

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday October 29, 2014

- Location: Tatnall Building, 150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover, DE
- Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)
Brian Nixon (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)
Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)
Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)
- Members absent: Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council)
- Non-members present: Marshall Budin (DNREC) Crystal Beck (DNREC)
Rob Clemens (Goodwill Of Delaware County)
Kimberly Foster (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Jim Short (DNREC) Paul Sparks (Cascade Engineering)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries)

Call to Order, Introductions

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30PM

Public Comments - None

Approval of September 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The September meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program Cycle 5 Contract Status

Marshall B. updated members on the status of grant applications since the September meeting. All applicants were informed of the RPAC/DNREC funding decision via email. All applicants approved for full project funding have acknowledged their intent to accept funding. The impact of the closure of the Wilmington Organics Recycling Center (WORC) to the fully funded food waste diversion projects was discussed. Marshall said that of the three (3) projects (Kirk Middle School, Mt Pleasant Elementary, and St. Andrews) St. Andrews posed the greatest challenge given that they are not inclined to compost on-site and offsite commercial composting isn't an option at this time. Marshall B. presented an option for Mt. Pleasant to convert the bin designated for food waste collection to single stream recycling which met with no objection. Kirk Middle School isn't impacted since they are composting onsite.

Regarding partially funded projects, with the exception of the University of Delaware (UD) survey, Marshall B. said that all applicants indicated their intent to accept funding. UD indicated that the reduced funding level was insufficient to cover costs. While DNREC consideration was given to increase funding of survey hours to the originally requested level, fringe and indirect costs would remain unfunded. Bill M.

explained that because DNREC believes such a study to have utility, DNREC will likely issue an RFP to pursue it. BJ thought the National Waste and Recycling Association or ReCommunity might be interested in financially supporting a similar study.

Stan M. had questions on the State waste, recycling and organics hauling contract. Bill M. explained there was some ambiguous contract language that may relate to the contractor providing internal recycling and food waste containers. Marshall B. said that he will contact the Office of Management and Budget, who oversee the state contract, for clarification and report his findings.

Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program Cycle 6 Guidance

Marshall B. informed the Council on the need to amend the guidance document to clarify that the \$30.00 maximum labor reimbursement is inclusive of all labor direct and indirect expenses. BJ indicated that if employment of staff associated with funding research projects is dependent on funding above the \$30.00 cap, consideration of higher reimbursement levels is a reasonable option to consider. Regarding the priority focus of the 6th Cycle, Stan M. suggested that municipal government education and outreach be included since it has been several years since the development of the first program flyers which contain some dated and erroneous information (e.g., plastic bags as an acceptable material). Mike P. offered to provide the 'Delaware Recycling Guide' to both public and private sector recycling haulers for distribution to their citizens/customers. While DSWA would handle printing costs, inclusive of hauler co-branding, DSWA cannot pay for mailing or distribution to each customer.

BJ asked for a discussion of Cycle 6 at the next meeting following the Grant Subcommittee review of the proposed changes to the guidance document.

RPAC 13th Annual Report

Jim S. informed the Council that he completed a final draft of the Annual Report for Member review and comment. Jim referred to portions of the Executive Summary on the projection screen. The reported recycling diversion rate of 41.2% is not a final number due mostly to under-reporting of fiber. The recycling measurement contractor is reaching out to companies to bridge the gap before finalizing the official recycling diversion estimate. Jim S. asked for member input to the Council's recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. Stan M. said that a reference to the January 1, 2014 implementation of commercial recycling should be included in Recommendation 2. Jim S. said that of the approximate 100,000 tons of material received by the Wilmington Organics Recycling Center (WORC), about 10,000 tons was food waste sourced from Delaware. Jim S. continued that the market will be able to absorb yard waste; however, the absence of an alternate food waste composting enterprise is expected to result in a 1% decrease in the State's MSW diversion rate. BJ added that in addition to the immediate impact to diversion, he is concerned about lost opportunities to divert more sources of food waste and its impact to achieving the diversion goals in the Universal Recycling Law because food waste discards constitutes a large fraction of the unrecovered waste stream.

BJ referenced former RPAC member Wallace Kremer's questions of what can be learned from the closure and what can be done in the future. Bill M. said that in the short-run, alternatives for Delaware-generated food waste are extremely limited. He suggested that smaller scale, decentralized composting operations may be more effective and manageable than large scale, regional composting operations. Bill M. further stated that the closure decision was predicated on quality of life of resident's impacted by foul odors, operational concerns, and history of enforcement action. He stated that the Department still believes in composting and encourages new composting capacity in Delaware. The Council Members discussed the possibility of DSWA and DNREC investigating solutions to meet composting demand for Delaware generated food waste. BJ thought consideration should be given to forming an Organics Subcommittee. George D. thought the Council might consider focusing more on commercial sector and school recycling versus food waste in the short term. Members also tabled a discussion on the sunset of the bottle recycling fee on December 1, 2014 with reference to assessing the need for continued, alternative funding.

In conclusion, Jim S. asked for Council Members comments on the draft Annual Report by Friday, November 7th.

Recycling Market Update

Paul B. said that paper prices were flat in October and other commodity prices are down.

Old/New Business

Mike P. briefed the Council on the latex paint drop-off event at the Cheswold Collection Station which received 33,000 lbs. of latex paint from 630 vehicles. All paint is being transported to a processing plant in New Jersey which blends recovered paint to make several different color batches. Mike P. said that they are seeing advantages of combining electronics with HHW collection events such as increased product quality and elimination of shrinkage associated with reduction in drop off sites. Mike P. indicated that CRT glass processors only have enough capacity to process 50% of CRT glass at current generation rates.

Additional Public Comments

Next Meeting – scheduled for December 3, 2014 at 1:30 – 3:30pm (Location TBD in New Castle County)

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30PM