

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee/ Recycling Fund Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2015**

The following members were present:

Michele Nestor, Chair
Eli Brill
James (Jim) Close
John Frederick
Joyce Hatala
Gregg Pearson
Mark Pedersen
Joseph (Joe) Reinhart
Edward (Ed) Vogel
Robert (Bob) Watts, Vice-Chair
Gerald (Jerry) Zona
John Vataavuk
Shannon Reiter

The following members were absent:

Tanya McCoy-Caretti
John Over

The following guests and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff members were present:

Winnie Okello	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Jim Lambert	Monroe County Waste Authority
Amy Mozella di Bosco	Lebanon County
Mary Webber	Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association
Bob Bylone	Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center
Justin Stockdale	Pennsylvania Resources Council
Jason Yorks	Lycoming County Resource Management Service
R. Stephen Tucker	Lycoming County Resource Management Service
Matt Blaskovich	Department of General Services
Donna Cooper	Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority
David Gordon	Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority
Chris Solloway	DEP Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
Jeff Bednar	DEP BWM
Keith Ashley	DEP BWM
Ali Morris	DEP BWM
Pete Zirilli	DEP BWM
Stacey Dill	DEP BWM
Lisa Beatty	DEP BWM
JoAnne Yurcaba	DEP BWM
Larry Holley	DEP BWM
Todd Pejack	DEP BWM
Joseph Stine	DEP Bureau Regulatory Counsel
Jessica Shirley	DEP Policy Office

Call to Order; Introduction of Members and Guests; Approval of Minutes of April 2, 2015; Old Business
The September 24, 2015, meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) and the Recycling Fund Advisory Committee (RFAC) was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Michele Nestor, Chair. Ms. Nestor asked for introductions of committee members and guests.

The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

RECYCLING FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Review of FY 2014-2015 Recycling Fund Expenditures

Larry Holley, Chief of BWM's Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, presented the 2014-2015 Recycling Fund Expenditures. Mr. Holley expects approximately four 901 waste planning grants to be submitted this fiscal year. For calendar year 2012, \$16,291,000 was distributed through the 904 Municipal Recycling Program Performance Grants. The deadline for submitting 904 grants is October 2, 2015. Handouts summarizing grant expenditures were provided to the committee. Mr. Holley indicated that approximately \$37 million is expected to be awarded annually for all grants through 2019-2020.

Public Education and Technical Assistance Expenditures

Mr. Holley presented a breakdown of the Public Education and Technical Assistance Expenditures from the Recycling Fund for FY 2016-2017. The total appropriation for Public Education & Technical Assistance is \$3,354,000, which includes the following entities:

- 1) Recycling/Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) Hotline (currently out for bid);
- 2) Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP) – Continuing Education & Technical Training (to be determined);
- 3) Commonwealth Recycling Implementation and Data Collection;
- 4) Recycling Markets Center;
- 5) Convenience Centers;
- 6) Dept. of Community & Economic Development;
- 7) Dept. of General Services;
- 8) Dept. of Transportation; and
- 7) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Act 190, Funding.

Mr. Holley explained that PROP's Continuing Education and Technical Training Program item is listed as "to be determined" because the current contract with PROP expired in Spring 2015. Mr. Holley stated that he has received several proposals from PROP which describe the services PROP would perform in 2016; however, no proposals have been approved by DEP at this time.

Several members requested a more detailed explanation of how monies are spent by entities receiving funding. Mr. Holley explained the rationale for funding for each line item in the spending plan.

Update: Recycling Convenience Center Grant Program

Todd Pejack, of BWM's Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, provided an overview of a proposed Recycling Convenience Center (CC) Grant Program. The program aims to encourage the construction of CC's to provide a collection point for recyclables in rural areas. The currently proposed concept provides \$100,000 to \$500,000 in funding to establish up to two pilot projects in the program's first year. Counties or county solid waste authorities would be eligible to participate in the CC Grant Program. DEP plans to require grant recipients to partner with the private sector for the processing and marketing of the materials. Mr. Close asked how the private sector would be involved the CC's. Mr. Pejack stated that private companies would transport and process materials collected. Private companies are not eligible to receive any funding related to the CC's.

DEP hopes to finalize the program and begin its implementation in 2015. DEP may consider providing an opportunity for CC's to accept solid waste in addition to recyclable materials. DEP does not plan to include funding for the purchase of land, maintenance of the facility, or any processing of the materials accepted as part of the program.

In response to questions raised by the committee members, Mr. Holley explained that if a CC were authorized to accept solid waste, it would be limited to accepting bagged waste within a specified daily limit. The waste would be required to be contained in a roll-off container and transferred off-site for disposal within one week. The facilities would be required to accept source-separated recyclables to prevent the commingling of waste with recyclable material, and the CC's must employ on-site staff and security measures to prevent unauthorized dumping or mixing of waste. There is still some question whether a CC would need a permit to operate.

Update: Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PRMC)

Bob Bylone, Executive Director of the PRMC, gave an overview of the PRMC's formation, structure, programming, business assistance, applied commercialization research, work planning, student engagement, and successes.

The PRMC was developed after the enactment of the 2002 amendments (Act 175) to the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act (Act 101). Both statutes reference the need for market development initiatives in Pennsylvania. An extensive recycling sustainability process contained in Act 175 directs DEP to develop a markets development center with Recycling Fund monies.

The PRMC provides technical assistance, business assistance, industry outreach and programming; an enterprise portal to recycling markets information; and applied commercialization research. The industry-wide program areas the PRMC currently addresses are:

- 1) Electronic scrap,
- 2) Organics,
- 3) Glass, and
- 4) Plastics.

Update: Department of General Services/DEP MOU

Matt Blascovich, warehouse manager with the Department of General Services (DGS), presented an update on the MOU between DGS and DEP, which provides DGS with Recycling Fund monies to help fund DGS's recycling program. For FY 2014-2015, the program collected 4,113 tons of office paper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, turnpike tickets and books. The program also collects and recycles metals, waste oil, antifreeze, batteries, pallets, toner cartridges, bottles, cans, plastic drums, ballasts, fluorescent lamps, tires, shredded hard drives, shrink wrap and rubber scrap. In FY 2014-2015, DEP provided \$200,000 from the Recycling Fund to support DGS's statewide recycling programs through its MOU with DGS.

Update: PennDOT Strategic Recycling Program (SRP)

Winnie OKello, Civil Engineer with PennDOT, presented an update on the MOU between PennDOT and DEP. The four main objectives of the MOU are to:

- 1) Establish and implement a waste reduction program for materials used in PennDOT operations;
- 2) Continually review and revise existing procedures and specifications;
- 3) Evaluate materials that may be recycled in transportation and civil engineering applications; and
- 4) Employ procurement and contract bidding options encouraging the use of recycled materials.

The MOU, along with the (SRP, was developed in 1998 to evaluate recycling opportunities throughout the Commonwealth and implement those opportunities identified in PennDOT operations. The overall objectives of the SRP are to realize economic savings and environmental enhancements to PennDOT and the Commonwealth; continue development and improvement of pollution prevention, recycling, and energy efficiency efforts; and encourage sound environmental and sustainable management practices.

There are several factors critical to the program, including the following five key focus areas:

- 1) Research the use of recycled materials;
- 2) Develop specifications and user guidelines;
- 3) Successfully incorporate recycled materials into transportation-related projects;
- 4) Provide outreach on the results of projects; and
- 5) Provide technical assistance to contractors who will be using the materials.

Ms. OKello also discussed PennDOT's recycling efforts through its Waste Audit Program, performed biannually to collect data on PennDOT's generation of solid waste and recyclables and the associated costs; provide evaluation of office waste management practices at PennDOT; measure the progress of solid waste management activities in PennDOT's central and district offices; enable district offices to identify areas of improvement; increase employee awareness of recycling methods; and demonstrate PennDOT's support and compliance with the Commonwealth's overall recycling goals. Ms. Okello reported that PennDOT is always looking for new applications for recyclable products.

Action Item: FY 2016-2017 Recycling Fund Spending Plan

Mr. Holley reviewed the Comparative Financial Statement and the planned expenses for FY 2016-2017. Ms. Reiter made a motion to approve the proposed spending plan with the following conditions:

- 1) PennDOT enhance its efforts to publicize the feasibility of, and encourage the use of, recycled materials in projects;
- 2) DGS enhance efforts to work with local recycling programs and offices across the Commonwealth;
- 3) The PRMC enhance efforts to address marketing challenges confronting public and private recycling programs.

Mr. Close seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Update: Performance Grants - Residuals

Todd Pejack, of BWM's Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, discussed the issue of non-recyclable materials (residuals) produced as a result of collecting recyclable materials. In the 904 grant program, municipalities are eligible for reimbursement for the total tons of recyclables collected in the previous year. During the collection of recyclable materials some non-recyclable materials are also collected. DEP has required municipalities to deduct 15% of the total tonnage reported annually to account for the collection of residuals. Some individuals filing their 904 grants have indicated the 15% deduction is too high. DEP polled various processing facilities which indicated that the 15% threshold is actually low. Therefore, DEP has retained the 15% rate. If applicants can document a lower percentage of residuals, they may be eligible for a higher reimbursement.

Public Comment; New Business

Ms. Nestor discussed the need to set dates for meetings in 2016. Ms. Nestor indicated that she will send suggested dates to members in the next few weeks. She also asked the committee members if they wanted to continue the 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. schedule. The members chose to keep the meetings to the 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. time frame.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m., moved by Shannon Reiter, and seconded by Joyce Hatala.