

**Recycling Fund Advisory Committee / Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2016**

The following members were present:

Michele Nestor, Chair
Robert Watts, Vice-Chair
Edward Vogel
Eli Brill
John Frederick
Shannon Reiter
Gregg Pearson
Gerald Zona
Joyce Hatala
John Vataavuk
Joseph Reinhart

The following members were absent:

James Close
John Over, Jr.
Tanya McCoy-Caretti

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

Matt Blascovich	Department of General Services (DGS)
Mary Webber	PA Waste Industries Association
Joanne Shaffer	Centre County Recycling & Refuse Authority
Winnie Okello	Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Amy Mazzella di Bosco	Lebanon County Refuse Authority
Barbara Baker	Lancaster County Professional Recyclers of PA (PROP)
Lisa Shaefer	County Commissioners' Association of PA
Wayne Bowen	Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PARMC)
Walt Harner	DEP Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
Lawrence Holley	DEP BWM
Todd Pejack	DEP BWM
Joanne Yurcaba	DEP BWM
Chris Noble	DEP BWM
Laura Henry	DEP BWM
Jason Dunham	DEP BWM
Chris Solloway	DEP BWM
Stacey Dill	DEP Grants Center
Lorrie McKenna	DEP Grants Center
Abbey Cadden	DEP Policy Office
Debbie Jennings	DEP Policy Office

Call to Order; Introduction of Members and Guests; Approval of Minutes of June 30, 2016; Old Business

The September 22, 2016, meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) was called to order at 10:05 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 June 30, 2016, meeting minutes. John Frederick requested the minutes reflect that discussion included the importance of landfill waste-to-energy. Eli Brill pointed out that his alternate attended in his absence and wanted that reflected in the minutes. Joyce Hatala made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested changes, which was seconded by Bob Watts. The motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Review of FY 2015-2016 Recycling Fund Expenditures

Lawrence Holley, Chief of BWM's Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, presented the 2015-2016 Recycling Fund Expenditures. Handouts summarizing grant expenditures were provided to the committee. Seven Section 901 waste planning grants were awarded in FY 2015-16, totaling \$336,483. DEP funded 126 Section 902 grants for a total amount of \$17.1 million. The deadline for submitting 2015 Section 904 Municipal Recycling Performance Grants is September 30, 2016; the number of applications DEP anticipates receiving is expected to be greater than the 746 received for 2014.

FY 2017-2018 Recycling Fund Spending Plan

Mr. Holley presented a breakdown of the Recycling Fund budget for FY 2017-2018. He discussed line items and the levels of funding for items such as administrative costs and funding for the Sections 901, 902 and 904 grant programs. Mr. Holley then outlined the Public Education and Technical Assistance Expenditures' \$3,354,000 appropriation; this amount fully or partially funds the following:

- 1) Recycling/Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) Hotline;
- 2) PROP (Continuing Education & Technical Training);
- 3) Commonwealth Recycling Implementation;
- 4) Recycling Markets Development Center;
- 5) Department of Community & Economic Development (Training);
- 6) Department of General Services;
- 7) Department of Transportation; and
- 8) Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Act 190 Funding.

All members received handouts and spreadsheets with a more detailed explanation of how the entities that receive funding spend those funds. Mr. Holley explained the funding rationale for each line item in the spending plan.

There was discussion regarding the appropriation of the funds across the fiscal years and how that would impact the program. This discussion focused mainly on convenience centers, the lack of proposed funding for these sites in the Department's Spend Plan, and the Committee's disappointment with that fact. Discussion culminated in the realization that it was necessary for the Committee to formalize this issue as a priority.

A motion was made by Shannon Reiter for the committee to prioritize rural access to convenient, affordable trash disposal and recycling in Pennsylvania. After some additional discussion, Ms. Reiter amended her motion to move that the Committee prioritize convenient disposal and recycling access in Pennsylvania through regulation, which was seconded by John Frederick; the motion carried unanimously.

The committee members discussed approving the spending plan as presented. A motion to approve was made by Shannon Reiter and seconded by Jerry Zona; the motion carried by majority vote, with one opposing vote from John Frederick.

Update: Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PARMC) Recycling Economic Impact Study

Wayne Bowen, Recycling Program Manager with the PARMC, gave an update on the Recycling Economic Impact study PARMC is conducting to measure the economic impact of the Pennsylvania recycling industry.

Mr. Bowen provided the committee with a timeline of events that the study is following, with the Final Report preparation scheduled to take place in November/December 2016.

Mr. Bowen highlighted some of the Study Boundaries, including the types of facilities and operations that are in the study. A total of 26 separate sectors are included; these sectors are broken down into three different categories (Supply, Demand, and Reuse/Remanufacturing).

Mr. Bowen confirmed that the study's focus is not limited exclusively to the impact of recycling of municipal waste; it will include recycling of post-industrial materials.

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. The program recycled 7.3 million pounds of office paper, mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, newspaper, turnpike tickets and books in FY 2015-2016. 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.

Some of the items collected are able to be resold at the DGS surplus store, which is open to the public, allowing DGS to gain a revenue return on collected items. Mr. Blascovich highlighted that while not all items are able to be resold, DGS has been able to minimize costs in the collection of many materials at no cost to the commonwealth.

Mr. Blascovich reported that over 1.9 million pounds of rubber tires were recycled last year.

DGS also helps agencies through online training, electronic communication via Listserv, and through the online reporting website. Online reporting helps capture data relating to recycled materials and the amounts collected.

DGS also offers green purchasing, which helps state agencies utilize items that are recycled or remanufactured for their offices.

Some of the future initiatives that DGS has planned include CNG vehicles and fill stations, performing waste audits, and increasing participation in the reporting process. The current reporting participation rate is 18 percent.

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 Strategic Recycling Program (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 enhancement 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 other aspects of the SRP, such as conferences and specification review/updates for post-consumer asphalt shingles; in-place pavement recycling processes; recycling consideration of asphalt rubber; and bituminous pavement.

Ms. Okello gave an overview of the waste tire recycling program and explained how the districts across the state are more accurately reporting the amount of waste tires collected. Ms. Okello showed that over 14,000 tons of waste tires, from both roadside collection and PennDOT vehicles, had been recycled in 2015.

Update: Act 101 Section 904 Recycling Performance Grant Program

Todd Pejack, of BWM's Division of Waste Minimization and Planning, discussed the Section 904 grant program. The program has been giving out more money each year to the municipalities, which continue to experience increases in the amount of materials they recycle each year.

Mr. Pejack addressed the issue of non-recyclable materials (residues) 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 residues are also collected.

DEP has required municipalities to deduct 15% of the total tonnage reported annually to account for residue. In previous years, if applicants could document a lower percentage of residues, they would be eligible for a higher reimbursement. However, with changes in the materials collected, transported and processed, the 15% residue rate has been found to be too low. Therefore, to more accurately reflect the current overall residue rate, the DEP is looking at making the 15% rate standard, unless applicants can document what was actually marketed.

Another issue that DEP is looking into is how to deal with municipalities who are joining together and submitting a joint application for no discernible reason other than to gain a larger grant award. This depletes the money available for the performance grant and could lead to DEP amending the formula to account for these joint applications.

Public Comment; New Business

Ms. Nestor discussed the need to set dates for meetings in 2017. Ms. Nestor indicated that she will work with Laura Henry and send suggested dates to members in the next few weeks.

Shannon Reiter moved to adjourn, seconded by Joyce Hatala. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.