current services, don’t reduce these
- Concerns about costs; benefits would be additional services
- An “unhappy yes”, maybe as a baseline? Not the only way to go?
- Yes and no, will adding services be affordable
- Must keep in mind constantly new waste streams (i.e., electronics)
- More pros than cons
- Status quo means expanding the landfill in the future
- We should want to do more than the status quo

Summary of written comments:

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to encourage more recycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we know what we are deficient in recycling? (not yet)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current programs already reduce MSW volume • Citizens have expectations of current services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we looking to increase our minimum level of service?
FACTORS TO CONSIDER	CONCLUSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we feel that adding services will be affordable? • Do we want to mandate or educate recycling? • We need to try improving education. • Add-ons (to our services) need to be considered. • Is expanding C&D a way to increase our recycling rates? • If we don’t increase the status quo, then we must be willing to expand the landfill 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward • Challenging ourselves • Constantly changing environment change of our types of waste <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • types of televisions, • electronics, • CRT monitors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does this question mean we want to build upon what we have? • We don’t want to get worse • We need to come up with solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We want to achieve more so using this as a baseline may be necessary
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of services & programs • Look at long term problems if no change • Benefits of additional services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes