

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 19, 2007 (DRAFT)

Members Present: BJ Vinton (Chairman representing CSWSC)
Pat Todd (League of Women Voters)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Express of Delaware)
Michael Parkowski *proxy for Pat Canzano
Dick Cecil (Del. Association of Counties)
Dick Fleming (Delaware Nature Society)
Ptery Iris (IRSD)
Wally Kremer (DeEASI)
Nancy Marker **proxy for Jim Werner

Members Absent: George Wright (League of Local Governments)
Pat Canzano (DSWA)*
Steve Masterson (Waste Management)
Jim Werner (DNREC)**

Non-Members Present: Jim Short (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Lynette Lee (DNREC) Tom Houska (Waste Management)
Hetty Franke (U of D Ext.) Paul Sample (Tech. Advisor office Legis. Council)
Jane Hatchadorian (Wycliffe) Steve Tanzer (House of Representatives)
Colin Bayne (Dartmouth Woods) Joe McDevett (Bear Tree)
John Rowan (Bear Tree) Dan Bocker (Civic League for NCC)
Coralie Pryde (Citizen) Jim Black (Clean Air Council)
David Matushik (GOR) Frank Maderich (Tavistock Civic Association)
Bob Barrish (Citizen) Bruce Georgov (IDS)
Bob Zeigler (Allied Waste) Charlie Seaver (Citizen)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:45 p.m. He welcomed everyone and asked for people to introduce themselves.

Public Comments

Steve Tanzer, legislative aid to Representative McWilliams, reported that residents of the Delaire community held a meeting with DNREC to discuss concerns raised by the residents about the proposed community yard waste demonstration site near their community. DNREC is working on a proposed memorandum with the community to agree on terms of use for the site. He shared that Representative McWilliams supports the concept of a yard waste site in her district. Jim S. added that DNREC is continuing to look at other sites and discuss options with New Castle County.

Someone asked about out-of-state waste being accepted at the Cherry Island Landfill (CIL). Mike P. explained that the DSWA does not accept out of state waste at the CIL as required by law. They have compliance officers, they register waste haulers, they identify trucks, and they actively restrict out of state waste. BJ pointed out that DPRI, a privately run landfill which accepts only C&D waste, does accept C&D from out-of-state and that this may lead to some confusion as it is located near the Cherry Island Landfill.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

There were two changes to the minutes from the November meeting. One was a spelling correction to the name of Ptery Iris. The other was striking the second to last line of the first paragraph on the second page. The minutes were unanimously approved with these changes.

Measurement and Methodology Sub-Committee Report

BJ explained that the RPAC was charged with reporting on recycling rates in Delaware which is a time-consuming and enormous task. He said that it was the intent of the sub-committee to distribute the report prior to this meeting but there had been setbacks. They had a good draft but wanted to fine tune it. The sub-committee distributed the draft executive summary and data from appendices. Dick F. added that although the RPAC has completed 6 annual reports, this is the first report specific to recycling measurement and methodology. The DSWA, DNREC, Recycling Businesses, and public are all represented on the sub-committee. They are confident they have all the numbers but calculation, accuracy, and text have required a huge amount of time. The sub-committee plans to mail the full draft to the RPAC members in January and asked for a quick turnaround for comments. The report is designed to be easy to follow how calculations were made and easy to update in future years. David M. asked about the total tonnages disposed of in Delaware and the quantities of recyclables in that. Mike P. answered that DSWA had recently completed a waste characterization study for all of its facilities which is pretty comprehensive. Anyone interested in the report can contact Mike P. and he would be happy to share and/or discuss the study.

Support for H.B. 159 Meeting

BJ has been trying to organize a meeting with the House Minority to discuss the RPAC supported House Bill 159. He has already met with the House Majority, but so far has not been able to schedule a meeting with the House Minority. House Bill 159 is recycling legislation that would set up a fund to support local recycling initiatives. Pat T. said if established, the funds could help an entity set up a compact fluorescent bulb recycling program for example.

DNREC/DSWA Yard Waste Diversion

Jim S. announced that DNREC has two community yard waste demonstration sites open in northern New Castle County. One site is at the DART Mid-County facility at the southwest intersection of routes 13 and 72. The other site is on Polly Drummond Hill Road across from the Judge Morris Estate near the Pike Creek area. DNREC is working on a third site in the Brandywine Hundred area. He explained that the yard waste ban at the Cherry Island Landfill is scheduled for January 24, 2008. Each of the waste haulers that provide service in northern New Castle County have now said they will provide their own yard waste collection programs. Jim S. added that residents can also find a number of landscapers and such that will provide yard waste services. The classifieds in the paper list several of these small businesses.

Dan B. asked a couple questions about measuring quantity and value of yard waste and trash. Jim S. took the questions so DNREC can respond to Dan B. BJ asked Jim S. about a Sunset Hearing in early December. Nancy M. explained that a legislative Sunset Committee Hearing came out of the blue. Jim S. explained that upstate legislators asked, and all the haulers present (representing nearly 100% of the residential waste haulers) said they will provide yard waste collection services. The legislators want their constituents to have a seamless transition, so that the hauler who collects their trash now will also offer yard waste collection. All the haulers will be listed on the DNREC website in January. Someone asked about it being mandatory. Jim S. explained that the ban is on yard waste entering the Cherry Island Landfill. DNREC enforcement will be on the DSWA, but the DSWA will check the haulers and haulers will check homeowners. Someone asked why recycling is not mandatory. Jim S. answered that the RPAC, DNREC, and others since 2001 have tried mandatory recycling legislation and it has always failed in the legislature. Pat T. added that she has been actively working to get mandatory recycling since 1999. BJ said he thinks circumstances are improving and interest in the legislature is increasing, but he has been told by some legislators that their constituents just don't care.

Value of Landfill Diversion Sub-Committee

Dick F. has felt for a long time that there is a fundamental flaw in assessing the cost / benefit of recyclables collection. He said \$3, \$7, \$9 per month is very real, but the value of delaying having to build a new landfill is unknown. Dick F. proposed a program to have an economist roughly look into this and

he will draft a request for proposals (RFPs) next month. He asked to discuss and vote on the RFP next meeting.

Recycling Assistance Grant Program

Bill M. explained that DNREC has \$50,000 in grant funding available to schools, municipalities, non-profits, and community groups to implement or expand recycling programs. The application period is open now to January 31, 2008. He encouraged folks to spread the word and is happy to talk with anyone who might be interested.

Old Business

BJ asked about the haulers legislation. Jim S. said he knows of no movement on that. Bruce G. said that the haulers met on Monday and will meet again in early January. Jim S. announced that DNREC held two recycling workshops in early December; one in Newport and one in Georgetown. About 50 people attended in Newport and 25-30 attended in Georgetown.

New Business

Jim S. announced that Representative Lavelle and others have introduced a bill to undo the yard waste ban (House Bill 278). Mike P. announced that Representative Maier has drafted an amendment to HB 159 which would make recycling mandatory in New Castle County but optional in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Additional Comments

Charlie S. said that he has been composting since 1985. Mandatory districts would make a big difference in New Castle County, but change is hard. He also said that there is a landfill cost avoidance with recycling. Landscapers and others already manage yard waste for less than DSWA (or free).

Schedule for Future Meetings

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at the Brandywine Hundred Library.

The meeting adjourned around 3:30 p.m.