

## **Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of June 30, 2016**

**The following members were present:**

Michele Nestor, Chair  
Bob Watts, Vice-Chair  
John Over  
Ed Vogel  
Jerry Zona  
John Frederick  
Joyce Hatala  
Joe Reinhart

**The following members were absent:**

Eli Brill  
Shannon Reiter  
Gregg Pearson  
Jim Close  
Tanya McCoy-Caretti

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

Mike Crist	Clinton County SWA
Mary Webber	PA Waste Industry Association
Kelly Megonnel	York County SWA
Micheal J LaCoe	Waste Management
Karen Flanders	Casella Waste Systems
Larry Shilling	Casella Waste Systems
Katie Hetherington Cunfer	DEP Citizens Advisory Council
Bob Bylone	Recycling Markets Centers
Barbara Baker	Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority
Jim Echard	BAI Group
Jim Lambert	Monroe County Waste Authority
Walt Harner	DEP - Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
Tom Mellott	DEP BWM
Ali Morris	DEP BWM
Jason Dunham	DEP BWM
Chris Solloway	DEP BWM
Joanne Yurcaba	DEP BWM
Lisa Beatty	DEP BWM
Scott Walters	DEP BWM
Abbey Cadden	DEP Policy Office

**Call to Order; Introduction of Members and Guests; Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2016 & April 27, 2016; Old Business**

The June 30, 2016 meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Michele Nestor, Chair. Ms. Nestor asked for introductions of committee members and guests.

Ms. Nestor called for a motion to approve the January 21, 2016, meeting minutes. Ed Vogel made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Joe Reinhart. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Nestor called for a motion to approve the April 27, 2016, meeting minutes. Ed Vogel made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Joyce Hatala. The motion carried unanimously. There was no old business.

Walt Harner, Bureau Director, Bureau of Waste Management introduced himself to the committee explaining his background, work history, and education, as well as previous positions within the Department of Environmental Protection.

**Roundtable Discussion - Act 101 Past, Present & Future**

Michele Nestor, Chair, moderated a segment regarding Act 101, fielding questions and comments from the members.

Ms. Nestor discussed how the December 31, 2019 sunset of the \$2.00/ton recycling fee authorized by Act 101 will impact the various grants that are paid out of the Recycling Fund and how many possible rounds of grants would be left until the sunset date is reached. Her hope is that there will be a call-to-action to presumably renew the Recycling Fee.

Ms. Hatala proposed establishment of a subcommittee to better address the issues and develop ideas for the future of Act 101; and some members agreed that it should be pursued and organized.

**Settlement Accommodation Plan (SAP)**

Jason Dunham, BWM, Division of Municipal & Residual Waste gave a presentation on DEP's Settlement Accommodation Plan for landfills. DEP intends to have standard operating procedures for SAPs published in the PA Bulletin by the end of 2016.

Mr. Dunham explained that the SAP would allow landfills to maximize the amount of permitted volume to save future green space. DEP has developed a way to accurately predict how much settlement will occur based on years of collected data and analysis.

A landfill operation must be in compliance to have an SAP approved. If a landfill is not correctly implementing the SAP or otherwise causing compliance issues, DEP will suspend the SAP.

Follow-up monitoring of settlement and careful installation of grades in accordance with the SAP are required. Permitted elevations must be achieved within 5 years after final waste acceptance.

So far, two permits have been modified allowing two landfills to obtain a combined 2 million cubic yards of additional disposal capacity on the same landfill footprint.

### **Recycling Agricultural Plastic**

Bob Bylone, Executive Director, Recycling Markets Center gave a presentation that outlined types of agricultural plastics; management issues with the plastics; collection, processing, end use/re-use infrastructure; and current markets development initiatives.

Management challenges are compounded by the materials being used and stored in the elements and therefore containing significant residues of soil, plant debris, moisture, etc. High collection costs and rural locations are another obstacle especially considering the bulky, but low density material has a relatively low commodity value.

Mr. Bylone gave an example of typical soil liner or weed barrier after use that is approximately 60% contaminated (by weight). This residual contamination adds complexity in processing and reusing this material. Unfortunately, much of this material is stockpiled on farm land and is sometimes burned or buried due to the difficulty in disposing and processing for recycling.

Mr. Bylone mentioned that there are ways to prepare the plastics for release to market or disposal; however, they are very labor intensive which limits their viability.

The Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling program (PPCR), developed and operated by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, recycles clean pesticide containers from 165 collection locations statewide. The storage units for this program are manned to ensure that they are not getting filled with residue filled pesticide containers. A portable grinding unit travels around to these sites retrieving both rigid high-density polyethylene and polypropylene which is then ground and sold to market.

The PPCR has seen success thus far due to:

- Industry support through Agricultural Container Recycling Council (ACRC) which is a best practice sharing mechanism from state to state and program to program.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE)-developed Standard S596 regarding pesticide container recycling which is in concert with EPA pesticide labeling and rinsing requirements.

The farming community has recently warmed to pesticide container recycling requirements and Mr. Bylone offered some best management practices regarding the handling of other agricultural plastic he hoped to see them adopt.

**Public Comment; New Business**

The meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m., moved by Joyce Hatala and seconded by Bob Watts.