

# Recycling Public Advisory Council

## DRAFT Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Location: Grotto Pizza – Dover, 1159 N. DuPont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)  
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)  
Charles Campbell-King (Public)  
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)  
Marianne Cinaglia (DeIEASI)  
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)  
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)  
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)  
Brian Nixon (DE Chamber of Commerce)  
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)  
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)  
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)  
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)  
Wendy Turner (Mt. Pleasant Elementary)

Members absent: George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)

Non-members present: Bill Miller (DNREC) Jim Short (DNREC)  
Nancy Marker (DNREC) Don Long (DNREC)  
Jackie Howard (DNREC) Candace McCarthy (Capital School District)  
Lane Carter, (Dover HS)  
Allen Thienpont from Waste Industries

### **Call to Order, Introductions**

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10PM.

### **Approval of April, 16, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The April minutes were unanimously approved as written.

### **Public Comments**

Dr. Lane Carter, Dover High School English Teacher, presented recycling efforts they are commencing at the high school and in Capital School District (about 6,500 students and 500 staff). Lane told the committee that she will be submitting a grant on behalf of the Capital School District and has the support of the Superintendent and District Facility Manager. Committee members asked Lane a variety of questions and there was discussion about how to engage students and convince custodians that recycling is a good idea and not difficult. Wendy suggested taking the District custodial staff on a field trip to DSWA Facility as a learning and engagement opportunity. Brian suggested there be a recognition program for schools that excel at recycling. Bill mentioned the idea of centralized collection points and that custodians are not handling more trash just handling trash in a different way. Brock suggested looking into connectivity with Green Ribbon Schools and Governor's Awards. Marj invited Lane back in a year to present on progress of instituting recycling at Dover High and throughout the Capital School District. Lane agreed to return and give the Council an update.

### **Funding Status of Grant and Loan Program**

Marj handed out a two page summary of points supporting the Grants program (Universal Recycling Program Status and Future Focus, June 3, 2016) similar to what was given to Secretary Small to use as talking points to the Legislature. She told the Council that \$41,100 is being diverted from Recycling

Grant funds for maintenance and operation of the Polly Drummond Hill Road Yard Waste Demonstration Site. Stan was critical of the fact that recycling funds were being taken away. Brock and Charles suggested sending a letter to the Legislature requesting that this not happen. Marj suggested holding off on the letter until the fiscal directive is confirmed in writing.

Discussion ensued on how to maximize visibility and awareness of the grants program. Bob Z. mentioned that he is trying to organize an industry group that would submit a grant application. Bill stated that it is difficult to perform outreach and be proactive with no funding for this activity. Stan asked if we are targeting the right industries and the right people, within these industries (businesses, schools, communities, other) with notification of our grant program. Bill replied that we have developed specific contact lists and that we also rely on Council members to get the word out to their respective organizational memberships.

Bob said that diversion of funds to a yard waste site provides a state subsidy in conflict with waste hauling and landscaping businesses. Most haulers and several landscaping companies offer yard waste collection services. He referenced previous arguments against funding the yard waste site.

### **Legislative Update**

Julie reported the plastic bag legislation (HB 202) is out of committee and there is much work being done to add the bill to the agenda. Four amendments have been placed with the bill. The second amendment creates a tax and bans bags in 5 years; retailers do not support this amendment. Brian said the State Chamber of Commerce was not in support of HB 202 because two of its members work in plastics manufacturing companies and the sentiment coming from this sector is no taxation. Brock stated he would reach out to Representative Heffernan to get more insight.

### **Universal Recycling Regulations**

Bill apologized for that this agenda item is not yet ripe for discussion. He anticipated that a draft would be ready for the RPAC to review, but DNREC was still working on internal consensus. He expects updating the committee by the next RPAC meeting in late July.

### **Recycling Market update**

Paul said the market is still at a historic low but trending upwards; cardboard went up \$5 per ton.

### **Old/New Business**

Brock mentioned timing of RPAC meetings has changed from a 1:30 start time to a 1:00 pm start time. Adam commented about his and other's observations that those with biweekly residential recycling collection would prefer weekly collection. Some members voiced consent over inviting future speakers to the RPAC – this was in response to Lane Carter's presentation – and all agreed that this was a good idea and would offer value-added insights to the RPAC.

**Additional Public Comments** – None.

### **Next Meetings**

Scheduled for:

- July 27, 2016 at 1:00, location TBD (New Castle County)
- September 21, 2016 at 1:00, location TBD (Sussex County)

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00pm.