

# Recycling Public Advisory Council

## Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, April 13, 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)

Members absent: George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)  
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)  
Wendy Turner (Mt. Pleasant Elementary)

Non-members present: Bill Miller (DNREC) Jim Short (DNREC)  
Nancy Marker (DNREC) Don Long (DNREC)  
Kim Jarrell (DNREC) Marcus Stevens (Evergreen Waste)  
Steve McCann (Mt. Cuba Center) Kurt Pilarski (Waste Management, Inc.)

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

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40PM.

**Public Comments** – BJ received an email from Dee Durham regarding plastic bag legislation (HB 202), asking for support from the RPAC. It proposes a \$0.05 fee per retail plastic bag to be kept by the retailer to run the program. Thirteen co-sponsors are listed on HB 202. There is a House Natural Resources Committee Hearing on the bill on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Durham is working with others on an event with an attempt to enter a plastic bag ball into the Guinness Book of World Records. She asked for a grant from RPAC for up to \$10,000 to cover the event. Bill explained that there was not explicit prohibition for this type of grant, however in the absence of a formal announcement and opportunity for others at the same time, it was not in concert with the procedure and practice established by the Department and RPAC for distribution of grant funding. Stan said he was in favor of grant applicants going through formal procedures. Others agreed. BJ though the Council could have a future discussion of setting caps and controls to create an opportunity for similar projects if a similar future request is received. There was addition discussion about the Council's support of HB 202. Marj note some issues, including an incorrect section reference and the Department's lack of resources to provide the ability to support the bill. Julie explained that HB 202 was modeled after similar legislation in Montgomery County Maryland. She added that she was not an author, rather it was crafted by environmental groups looking to curb the use of single-use plastic bags. Because the retailer keeps the fee, it only needs a simple majority, not three-fifths majority. Julie mentioned the possibility of \$0.01 of each fee going to support a Keep America Beautiful chapter. Noting the recent Christina River Cleanup, Marianne thought directing all the fee money to stores was a mistake. Some should be given to cleanup efforts and organizations. Julie said the Governor pledged support of a Delaware chapter of Keep America Beautiful. The discussion was that it would be run under the Delaware Food Industry Council, under a separate board. She reported that DSWA committed to \$40,000 per year in support. Following additional discussion of HB 202, the Council

decided to draft a letter in support of HB 202 with the caveat that some funds be directed to pollution reduction efforts (Voting: Marj abstained. Bob voted against. Charles, Coralie, Paul, Dick, Marianne, Stan, Julie, Brian, Adam, and BJ voted in favor).

### **Approval of December 9, 2015 and February 17, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

The December minutes were unanimously approved as written. Stan initiated a discussion on one change to the February minutes, which were then unanimously approved with that change.

**Organics Task Force Update** – Jim S. announced that the report had been distributed to the General Assembly, Governor and DNREC Secretary. Charles and BJ thank Jim in particular for his efforts on the Report.

**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report** – Marj announced the group had finished its report and she reviewed its recommendations. The recommendations generally suggest multiple, local-scale composting and anaerobic digestion facilities across the state as a solution. DSWA estimates 125,000 tons of organic waste could easily be diverted from disposal.

**Council By-Laws** – BJ referenced the By-Laws reminding Council Members especially about their attendance. He noted that the Council typically only meets 7 to 8 times per year, only when necessary, and meetings are difficult when there is no quorum.

**Grant and Loan Program Announcement** – Bill announced that there would be two application periods available in 2016. The first has an application deadline in June and the second in November. This was done with advice from the Council as a way of broadening opportunity and interest among potential applicants. Bill explained that the Department has little ability to advertise the program and begged Council Members to promote the recycling grants and loans within their affiliate organizations and all contacts who may be a business manager, school teacher, organization leader, or similar. Marianne suggested the Council also promote recycled content and how collected recyclables are used in manufacturing as a way of bringing additional attention to the subject of recycling.

**Recycling Market update** – Plastics have moved up slightly. Paul announced that paper markets have held constant but are still on the low side. Hope is that single-stream markets with inch out of the negative.

**Old/New Business** – Don reviewed projects he and others are working on at DNREC including planning, outreach, regulatory oversight, waste assessments in the commercial sector, tracking legislative initiatives, and related LEED efforts. Stan would love to see some follow up with previous grant recipients, and suggested follow ups with legislators regarding RPAC recommendations.

**Additional Public Comments** – None.

**Next Meetings** – Subsequent meetings were scheduled for:  
June 8, 2016 at 1:00, Grotto Pizza – Dover  
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 3:20pm.