

May 2, 2013

Jack Coogan, Chair
Lincoln Solid Waste Management Plan 2040 Advisory Committee

Dear Mr. Coogan:

The City of Lincoln's Solid Waste Management Plan Management Team has reviewed the April 10, 2013 letter you received from Advisory Committee Member Steve Hatten. We respectfully offer this letter as a response. Mr. Hatten's letter and this letter will both be posted on the project website.

It appears that we have not assured that all committee members are clear on where we are at in the process of developing the System Definition, which will eventually lead to specific recommendations. The purpose of the options review and polling process is for the Advisory Committee to provide direction on a "preferred path", which will be used by the City's management team to develop a System Definition. This preferred path is basically direction setting. The System Definition will include additional information that the Advisory Committee will consider in developing specific recommendations for the Plan. The System Definition will be brought to the Advisory Committee for discussion and input before it is presented at a public open house. After these two steps, the Advisory Committee will be asked to consider all input and develop recommendations for inclusion in the Plan.

The concern was raised that the committee is voting on issues before they know all the facts. Over the past months, extensive technical documents have been provided to the Advisory Committee, discussed at meetings, and posted on the project website. While these documents may not cover all aspects of each topic, they do contain a significant amount of information. The Advisory Committee is certainly welcome to request added information or clarification. However, the majority of the Committee appears to have had enough information to vote in the polling process on the preferred path on Residential Recycling and Diversion.

Mr. Hatten raised concerns regarding the cost of universal residential recycling, citing the Baseline Assessment/Survey of Lincoln residents that indicated a median value of \$10 per household per month for residential curbside recycling. It should be noted that Lincoln does not currently have universal recycling, and costs per household would likely be significantly lower if it did. For example, the technical paper provided to the Committee cited that communities surrounding Des Moines pay less than \$5 per household per month for their universal curbside recycling program. In addition, while there are costs associated with curbside recycling, there are many well recognized environmental and resource management benefits.

The recycling calculations presented in Mr. Hatten's letter do not match the information previously provided to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Hatten's calculation of a residential recycling rate includes both residential and commercial recycling data. The handout distributed at the February 12, 2013 Advisory Committee meeting summarized how the City's 18 percent MSW recycling rate was calculated.

May 2, 2013

Jack Coogan

Page 2

If, as the Committee Chair, you think this data or calculations need to be reviewed again with the Committee, we would be happy to do so. We believe the City's calculations provided to the Committee are accurate.

Finally, Mr. Hatten's letter asserts that the polling currently being conducted on the topic Options represents an "urgency to pass city ordinances, let bids and change the existing free market enterprise system". We do not believe that the City's Management Team has conveyed any sort of urgency to pass city ordinances or let bids, nor advocated that the existing free market enterprise system must be changed. However, the technical papers provided information indicating that other communities that have contracted or franchised for service have much lower costs per household for basic waste services and for curbside recycling than the current system in Lincoln.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Holmes for the". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

City of Lincoln – Solid Waste Management Plan Management Team