

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of March 30, 2023**

The following members were present:

John Frederick, Chair
Michele Nestor, Vice Chair
Eli Brill
Mike Forbeck
Brian Guzzone
Jason Leck
Frank Mazza
Timothy O'Donnell
Greg Pearson
Joe Reinhart
Shannon Reiter
Kyle Rosato
Joanne Shafer
Bob Watts
Gerald Zona

The following members were absent:

Gordon Burgoyne
Ed Vogel
James Welty

The following alternates were present:

Elizabeth Bertha Vogel Holding, Inc./on behalf of Ed Vogel

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

Derek Bartram	DEP Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
Wayne Bowen	Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PennRMC)
Robert Bylone	PennRMC
Brian Chalfant	DEP Policy Office
Richard Fox	Executive Director, PA House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
Laura Griffin	DEP Policy Office
April Hain	DEP BWM/Acting Recording Secretary
Veronica Harris	Montgomery County Solid Waste Authority
Laura Henry	DEP BWM/Liaison to the Committee
Lawrence Holley	DEP BWM
Jeff Ivicic	PA Senate Policy Office

Josephine Martin	Management for Sustainability, LLC
Amy Mazzella di Bosco	Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority/Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP)
Tom Mellott	DEP BWM
Ali Tarquino Morris	DEP Office of Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation (WARR)
Jay Patel	DEP Bureau of Clean Water (BCW)
Thomas Pullar	EARTHRES
Jessica Shilladay	DEP SCRO Waste Management Program
Nikolina Smith	DEP Bureau of Regulatory Counsel (BRC)
Chris Solloway	DEP BWM
Jennifer Summers	PROP
Lucas Swanger	DEP BWM
Megan	No affiliation
Pete	No affiliation

Call to Order; Introduction of Members and Guests; Approval of Minutes of December 15, 2022; Old Business

John Frederick, Chair, called the hybrid meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. by welcoming new SWAC members Frank Mazza and Kyle Rosato. Laura Henry conducted roll attendance and introduced guests. Chair Frederick called for a motion to approve the December 15, 2022, SWAC meeting minutes. Jason Leck made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Shannon Reiter; the motion carried unanimously. No old business was raised.

Action Item: Election of Officers

Chair Frederick called upon Shannon Reiter from the Nominations Committee to share the 2023 nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair. Following a brief overview of the nominations process, Ms. Reiter presented incumbents Mr. Frederick and Michelle Nestor as the nominees for Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Joanne Shafer made a motion to accept and approve the nominees, seconded by Tim O'Donnell; the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Frederick indicated that he would be entering semi-retirement later in 2023 and requested SWAC members consider different nominees for Chair in the next election cycle.

Public Comments

No public comments were presented for discussion.

Discussion Item: DEP-Initiated General Permit for Anaerobic Digestion at Sewage Treatment Facilities

Chris Solloway, Division Chief for Municipal and Residual Waste, introduced the DEP-Initiated General Permit (GP) for Anaerobic Digestion (AD) at Sewage Treatment Facilities (STFs). Mr. Solloway discussed the increased demand for co-digestion of sewage sludge and high organic waste streams at STFs. This process has several environmental and economic benefits, including reduction in organic material disposal at landfills and the use of recovered methane as an energy

source. The existing permitting options for this activity are somewhat complicated and not comprehensive.

The new GP would authorize permitted STFs to process by anaerobic digestion combinations of sewage and pre- and post-consumer waste from commercial and industrial operations; and the subsequent beneficial use of the digestate as a soil amendment. The GP would cover storage, processing by anaerobic digestion, land application; and include permit conditions for PFAS monitoring and reporting, management of packaged soil amendment materials, pathogen/vector control, and other analytical testing. The draft GP will be reviewed with the Agriculture Advisory Board prior to publication for public comment.

Committee members and guests proposed questions on the following:

- 1) Biogas management and training requirements.
- 2) Environmental Justice (EJ) considerations.
- 3) Limitations on facility siting, footprint and material quantities.
- 4) Public perception and outreach on sewage-derived soil amendments.
- 5) Monitoring and sorting of feedstock material.
- 6) Consideration to include household source-separated organics as an acceptable feedstock.
- 7) NPDES permitting requirements.

Mr. Solloway explained that air emissions would be regulated by the Air Quality program. Any coverage suggestions, including coverage for turning digestate into fuel, could be made during the public comment period.

Additionally, while EJ is typically considered for individual permits, DEP would put forth the necessary effort in incorporating EJ into the GP if necessary. Facilities covered under the GP would typically have an established footprint so expanding the facility to receive higher quantities of material would not be feasible in most cases.

Mr. Solloway and Lawrence Holley clarified that incoming material would need to be tested and monitored by the facility and permitted disposal facilities would not be allowed to divert organics from incoming waste to be anaerobically digested due to potentially harmful contaminants that may have been mixed with the organics. Any bulk waste processing would need to be covered by an individual permit; however, household source separated organics coverage could be mentioned in the GP.

Finally, Mr. Solloway indicated that facilities not having an NPDES permit could be covered under the GP. Such a facility would need to demonstrate proper handling of generated effluent.

Discussion Item: 2023 Committee Priorities

Chair Frederick opened discussions on possible issues for the committee to consider for 2023. Mr. Frederick mentioned special waste and recyclables not covered by the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act, Act 101 of 1988 and PA's continual struggles with food, electronics, and paint recovery despite efforts. Additional issues mentioned by other SWAC members included proper disposal and recycling of defibrillators, improper consumer

disposal of lithium ion batteries, increasing problems with artificial turf disposal, and electric vehicle disposal, all of which brought Covered Device Recycling Act, Act 108 of 2010 (CDRA) coverage expansion into question. Mr. Holley explained that producer responsibility should be considered for post-consumer material handling and adding new materials into CDRA is not favorable. Rather, DEP needs to consider how to conduct public outreach and encourage waste generators to think about how they are disposing of waste.

Ms. Reiter mentioned universal waste collection access and the ever-present problem of illegal dumping as issues of interest and requested an update to the new rural transfer facility regulations. Several SWAC members provided positive feedback to the new rural transfer facility.

Bob Bylone announced a Market Development Summit on rechargeable batteries to be hosted by PennRMC on June 22, 2023, at Hotel Bethlehem in Bethlehem, PA. The Summit conflicts with the next scheduled SWAC meeting; members discussed the possibility of rescheduling the meeting.

Ms. Henry solicited more information about recurring requests from the Committee for clarifications on the Waste Transportation Safety Program and procedures for one-time exemptions. She requested members contact Lucas Swanger to provide discussion points to DEP following the meeting.

New Business

No new business was raised.

Chair Frederick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion made by Mr. Leck. The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.