

MEETING NOTES
Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee
***Business & Industry Stakeholders Meeting #2**

Date of Meeting: 3:00 PM, Wednesday, August 25, 2010
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA
Meeting #: **Business & Industry Stakeholder Meeting #2**
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Mike Goldman opened the meeting and handed out the current project schedule to those who did not have one. Mike asked everyone to introduce themselves. He asked if anyone had any comments or changes to the notes from the last meeting. No one responded. Terry Keene reminded everyone that the notes from all previous meetings are on the website and he encouraged everyone to view the site.

Mike commented about the questionnaires he sent out prior to this meeting, stating that industry is one line of questioning. Industry has specific recycling requirements related to things they buy or recycle. The other line of questioning is geared toward institutions, represented by Bucknell, Bloomsburg, Susquehanna, and Lycoming Universities. These groups have different interests. The interests are driven by what the students want to see. Students believe recycling is the right thing to do and they want to recycle more. The other part, however, has to do with the end of the school term when the students leave a lot of things behind.

Mike commented that a suggestion was made at the last meeting to emphasize recycling and that we are interested in getting input from this group. He went around the room for individual industry feedback based upon the survey that was sent out (see attached):

Jason Dagle from Wood Mode:

- 1) recycled materials: glass waste, metals, wood, oil-based paints and they are recycling these currently. Dave Minnear asked if Wood Mode is coordinating that individually with a hauler. Jason responded that Lycoming County is handling the bulk of those materials. He stated that the municipality is not capable of handling their needs and they are only handling residential recycling, including (maybe) the smaller businesses, at this time. It was stated that there is no large subscription service for any boroughs or townships in his area. Jason stated that it's been discussed in the past to designate areas or suppliers/haulers for an area but generally the Township Supervisors do not want to get involved in the designation process. Mike Goldman asked if Jason had any indication of volumes yet. Jason mentioned that he has not gathered that information yet. He did comment that they currently burn wood.
- 2) What materials would they like to see recycled?: plastic wrapping, plastic sheeting (particle board, over the road plastic sheeting), plastic banding,

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unused paint samples (they end up with many paint samples due to their custom color work – 100-150 gallons oil based within a month).

- 3) Opinions re: Clearinghouse?: he feels it should be one clearinghouse that handles everything. Who should handle? Jason stated that he doesn't know if that should be DEP, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. Mike Goldman mentioned a website (for certain inorganics) called www.materialtrader.org. Another website is called www.biomasttrader.org/Pennsylvania (it specializes in organic materials). These websites seem to be oriented to recycling the kinds of materials we're talking about. Mike commented that both of these websites are operated by the SBDC. That sort of thing does exist for the industrial side of recycling exchange but it's not known how big or how small.

Vince DiLoretto from Bloomsburg University is representing academia:

- 1) recycled materials: glass, steel cans, magazines, plastics, scrap metal, electronics, fluorescent lamps, hazardous waste chemicals, etc. The volume is approximately 5 lbs (156,000 lbs. of recyclable materials in 2009). The bulk of this is cardboard. He feels that they did approximately 50-60,000 lbs of scrap metal. Cardboard is the biggest bulk.
- 2) Bloomsburg would like to do more with rechargeable batteries. Vince commented that he doesn't know of any more but he's willing to take suggestions. Bloomsburg has a Campus Green Committee and they have had discussions about this subject. Mike mentioned that composting is a major issue. Vince said he's running into stumbling blocks of location, permitting, etc., regarding composting. Terry Keene asked about the reuse of things that are thrown away. Vince said Bloomsburg has a "trash to treasure" event and they work through the local United Way. They will gather all these items, haul it away from the University and then the Charity has an event that sells it and they get the proceeds. Terry asked when the items are picked up. Vince said the pick-ups are throughout the semester so they don't have to store everything since storage is in small supply. The University also has surplus furniture and people call to see if they have things. The University allows shopping for non-profit organizations and they take items that are left over.
- 3) Opinion re: Clearinghouse: the University gets monthly waste slips of what the hauler is taking for them. Mike asked if a central clearinghouse would be appropriate or does the University feel it should be separated out? Vince is already taking his recycling to a recycler, and that recycler is marketing it. Dave Minnear commented that this discussion is about materials that Bloomsburg doesn't want and can easily be sold, but that Bloomsburg is going to run into materials such as carpeting, etc. that they can't get rid of. Dave asked again if the University wants a central clearinghouse or two types of clearinghouses specific to what they need? Vince said it would be simpler

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to have a central clearinghouse. 3B) Private. 3C) no. Vince mentioned that he currently has problems with alkaline batteries. Michelle Ferguson from DEP said that unfortunately there is no avenue for those currently.

Charlie Benner representing agriculture and farmers:

- 1) he commented that he's combining question one and two together for agriculture. Materials: Plastic wrap from bales (gets dirty), straps, film, etc., he feels most is currently being burned but if it was more cost-effective to recycle, he feels the farmers would recycle. Waste motor oil – most farmers use it to burn or they take care of it themselves with local garages, etc. Farmers have tires too, and a lot of the time the farmers go back to where they purchase them. Charlie stated that economics would definitely play a role in agriculture. He stated that chemical containers are a problem, but sometimes once a year a flyer comes around announcing a way for agriculture to recycle those. Not shrink-wrap but the plastics are pretty thick.
- 3) Regarding a Clearinghouse, he doesn't know – industry has some needs and the common household has a different need. 3B) The Chamber of Commerce does not want to be responsible for this but by suggestion possibly the SEDA COG might be some place to look at (government function). Terry said there is a PA Recycling Center located at PSU Harrisburg Campus. They'll help match up materials; it is kind of like a Craig's list. Michelle from DEP stated that they have their own recycling website that allows for searching for materials. Terry asked if she's seen anything on the NE Industrial Waste Exchange – she responded no. Rob Steinberger from Walmart mentioned the website www.freecycle.com; it's anything you want to get rid of but it's individually driven. Craig's list is the same thing.

Jeff Bower– Andritz, Inc., machinery manufacturer and foundry:

- 1) waste metals and cardboard.
- 2) Potentially recyclable materials are foundry waste, bag house dusts, NE material exchange and the kinds of things they have are not something people are interested in either because of quantity or quality. He's attempted to find homes for things like foundry sand, etc. It's still an up and down market; they don't have much success in those markets on a large scale.
- 3) Re: the Clearinghouse: Mike asked if he thought it would be more effective than his contacts. Jeff feels a government agency would focus on a larger scale and if it was a government related issue, there's a bigger picture, more opportunities to find things that would spark an interest. It's a better possibility. 3A) On that same issue, we're not throwing away items like bookcases, etc. There could be a lot of overlap – cardboard, paper products, etc., but again if there were a central place, finding a home would increase chances. 3C) no idea who would be good to handle this.

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Mike Mitchell from NGC Industries:

- 1) presently recycles (consumer of waste paper: 100-120,000 lbs of waste paper per year). He recycles 90,000 lbs of steel and other metals. He pays someone to take away his used pallets (about 10 tons per year).
- 2) Mike commented about his used oil – he’s not allowed to send it to a garage down the road since parts of it is cleaner fluid. It all goes to a material handler including bulks and batteries handed to a recycler. The vast majority of material they put out is a mixture of wire, strapping, wood fiber, etc., and it all goes to the landfill. He found out that a local farmer is looking to put a digester in and he may be interested in the wood fiber. He’s found others in North Carolina that may take some of his structural material. He tries to get rid of 4,000 wet tons per year. Chemical barrels (60 per year) that manufacturing will not take back, i.e., #2 plastic (55 gal drum) – he just can’t get rid of them. Jason Dagle suggested that he talk to Matt Roberts at Keystone Pallets, located in Milton, for his pallets and he’ll take them for free.
- 3) His thoughts on a clearinghouse is more of an information source. Mike asked who he calls if he has a ton of plastics to recycle. The others are great ideas but we’re looking for knowledgeable experts who will say “forget it you can’t recycle it” or “yeah, this guy can use that”. Maybe a landfill or DEP should provide this kind of service to industry. Mike commented that the information shared here has been great and its hard to find it out there.

Tina Vogan from Walmart:

- 1) recycles cardboard, plastic, paper, aluminum, composts, has containers behind their buildings (July alone was 9,500 lbs). All composted material is produce (no meat products). Terry asked how many stores represent the 9,500 lbs. Tina responded that it’s just the Bloomsburg store. He asked if the other stores do the same thing. Tina responded yes. Tina commented that if the stores aren’t super stores, they don’t do as much, but they all recycle. Tina said they recycle cardboard – 99 bales, plastic recycling, perishable meats (4,900 lbs in July) – it gets recycled to local farmers; tires and used oil are picked up and sent out, pallets are sent back, recycled and reused within the company (plastics and cardboard boxes).
- 2) One thing they would like to recycle better is aluminum. They try to recycle everything. They have recycling set up where everything has their own area – bales have to be correct so they get credit back for what they recycle. They recycle what’s generated within the store. Dave asked if they could accept items from outside their store – they are not set up to accept items outside their store.
- 3) the general clearinghouse would handle peaks and volumes. 3B) most is

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handled thru a private organization and Tina can try to get some information on their processes and efficiencies. Tina stated that the composting is not as bad as what was originally thought. They can call for extra pick up – but otherwise it's once every two weeks.

As a recap, Mike commented that people feel they are recycling as much as they can. What they can't recycle is because there is no market for it. As far as a clearinghouse goes, we need 1) a smart guy and 2) a waste exchange. Mike Mitchell said it sounds like there is some of that available, like the knowledge just needs to get out there. Steve Tucker asked if West Branch Manufacturing Association was a good resource. Jason Dagle stated they are no longer functioning; they are now a part of manufacturer's association out of Erie, PA. Mike stated that the consensus seems to be that the clearinghouse should be a governmental function. John Matthias said Union County has an environmental initiative that might be able to help.

Kevin McJunkin stated that if there is a way to have a website out there to search and then to be able to talk to someone about it, that would be a great thing. It may have to be an initiative of municipalities saying it has to be a volume of items (not one or two). The knowledge needs to get out there.

Charlie Benner said colleges should have a day that they put things out and announce that these days are their spring cleanup. During those days volumes can be moved. Charlie said it needs to be publicized. That's a borough function. Jason Dagle stated that they are planning a household hazardous waste cleanup through the County to help cleanup those materials. If you give the public an outlet of materials, it's a better cleanup outlet, per Terry. Having an outlet is part of the key to making this work. It's also got to be convenient. Vince stated that they want to make it as convenient as possible for people so that recycling gets accomplished.

Mike said the purpose of this committee is to provide input to the Steering Committee. The reason for this exercise is to ask what the B&I wants to recommend to the Steering Committee as far as interests go? It sounds like recycling is a big item. What recommendation do we want to make to the Steering Committee? Terry stated that from the municipal stakeholder committee, what we intend to do is summarize those ideas and give them to the Steering Committee. When you summarize the comments from the meeting that you presented, maybe it can be emailed to the group for consideration before it goes to the Steering Committee. Vince said probably generating a list of what we want to see recycled. standardized recycled list of items. Rob Snyder said the information could be where to find the information, what you can do with it, where they can dispose of it, providing the information, etc. Charlie said SEDA COG could be a good source. Jason Dagle stated that this is what we're here for to get as many recycling opportunities, where we can go with our waste, etc. Mike Mitchell said those in business want the

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longevity of recycling as much as you can and if it can help financially, that's even better. For the informational side of things, it's an extent of someone who does that already.

Dave Minnear commented about another issue, the elimination of expired prescription drugs. He asked if Walmart accepts expired prescriptions. They responded no, not from the outside. Dave stated that a major problem with this is people are flushing them and a lot of drugs are getting into the streams. It is our understanding that some pharmacies are dealing with them yet it can be a very expensive collection. Walmart said they would take this issue to their headquarters and ask. Rob Snyder asked if hospitals take those? Dave stated he didn't know but that's a good question. Rob said he would think there is some disposal that the hospitals use. Ellen Montis said Steri-cycle is used for some hospitals. She doesn't believe hospitals take outside pharmaceuticals. The liability would be too great. Preston Boop commented that Union County is looking into it with their Sheriff's department and there are a lot of issues involved before that goes further.

Mike thanked everyone for participating. Next meeting will be held on October 6, 2010 at 3:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Johnson
EfficientC

Addition to Notes added after the fact:

DEP Recycling Markets

As a follow-up to yesterday's business and industry stakeholder group meeting for the multi-county regional solid waste plan, I wanted to follow up with you by providing some web links. As I listened to the businesses talking at our meeting, it seemed like DEP is already maintaining a lot of useful information online that business and industry are not aware of. Hopefully some of this information will be helpful to business and industry as they try to recycle materials they are generating, or can maybe be incorporated into the solid waste plan.

Below is the link to DEP's recycling markets database. This list is kept current by Charlie Scheidler in our Central Office (phone 717-787-7382). Users can query by material and location to find recyclers. National Gypsum yesterday mentioned that they are disposing of plastic drums in the landfill--for ex. they could use this database to query on drum: plastic, and pull up recyclers of plastic drums. I think it is easiest to start a query in the northcentral region, and if no results come up, then query by surrounding regions.

http://www.ahs2.dep.state.pa.us/recycle_markets/search.aspx

The PA Recycling Markets Center has an online search for organics recyclers:

<http://www.parmc.org/rmcfacilities/search>

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The topic of ag plastics recycling also came up. For the agricultural community, here is list of plastics recyclers.

<http://files.dep.state.pa.us/Waste/Recycling/RecyclingPortalFiles/Documents/agplastics.pdf>

Finally, this is DEP's public resources page:

http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_resources/14067

As far as an online clearinghouse for *reuse* of materials, although there was dissension in the group, it sounded like most people thought this would probably be a government function even though they would prefer it be done by a private organization. I wouldn't anticipate DEP having the funding or staffing to develop something like that. And, SBDC already has the tools in place through materialtrader.org. Perhaps materialtrader.org can be used by industry and large businesses so that you don't duplicate efforts? It may just be a matter of getting the word about about the website--the more users, the more beneficial it will be. Another online tool I have seen is www.recycle.net (Recycler's World) It is an international site, but I thought I would mention it.