

March	985	\$246,316
April	975	\$254,519
May	954	\$314,580
June	980	\$348,633
July	889	\$341,841
August	892	\$312,061
September	876	\$283,636
October	933	\$289,525
November	1,067	\$298,602
December	1,095	\$321,314

BJ said that he had spoken with the DOR and that the DOR auditor has visited over 400 retailers in New Castle County and collected over \$65,000 from over 50 non-compliant retailers. The DOR auditor will work through New Castle County and then will work through Kent and Sussex Counties. Nancy M. asked if DOR had received the information from the soda beverage industry, BJ indicated to his knowledge DOR had not. BJ shared DOR predicts the total bottle fee revenue will be considerably less than the originally expected \$22 million. DOR projects revenue will increase as a result of the auditing activity but the increase is only anticipated to yield about an additional \$20,000/month.

Recycling Grant/Loan Program Update

Jim S. mentioned the multi-family workshops hosted by DNREC during the month of January. Attendance was light except for the one at the Brandywine Hundred Library. Mailings have been sent out for the Recycling Grant/Loan Program and the information is posted on the DNREC website. The Grant application deadline is March 14, 2012.

Recycling Market Update

Paul B. said paper was up by for \$15-20 /ton. He said that China was back in the game. Mike P. said single-stream recyclables range in the low to mid \$20's per ton and have been consistent through the last few months.

Old/New Business

Jim S. said the annual recycling reporting process has been initiated through letters sent out to all responsible parties by DSM Environmental. Paul B. asked if there was a deadline. Jim S. responded that the letter was sent out in early February to explain the February 15, 2012 deadline.

Jim also announced an upcoming meeting at DNREC's Lukens Drive facility to discuss implementation of commercial recycling. BJ invited all interested stakeholders to attend.

Marianne C. asked what was happening with carpet recycling. Marj C. responded that the resolution passed by the Senate called for a ban on carpet disposal at landfills in Delaware and the House Subcommittee did not support a ban. She said the resolution was redrafted and sent back to Legislative Hall and that the carpet issue should be addressed through a sub-committee of RPAC. BJ added that the RPAC could provide assistance.

Marj C. provided an update on the 7 Del Code 6099A plastic bag recycling law that DNREC is required to enforce. The enforcement could provide revenue for non-compliance but DNREC lacks the resources to do enforcement. The report prepared by DNREC recommends that retailer reports be due by February 12, 2012. Coralie P. voiced concern about the wildlife impact of plastic bags on marine life. BJ asked how the plastic bag law in Delaware was affecting Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operations. Mike P.

said that the bags are still accepted in single stream and that MRFs don't really want them because of the hand sorting required, the maintenance issues, and the line stoppage that sometimes results from the bags becoming wrapped around the sorting mechanisms. Mike P. added that mixed plastic bags are the number one source of contamination in MRF operations. BJ said more research is needed on plastic bags and that it has been reported that there is high energy costs, at least according to one source, associated with recycling plastic bags. BJ suggested a fee on plastic bags may be the best approach because it has been shown to significantly reduce their usage. Mike P. added that plastic bags should be returned for collection at their place of origin. BJ added that fees (example .02 cents) on plastic bags may deter their use.

Paul B. announced that First State Plastics was purchased by Canusa Hershman, a larger out-of-state company, and that access to this larger company is good for plastics recycling in Delaware.

Kyle Sonnenberg has retired as Newark City Manager and this is his last RPAC meeting. Kyle was thanked for his service to RPAC over the last several years.

Additional Public Comments

None at this time

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. U of D Paradee Building, 69 Transportation Circle, Dover 19901

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned around 2:26 p.m.