

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Location: DNREC Shoreline & Waterway Services Facility
901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958

Members present: B.J. Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Brian Nixon (DE State Chamber of Commerce)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)

Members absent: Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry) – (Conference call phone in)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)

Non-members present: Shannon Argo (Blue Hen Organics) Trish Barnes (St. Peters, Lewes)
Kristen Brown (Waste Zero) Marshall Budin (DNREC)
Rob Clemens (Goodwill) Craig Dunkley (Waste Zero)
Kimberly Jarrell (DNREC) Don Long (DNREC)
Bill Miller (DNREC) Nick Roth (Cape Gazette)
Jim Short (DNREC)

Call to Order, Introductions

B.J. Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 PM.

Public Comments - None

Approval of December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Due to member attendance less than required to constitute a quorum of nine (9) members, review and approval of meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Presentation – Waste Zero

B.J. Vinton introduced Kristen Brown and Craig Dunkley representing Waste Zero - a waste and recycling consulting business specializing in PAYT programs. C. Dunkley provided an overview of the company: formed in 1991 by K. Brown's father, a bag manufacturer; specializes in PAYT consulting with service provided to over 200 programs ranging from program design, implementation and management; manufacturing plants in North Carolina and the North East; and, a certified B Corp.

Highlights of the presentation summarized below:

- Bag based PAYT programs purported to reduce MSW disposal by 44% (combination of increased diversion to recycling, changes in consumption and waste generation behavior)

- Typical results occur across the range of socio-economic conditions and demographic characteristics, regardless of the method of trash and recycling collection;
- Waste disposal tipping fees (paid through taxes or municipal fees) replaced with bag fees (paid by citizens at retail stores);
- Significant results occur within 30-90 days of implementation;
- Bag prices set at a level that generates more revenue than direct tipping fees with rebates provided to municipal governments;
- Waste Zero gets paid by a percentage of the bag fee;
- Based on Waste Zero modeling, the potential impact to Delaware's waste management system if DSWA implemented a bag based PAYT program is projected to decrease annual MSW disposal by 44% (315K tons to 177K tons) and increase recycling diversion by 20% (280K tons to 336 tons);
- The effective tipping fee generated from bag sales would be about \$159.00/ton vs. the current tipping fee of \$79.00/ton.

Discussion centered on the difficulty of implementing a statewide PAYT system when over 70% of residents live in unincorporated areas largely serviced by private subscription waste haulers. Bob Zeigler stated that haulers offering different waste collection frequencies and different container sizes with respective pricing structures are effectively providing a PAYT variable rate program. Shannon Argo expressed concern that a cart/bag overflow PAYT system could potentially incent some customers to improperly dispose waste in recycling carts, placing an extra burden and cost on haulers to police and enforce compliance. Mike Parkowski elaborated on the relatively small fraction of Delaware's residential solid waste (RSW) attributable to municipalities (about 50K tons) compared to total RSW disposal of 315K tons. B.J. Vinton summed up the presentation, stating that all revenue would go to DSWA; haulers continue to charge for service; citizens pay for bags; and haulers don't pay tip fees and are free to set service rates. Jim Short questioned the efficiency of the rebate system when the majority of citizens live in unincorporated areas.

Organics Subcommittee – Need, Purpose, Members

B.J. Vinton opened discussion acknowledging the need to identify alternatives to the Wilmington Organics Recycling Center (WORC) in order to meet diversion goals. He said that he was aware that Universal Recycling Grant recipient Mt. Pleasant Elementary School received notification from Waste Management (state contracted hauler) that they are investigating alternative composting facilities in light of the closure of the WORC. Blue Hen Organics in Sussex County was ruled out because they are near capacity notwithstanding costly hauling from New Castle County.

Marjorie Crofts briefed members on a presentation by the Zero Waste Team student group to members of the General Assembly featuring anaerobic digestion of the organic fraction of MSW. M. Parkowski elaborated about an MSW anaerobic digester installation in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada (throughput of 200 tons/day) and Monterey, California commenting that odor releases from the CA digester aren't a problem because of its location in an agricultural area but would be a real problem in Delaware. DSWA has been looking at this technology for over ten years but transportation costs to a centrally located facility in Kent County are an issue. He emphasized that odor emissions can't be eliminated.

B.J. Vinton closed by noting that further consideration of forming an Organics Subcommittee should be considered when more members are present.

DNREC Administrative Funding

M. Crofts stated a review of funding needs and associated cost looking out 2-3 years is in progress and will be shared at a future meeting.

DSWA's Electronic Goods Recycling Program

M. Parkowski reiterated the weekly electronics collection events (i.e. Monday – Jones Crossroads Landfill, Sussex County; Wednesday – Delaware Recycling Center, New Castle County; Friday – Cheswold Collection Station, Kent County). Since the change to weekly electronics collection in March 2014 in conjunction with four (4) special collection events offering HHW and electronics collection , and document shredding, about 2.2 million pounds of obsolete electronics have been collected. Although electronics collection is trending down it approximates what was collected previously when there were more collection locations and extended hours and is therefore being viewed as a success. An RFP process for a new electronics recycling vendor is in progress. Three (3) vendors responded with a decision expected at the end of March.

Recycling Market Update

B.J. Vinton read an email prepared by Paul Bickhart summarized below:

Paper markets were unchanged for January 2015 across the board and staying in the lower end of historical prices, with OCC (Old Corrugated Containers) on the OBM NY High (Official Board Markets, Yellow Sheet) remaining at \$90.00/ton. Ferrous markets remain very soft due to limited export opportunities to China and the Far East. Aluminum has remained stable due to increased orders in the automotive and aerospace industries. Recycled plastics are under downward pressure due to lower oil prices, making virgin plastics cheaper to produce.

Old/New Business

M. Parkowski announced that the successful latex paint collection pilot in 2014 at the Cheswold Collection Station will be expanded to two (2) events in 2015.

J. Short is working on the City of Wilmington Universal Recycling Grant, 4th Cycle application to fund the education and outreach component of a city wide conversion to a cart based, bag overflow PAYT program. Wilmington has withdrawn their interest in getting a loan from the program to fund cart costs in pursuit of a bank loan.

B.J. Vinton and Stan Mills commented that this is the first meeting in their memory with less than a quorum of attending RPAC members. B.J. pointed out the need to review the attendance policy and asked Members to communicate their attendance or absence for future meeting to Marshall Budin.

At the suggestion of some Members, the February meeting location will be changed to New Castle County and the March meeting moved to Kent County due to overlap with the General Assembly's Joint Finance Committee being in session.

Additional Public Comments - None

Next Meeting

February 25, 2015, 1:30PM – 3:30PM, NCC, location TBD.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:25PM.