

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, August 23, 2017

Location: Conference Room, DNREC Lewes Field Office, 901 Pilottown Rd, Lewes, DE

Members present: Stan Mills, Chairman (League of Local Governments)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marianne Cinaglia (Public)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters) – via conference call
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)

Members absent: Wendy Turner (Public)
Sewall McCabe (Soda Beverage Industry)
Steve Masterson (Waste Masters Solutions)

Non-members present: Don Long (DNREC) Rustyn Stoops (DTCC)
Jackie Howard (DNREC) Chris Bason (Center for the Inland Bay)
Julia Haas (DNREC) Frosty McDaniel (Lewes Resident)
Chris Flood (Cape Gazette) Gayle Hoffman (SERCAP)
Ann Marie Townsend (Lewes)

Call to Order, Introductions

Meeting called to order by Chair at approximately 1:07pm

Public Comments

- Correspondence: n/a
- Members of Public: Frosty McDaniel raised concerns over the absence of household battery recycling bins in Lewes. Mike Parkowski explained that Lewes bins were removed due to contamination, and offered local transfer station as an alternative. Mr. McDaniel was satisfied with this answer

Approval of:

- Meeting Minutes of 1/25/2017: approved provided date typo corrected (wrong month listed)
- Meeting Summary of 3/22/2017: approved not needed but given
- Meeting Summary of 4/19/2017: approval not needed by given

Council Membership

- New members (Michael Fusca, Sewall McCabe, and Steve Masterson) and re-appointed members (Adam Webster) announced and introduced
- Vacancies discussed – Three remaining seats on RPAC (DE Chamber of Commerce and slots for public interest groups). Members must be appointed by the Governor. Stan asked for suggested nominees to be sent to him
- Stan Mills briefly discussed the role and responsibilities of both the Chair and of Council Members
 - o Coralie Pryde asked if a list of term dates for council members could be distributed

Committee Reports

- Outreach/Education Updates:
 - o Jackie Howard gave a power point presentation outlining the upcoming media campaign managed by ab+c.
- Measurements Committee: Meeting on 8/10/2017 included Stan Mills, Paul Bickhart, Mike Parkowski, Don Long and Jackie Howard. Concluded that RPAC uses “EPA guidelines”, met TSW, did not meet MSW, and that Delaware is in the “Top 5” with 44%

Old Business

- Status of Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program: Jackie Howard stated that the Funding is “out” as of Cycle 8, and that she is taking a larger role in management of both the programmatic and financial aspects of the program. Jackie also reports that she intends to begin “follow-up” with past recipients to determine the success of the program.
- Status of 15th Annual Report:
 - o Follow up to report – Messaging to Governor – Stan Mills, Mike Parkowski, and Marjorie Crofts to present (OK - Marianne Cinaglia 1st, Julie Miro Wenger 2nd)

New Business

- Don Long gave a presentation on Waste Assessments. Stan Mills asked Don Long how many assessments DNREC is able to complete in a month, Don answered 15. Marianne Cinaglia asked that a list of the participating schools be sent to her, she believes that the student groups would qualify for Youth Governor Awards.
- Marjorie Crofts presented on proposed recycling compliance and enforcement:
 - o Follow up on complaints. All commercial entities must recycle per current laws. DE goal is to reach 50% recycling rate. Target of compliance push are large retailers (big box stores, malls, etc.). Notice to be sent with Division of Revenue tax letter informing of the need for businesses to come into compliance, offering free assessments to assist in effort on a voluntary basis, six month follow up to either confirm compliance or consider pursuing an enforcement action (e.g. Notice of Violation)
 - o Mike Parkowski cautioned against wielding penalties, lead discussion on market driven recycling rates particularly relating to cardboard. Mike mentioned that it may not be advantageous or fully possible for some places to recycle due to space available or current market conditions. He also commented that while recycling is the preferred option, landfills are a viable option, referencing back to difficult to recycle items (e.g. tires and batteries).
 - o Stan Mills acknowledged Mike’s caution and for “not heavy handed” enforcement from DNREC. Jackie Howard, Marianne Cinaglia, and Don Long expressed concern over the use of the terms “commercial” and “compliance”, fearing them too broad or punitive.
 - o Overall response to the letter was positive, however, it was not voted on.
- Mike Parkowski reported that approximately 5,120 “How to Recycle” guides were given out at the state fair by DSWA. Stan Mills voiced concern that there was no public recycling available at the Fair, led a brief discussion about a previous grant awarded to assist in recycling efforts. Don Long commented that un-monitored recycling collection is ineffective at large events as the stream tends to be hopelessly contaminated by improper practices.

Legislative Updates

- HB215 eliminating sunset provision on the “at store” recycling program for plastic bags and mandating registration of participating stores with DNREC. The HB is moving forward. Julie Miro Wenger reported that a letter regarding the bill was going out in the fall with the Division of Revenue Tax Bill.

Recycling Market Update

- Paul Bickhart reported that the market for paper is currently strong but he is anticipating that change as China’s National Sword policy may ban recycled mixed paper. Mike Parkowski added that new recycling initiatives in China may close their market for plastics #3-#7. Delaware still has a domestic market for #5 plastic. Mike also reported that plastics #1 and #2 make up 80% of collected plastic in Delaware and their market is not foreseen to be in danger of drying up.

Additional Public Comments

- Mention of the upcoming Brandywine School District “Green Fest 2017”

Next Meetings

- September 27, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00pm in Dover
Public Service Commission Conference Room
Cannon Building, Suite 203
861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Dover, DE 19904
- Stan Mills quickly briefed items for upcoming agendas, to include the results of a recent phone survey

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30pm.