

Organic Waste Task Force

Meeting Minutes for Monday, September 14, 2015

Location: Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances
391 Lukens Drive, New Castle, DE 19720

Members present: BJ Vinton, RPAC Chairman (CSWSC)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC WHS)
Mike Parkowski (DSWA)
Eric Long – Zero Waste Team
Robert Tunnel – Blue Hen Organics
Don Sparks – University of Delaware
Austin Short – Department of Agriculture
Bob Zeigler – Republic Services
Adam Webster – Grotto Pizza
Debbie Heaton – Partnership for Delaware Estuary
DC Kuhns – Eden Delmarva
Paul Bickhart – Recycling Express
Lisa Pfeifer – DP&L (for Cristina Frank, Pepco)

Members absent: Steve Masterson – Wastemasters
Julie Miro-Wenger – Food Industry Council
Babatunde Ogunnaike - University of Delaware
Jan Koninckx – DuPont

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC)
Bill Miller (DNREC)

Call to Order, Introductions

Marj Crofts called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 AM and explained that she and Mike Parkowski of DSWA would co-chair the Task Force. Marj also explained the purpose of the Task Force was to discuss and evaluate the most effective and efficient way to recycle organic waste within Delaware and present its findings to the Delaware House and Senate Natural Resources Committees and the Governor by March 1, 2016.

Defining Organic Waste – Mike P. discussed that the DSWA had identified about 120,000 tons of compostable materials in the Delaware waste stream that can realistically be diverted from disposal and managed either aerobically or anaerobically. A proposed definition of “organic waste” is “food waste, compostable paper, and yard waste.”

Debbie H. recommended the proposed definition remain in draft form while the Task Force researches the subject of organic waste management and develops its findings. Debbie H. also emphasized the need for public education on the subject of organic waste management.

Zero Waste Team Presentation – Eric L. gave a presentation on the various technologies available to manage organic waste with emphasis on anaerobic digestion for energy recovery and emphasized the need to manage our waste as a resource as opposed to a liability. Eric’s presentation also discussed some of the legislative strategies used by other states used to manage waste that may work in Delaware and discussed some of the pros and cons of large central facilities versus smaller regional facilities including potential costs.

Organic Waste Management Technologies & Programs Presentation – Mike P. gave a presentation on the various technologies available to manage organic waste and discussed some of the challenges associated with managing this waste stream. This presentation included a summary of his recent visit to some of the more modern

organics management facilities in California including the Zanker Green Waste Facility and SAFE Pet Feed in San Jose and the Monterey Regional Facility in Marina.

It was agreed both presentations would be sent out to the Task Force members and posted on the Task Force web site.

Don S. expressed interest in the economics on any proposals the Task Force develops and recommended the viability of European, as well as US, models be evaluated.

BJ agreed the 120K tons of waste identified by DSWA should be the focus of our diversion efforts.

Bob Z. emphasized that regardless of the method of management recommended, the economics have to work.

Mike P. suggested a biogas company give a presentation at the next Task Force meeting.

Future Meetings:

- Thursday October 8, 2015 @ 3:00 at 391 Lukens Drive, New Castle, DE 19720
- ~~Monday November 9, 2015 @ 3:00 at 391 Lukens Drive, New Castle, DE 19720~~—Cancelled
- Monday December 7, 2015 @ 3:00 at 391 Lukens Drive, New Castle, DE 19720

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.