

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, June 18, 2008 (DRAFT)

Members Present: BJ Vinton (Chairman representing CSWSC)
Pat Todd (League of Women Voters)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Express of Delaware)
Dick Fleming (Delaware Nature Society)
Dick Cecil (Del. Association of Counties)
Pat Canzano (DSWA)
Nancy Marker (DNREC) *proxy
Robert Mooney (League of Local Government)
Wally Kremer (DelEASI)

Members Absent: Steve Masterson (Waste Management)
Ptery Iris (IRSD)

Non-Members Present: Jim Short (DNREC) Rob Underwood (DNREC)
Lynette Lee (DNREC) Nancy Marker (DNREC)
June MacArtor (LWV) Paul Sample (Tech. Advisor office Legis. Council)
Bruce Georgov (IDS) Bob Barrish (Citizen)
Sharyn Hall (IDS) Linda Powell (Palmatory's Sanitation)
David Matushik (GDR) Andrew Foldi (Brandywine Springs Civic Assoc.)
Michael Parkowski (DSWA) Gary Smith (DEDO)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:34 p.m. He welcomed everyone and asked for people to introduce themselves.

Public Comments

There were no public comments written or verbal.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

BJ had changes to the minutes... " BJ has been studying the suitability for a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) here in Delaware. He believes that Delaware is missing out on substantial opportunities and economic development." The changes were accepted to the minutes from the March meeting. Pat T. motioned the minutes be approved with no changes, Paul B. seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved with no changes.

Measurement and Methodology Sub-Committee Reporting Update

There has been some debate within the committee about changing the reporting frequency. It has been decided the frequency will remain the same. Due to lack of funds we will not be able to guarantee a report on recycling rate in 2009. Dick F. passed out samples of the cover sheet for the report. Paul B. asked now the cover is completed "What is the timeline for distribution?" Jim S. answered approximately two weeks.

Value of Landfill Diversion Sub-Committee

Dick Fleming commented that the M&M Subcommittee has just completed and reported on a lengthy but extremely valuable study of the types and quantities of materials diverted from Delaware landfills in 2006. That study tells us where we are today regarding diversion. He then noted the value of concentrating RPAC's resources on specific and major efforts that can significantly increase that diversion percentage. He asked "What will be the next 'big thing' that RPAC will tackle?" He suggested that while the Council will be discussing many different issues, there is value in selecting one highly significant target on which to focus our resources. There was a brief follow-up discussion of possible targets,

including for example W. Kremer's suggestion of beginning an effort aimed at exploring options for organized collection in New Castle County, but no conclusion was reached.

***Please see attached document for full comments from Dick Fleming.**

Pat C. asked “why are we doing this study?” We should first figure out the purpose. This process began a year ago and the landscape of recycling has greatly changed since then. Before we do anymore studies we need to focus on the purpose. Pat T. said the study should be done for those legislators who are against recycling, those who are in favor of recycling a study is not needed. Pat T. also added the Governor’s Energy Advisory Council is updating the energy plan of 2004. Recycling should be a part of that, if we can convince people recycling is energy saving and reduces CO₂ it will help our efforts.

Recycling Assistance Grant Program

Jim W. told the committee the Recycling Grant Assistance Program has been officially cut from the Division of Air and Waste Management’s budget. The grant assistance program was one of the few generally funded items DAWM had.

Organized Trash Collection Study

Wally K. suggested we study the benefit of trash collection in Delaware. DeLEASI has a lot of technically trained people who can assist RPAC in this study. Wally K. proposed RPAC establish a subcommittee to study the potential benefits of organized trash collection to New Castle County. This subcommittee reviews the various approaches taken by different locales across the country and that is issue a report of its findings to the Council. Wally said “I further move that this subcommittee be open to the public and that DeLEASI be approached to have volunteers participate in the study and in writing the report.”

BJ asked does this type of study make sense for Delaware. Bob B. a study like this is appropriate. The potential problems should be studied, there should be a balance. Dick F. said this should also include problems because those are important as well. Bob B. added it’s not a matter of educating the public, they know what the costs differences are. You must convince them to do it.

***Please see attached written statement from Andrew Foldi**

Jim W. asked what is the goal and how will the product be used? Is it in the scope of RPAC? We are supposed to be focusing on recycling and this has more to do with MSW. DNREC does not have the funding to do outreach with the cuts we lost the position that would be able to do this. Pat T. suggested RPAC approach Pam Maier to put in a House Joint Resolution to form a task force to do the study. Dick F. reserved his vote until Pat T. discusses vision for RPAC. Wally K. withdraws his motion while alternate means of evaluating this issue are investigated.

Old Business

HB159 came up for debate in the house was not voted on but tabled. The amendment from Pam Maier has been removed from bill. Jim W. said the next time HB159 comes up there will be no debate but a strict vote.

Andrew F. asked who sets the tipping fees at Cherry Island Landfill. Pat C. explained DSWA sets the fees but it is done by a contract and the contracts are not renewable until 2010.

Pat T. explained the three – five goals for RPAC she developed. Organized trash collection study would be added to this list. Pat T. suggested RPAC focus on something that will take only a year to complete. Then the Council would choose another goal to complete. This is the process/approach we should take to get goals completed. Notify Pat T. if you would like any items added to the list.

Jim S. has been working on responses to the Dan Bockover questions; they will be distributed by email to all the council.

Jim S. further reported the Polly Drummond and DART sites produced over 4,400 cubic tons of mulch. The mulch at the Polly Drummond site mulch is gone, and DART will soon be depleted. 99.5% of what was in the mulch pile was yard waste.

New Business

Gary Smith of DEDO came and spoke to the group at the Green Industries Program. It is a tax credit program for any businesses in Delaware that recycle. The program will be sun setting June 30, 2009 unless renewed. An application and further information can be obtained from the DEDO's website.

Schedule for Future Meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at the Appoquinimink State Service Center, located 122 Silver Lake Rd. in Middletown

The meeting adjourned around 3:25 p.m.