

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee**  
**\*Municipal Stakeholders Meeting #1**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lewisburg, PA  
Meeting #: **Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1**  
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Kevin McJunkin began the meeting shortly after 4:00 PM. Kevin announced that Lycoming County is taking lead in this 5-county regional solid waste plan and asked everyone in the room to briefly introduce themselves. Kevin then turned the meeting over to Terry Keene. Terry asked if everyone had a copy of the agenda for today's meeting (see attached). Terry briefly presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group on the Regional Plan process and scope, and reviewed the public participation component of the work. A current project-meeting schedule was handed out. This committee is asked to attend four (4) meetings, including today's event. Dave Minnear handed out the current list of Municipal Stakeholder Committee members to everyone. Terry asked that all in attendance update their contact information on the list before they leave the meeting.

Terry briefly reviewed some housekeeping items such as: time in/time out on sign-in sheet; this information will be used to document in-kind services, to help with the local match for the grant. Terry also asked everyone to also track their mileage to and from the meetings, to help with the grant match. We are attempting to maximize use of paperless communication as part of this plan. Terry provided the project's website address, and stated that all information will eventually be uploaded from the meetings (agendas, meeting notes, handouts), as well as schedules of upcoming meetings, a periodic newsletter, draft plan materials, etc. Website information will also give everyone access to the discussions of other committees and groups, whether or not they attend a meeting. For those without access to the website, we will try faxing information to members, or if needed, we will use regular mail.

One representative from each stakeholder committee will be designated to serve on the Steering Committee. Terry asked that before this meeting is over, he would like the group to please designate a person to represent this stakeholder group on the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly throughout the study.

Terry asked if anyone was involved in 1990 when the first plan was completed under Act 101, or during the 1999-2000 county plan updates (no one responded). He continued by stating that we want to get input and feedback, in hopes to build consensus out of this committee for our eventual Regional Plan components. We want to identify and address

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee**

#### **\* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 2 of 9

issues with each stakeholder group, including good and bad input, and address them early in the process.

Tom Zorn asked how many of the County plans that are being worked on throughout the Commonwealth would be regional plans? Terry responded with some information that he knew from experience, but basically said that the majority are done on a county basis. By doing a multi-county plan, there are efficiencies to identify common needs and goals, and to develop solutions.

By having municipal committee involvement, this will help us gather information for analysis – waste and recycling projections.

Dave Minnear advised that he and Joyce Hatala would be gathering much of this information, and will be contacting counties and municipalities to get solid waste and recycling information for analysis. We will ask questions like – what kind of recycling program/services do you have? What about garbage collection? What system enhancements would you like to offer? Where do you see the recycling markets heading? We will be sending out a questionnaire soliciting that kind of input. The questionnaire will probably be coming out within the next several weeks.

We want to help identify the needs of the region from this stakeholder committee. We need to identify if these are county issues or regional issues. What do you feel the goals of the plan should be? Is there anything we should be looking at? Once we get your feedback, we will take this information back to the Steering Committee, discuss it and decide how we proceed. It's better to have this information now than later. We ask that you tell us so we can identify the needs and also what the group would like to see come out of this process. Draft chapters of the plan will be made available for review as they are prepared; however, chapters may be written out of numerical sequence vs. the order that they will appear in the final plan.

Chad Smith asked...what are we talking about when we say “waste”, and is it only waste we are interested in? Dave passed around a handout entitled “Waste Categories as Defined by DEP” (see attached). Terry reviewed the definitions of waste that this plan will focus on. This is a regional municipal waste management plan, and the categories are briefly explained as (see the handout for a more detailed description):

Hazardous Waste – industrial “categorical” or “characteristic” waste.

Residual Waste – industrial non-hazardous waste.

Municipal Waste – residential, commercial, institutional, I/C, C/D waste and recyclables, etc.

Roy Bower asked where radioactive waste goes? Steve Tucker answered that facilities monitor (screen) for that waste. Some naturally occurring materials are considered

## MEETING NOTES

### Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee

#### \* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 3 of 9

“NORM” (and the landfill can take it) and some are processed naturally but they do not take that (identified as “T-NORM”). Steve advised that Lycoming probably gets 12-13 hits a year from the radioactivity monitoring system. Once a medical isotope came in from an adult diaper facility. They buried it. They do not have to isolate it. One source, radium, the size of a golf ball, came in. They isolated it, removed it, contained it in a lead canister, shipped it to the State of Washington, and \$5,280 later, they got rid of it. Regarding Marcellus Shale sludge, Steve said they tried to take sludge at one point. It became T-Norm material and they were not able to accept it. They did end up with a small quantity of radium that went in. They stopped it from happening again. Lycoming County cannot accept T-Norm (T-Norm stands for “technically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material”, beyond normal background). If it’s natural, then DEP is not as concerned as if it were enhanced.

Jerry Ward, Montour County Commissioner, asked if there are landfills that accept T-Norm? Yes, some in this area that accept the Marcellus shale drilling waste are Clinton County Landfill, Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority Landfill, White Pines Landfill and Antrum. Levels of emission are based on waste taken in during the day, etc. That is part of the criteria done for that waste stream, per Ellen Montis from Lycoming County. Steve Tucker introduced Ellen to everyone and advised that she is the residual waste specialist for Lycoming County. Terry said we would look at that and document issues about waste from the Marcellus shale wells (it’s a growing industry in the region). Kerry Tyson stated that it has the capability of chewing up existing air space in the permitted landfills. Terry said Marcellus shale operations could have an indirect impact on our planning, if it takes up space in a municipal waste landfill.

Debbie Wolf from Snyder County stated that Chem Sweep, who helps with chemical collections, was not funded this year.

Dave commented that residual waste, such as ash material from power plant waste, etc., is not typically an issue that affects the municipal waste landfills since the industry often has its own captive disposal facilities.

Steve Tucker stated that Lycoming County currently does not do household hazardous waste collection, since it is very costly and a huge liability. Debbie Wolf stated that household hazard waste collection programs are partially (50%) funded by DEP. She advised that she doesn’t know if they cap the total grant available for 50% reimbursement.

Kevin McJunkin from Lycoming County commented about pharmaceuticals and household hazard waste. Lycoming County has been trying to educate the public by telling them not to dump it down the drain.

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee**

#### **\* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 4 of 9

Pharmaceuticals was further discussed, since counties prefer not to have a collection point in town since you have to get police and a pharmacist involved (controlled substances). There has to be a better way to deal with it. Dave Minnear commented that there have been discussions on having an annual collection, but again you have to have police and a pharmacist involved. The more rural it gets, the less likely it is to happen. Tom Zorn from East Buffalo Township stated that they do accept old pharmaceuticals in his county at CVS Pharmacy. He doesn't know what they do with it, however. Steve Tucker commented that if private enterprise handles it, that's great participation. Kerry Tyson stated that there is a website that you can look up to find pharmacies that take used prescriptions. He will get that information and provide it to Terry. Debbie Wolf from Snyder County commented that she previously participated in something like that but hasn't attempted to do that in her county.

Dave Minnear responded yes, that's what this committee is all about. Roy mentioned that many prescriptions come out of Walmart. Dave advised that a representative from Walmart was at the Columbia County meeting. He said that she seemed very interested in participating in recycling. Maybe we can get her involved in this. He stated that a while ago there was a huge concern about electronics recycling. Some retail outlets stepped up and made it a great way to handle it.

Roy Bower asked if suggestions could come out of this committee? Chuck Henry asked if that's what this group is about – making suggestions? Terry responded yes. Secondly, Chuck asked about which recyclables are valuable. What's the possibility of doing something with returning certain bottles for cash? Long ago it went a step further with condiment bottles. Were they, at one time, returnable? Terry commented that PA does not have a deposit on their bottles. You can take your cans to Maine (or other states) for a return, if you want to take that drive. He believes there is a "bottle bill" under consideration in the PA legislature now, but we don't have information on that, currently.

Chad Smith stated that Lewisburg was just audited by DEP with its recycling program. They were very critical that Lewisburg had a very low recycling rate, given the Inns and eating establishments in that County. They requested that he come up with advertisements and press releases to help to increase their recycling numbers. Chad said he's bringing it up now since we're discussing recycling. Dave Minnear advised that Lewisburg is a mandated municipality. Terry commented that if you have over 10,000 people, you are mandated to recycle. If you are between 5-10,000, you are still required to do curbside recycling if the population density is high (greater than 300 people per square mile). Jerry Ward commented that Danville was once over 5,000 and had to recycle; yet now they aren't over 5,000 but they still have to recycle because they were already at that point previously (the population mandate is based on the most recent U.S. Census count, updated every 10 years).

## MEETING NOTES

### Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee

#### \* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 5 of 9

If you are a business, Steve Tucker stated even if mandatory recycling is not required, office paper and cardboard diversion is a big deal. Steve also said that DEP requiring curbside recycling in every mandated municipality might be a mistake. There may be a better way of doing that than curbside. Steve suggested that if we start with a regional plan showing alternatives, maybe they would listen. A municipality has the authority to direct waste, but the Counties have the responsibility to make sure it's disposed of properly. Jerry Ward asked if there was any data on that for drop off sites instead of curbside? He commented that it might be nice to have a drop off site for residents, to have equipment and manpower, etc. Steve Tucker commented that drop offs were exponentially better, based on his experience. Shane Pepe said it depends on your program because his County picks up plastic. His numbers show that pick up is higher than drop off but he's a smaller area. Steve Tucker said he has 25 drop off sites and from curbside he gets low participation. Terry asked Steve if he would provide some numbers to show the differences. Steve said he's talking about dual-stream. Mostly you're looking at commercial in dealing with those kinds of issues.

Dave Minnear stated that generally, the majority of waste collection within the region is done by private subscription, and that municipal contracts are sometimes more efficient. Chad Smith asked if this plan would look at that? Kerry Tyson and Terry did a similar analysis in Mifflin County where the cost of private subscription vs. public collection was analyzed (Lewistown Borough has public collection). We may want to consider a similar analysis in this plan. Tom Zorn reported that the Centre Region COG has arranged for regional solid waste services, and they decided it was more economical than private subscription.

Terry commented that diverting food waste into composting is an emerging issue and will be discussed in the plan. Less than 50 facilities currently take food waste. Preston Boop added that there is actually less than 10 facilities that are permitted in PA to take food waste. He stated that when Walmart put a composting RFP out for their superstores in PA, they only listed 3 sites that were permitted to take their food waste. There may be other permitted sites, but those were the only 3 that were listed. Preston ran a 90-day trial composting program at his Briarpatch Farms facility that accepted Weis markets' food waste, and they produced 12 tons a week out of the 9 stores. They tried to expand it to 20-25 tons per week, but at the end of the 90-days, they opted to go back to sending it to the landfill. They were not willing to spend money to separate it, haul it and pay the tipping fee, so they pulled the plug on it. Steve Tucker stated that Lycoming County experimented with a similar project to separate waste through a drum that would stabilize the organic content of the waste and produce methane gas for energy. The residual solids from the process (digestate) can then be anaerobically composted. It is functional and it does work but the problem is cost. We never tried this at a commercial scale in America, but they do it in Europe and they do it successfully in over 20 facilities there.

## MEETING NOTES

### Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee

#### \* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 6 of 9

Chad Smith stated that one huge problem he has is grass collected by local residents. He doesn't know what to do with it or where to take it. Preston Boop stated they should be sending it to his composting facility. Chad Smith was surprised, and didn't know grass was recycled. Terry commented that it can be but has to be delivered and incorporated right away. Preston said the process requires same day delivery and they can't hold it. He commented that he could use more grass right now, since the moisture content is low in the compost piles. Chad stated that it would be nice if East Buffalo Township would compost it (Chad commented that he doesn't have room). He received a permit by rule for leaves and tree limbs, but with grass you have to measure temperature, aerate it, etc. How do you collect it to get it to Preston's location? Preston is required under the DEP program and organic certification to monitor it. Steve asked if we should look at a collection rule for yard waste? Is that a possibility? Chad stated he also has tons of mulch.

John Wiegler asked what impact prisons have – do they fall into certain areas? What about when prisoners pick up waste on the side of the road; where does the rest of that stuff go after they pick it up? Terry commented about NY State having over 40 correctional facilities with active composting operations. Dave stated that one of the things we noted in this region is the presence of a large percentage of hospitals, prisons, colleges, etc. It will definitely be an important feature in this plan. From a waste generation standpoint, the colleges and prisons have similarities also.

Terry went around the room and asked everyone to provide at least one item that they feel would be an issue or a goal that they would like to see addressed in this plan.

- Roy Bower mentioned recycling issues – said he would like to see efficiencies and see what would be more cost effective - curbside vs. drop off.
- Tom Zorn said increasing recycling the proper way – achieve the highest level of recycling
- Steve Benner (Mifflinburg Borough) – lack of information sharing regarding composting; cooperate with the schools to help them recycle (office paper, etc.); Overall cost of stuff that's disposed of. More efficient ways of doing things (on a typical day we may see 5 different garbage trucks from different haulers coming down the same street).
- Tom Clymer – his region has 2000 residents – recycling is biggest concern (drop off currently). Efficiency of handling it. Working well otherwise.
- Chuck Henry – Tom Clymer stated everything Chuck was going to say. Been recycling for 20 years (drop off 2 locations) – 1<sup>st</sup> location lots of garbage – always a mess. 2<sup>nd</sup> location very little garbage or mess. Maximize security and minimize what's leftover.
- Chad Smith – wants it all. Raised rates \$1 per month, appreciates the opportunity to network and feed off everyone's comments.
- Jerry Ward – happy to participate.

## MEETING NOTES

### Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee

#### \* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010

Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 7 of 9

- Bob Croutz – pessimistic that the haulers are going to cooperate with the Plan if it involves changes to the current procedures. If you set up a trust fund the haulers will take it unless you pass a State bill that requires tipping fees.
- Preston Boop – wears many hats - one as County Commissioner and another as a compost yard waste facility owner. He expanded his facility to include food waste composting and he received a permit. Also includes composting of organic materials– any and all.
- Malcolm Derk - Waste collection/hauling needs to remain competitive and run by private entities, and he would not support more restrictions or rules.
- John Weigle –education regarding recycling for cleanups. We need to consider that for purposes of landfill.
- Shane Pepe – Berwick got audited. Local municipalities do not make money on recycling – they are struggling – would like County partnership. That can definitely be more cost effective.
- Debbie Wolf – Snyder County wants more recycling opportunities. Littering is an issue, along with cooperative education, etc.
- Doug Garrison – Spring Township. Their compactor is open to municipalities and others can come too. One time per week they open it up to allow others to bring their items. DEP has been there to look at their operation. One time per month they have a container that collects all plastic. The next day they haul over to the recycling processing facility. Everyone is welcome to come look at their process.

Kevin McKunin commented that he is impressed with the information sharing in this group. Ellen Montis commented that as a benefit of the regional plan, that's a testimony for this 5-county plan to have everyone involved.

Steve Tucker commented about what is economical; we need to make it work for everyone. Chuck Henry asked about the cleanliness of recyclables. He asked if they, at least, get rinsed out? He wonders what these recycling places take. Steve Tucker stated it depends on the industry. Lycoming County sorts and separates, and keeping it clean is a big deal. If it's not clean (rinsed), it has to go in the trash. He commented about open burning recyclables and that municipalities would have to pass an ordinance since they have a problem with people participating – most especially in air quality regions. If you are in a mandatory recycling municipality, you must have a burning ordinance or you won't be eligible for grant money. DEP wants to see it on the books.

Debbie Wolf commented that Snyder County looked into municipalities doing a “pay as you throw” program. Terry stated that it's equitable. Dave commented that it encourages you to recycle. Chad Smith of Lewisburg stated that they are just too dense and it would not work for Lewisburg. They looked at stickers, bags, etc. Terry stated that there are two levels of service in a Lewistown (Mifflin County) pay as you throw program that

## MEETING NOTES

### Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee

#### \* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 8 of 9

operates successfully. Dave mentioned about requirements that we have to have in this plan (capacity, etc). We are also looking to put into the plan things to make this better for everyone (decreased costs for collection and hauling), etc. Dave is asking for suggestions on what they want or don't want for their county.

Jerry Ward commented that the high schools are only required to recycle two items out of five. Why is milk in plastic containers (for schools)? These items go to the landfill because they don't recycle. Does DEP have a requirement to include schools in their recycling? We'd like to work with the schools to get it a better program. Kerry stated the best way is to show the schools that they could save money by recycling.

Chad Smith said this is a fantastic idea to be in a room with the motivators. His county acquired a few thousand recycling totes/bins. There are counties that are working on a commercial bin program. Debbie Wolf stated that Snyder County has two municipalities that had to get into the waste business because the waste haulers didn't have enough business to justify them going down that road. They cured it by putting up a rural dumpster. It used to be a problem but they resolved it.

Jerry Ward commented that Danville doesn't have a problem with hauling; they have haulers that are very competitive in their area. It's a very nice situation in their area. They are mandated by law to have a recycling coordinator. Terry commented that each county or municipality would have to look at the economics of their situation. Shane Pepe of Berwick commented that their haulers were begging for them to take recycling away from them. There are local businesses that are haulers and they want to keep it that way.

Steve Tucker commented that there are 104 hauling companies that call on Lycoming landfill. It's good competition.

Terry stated that recycling does cost money. You have to charge enough for garbage collection to cover the cost of recycling. Chad Smith stated that he's found that recycling doesn't cost anything. He has a program that works currently. Steve Tucker commented that there is someone paying for that truck running up and down the road. There could be enhancements made to the current program – possibly charge that fee in disposal contracts. Money goes into the fund, county could budget for recycling, and the County could reimburse out of that fund to make that system work. That's the very fee the haulers fought the last time. If the haulers find it to be reasonable and targeted to fund proper programs, they may go along with it. Jerry Ward commented that it's all about the dollar these days. Administrative fees could be a good thought.

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee**

#### **\* Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #1**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, June 29, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA

Page 9 of 9

Chad Smith asked if this plan is going to look at all of the municipalities and each individual county and rate them? Dave answered that we could group individual regions together and that's what we had in mind with the waste shed analysis.

Terry wanted to wrap up some last minute housekeeping things. Everyone agreed that the next meeting would begin at 4PM on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Terry asked who would like to be on the Steering Committee? Chad Smith asked if there was anything wrong with having a County Commissioner involved? Terry responded that his opinion would be that the county commissioners are already represented on the Steering Committee. Shane Pepe volunteered to serve on the Steering Committee as the Municipal Stakeholder Group Representative.

John Wiegle asked if we would get census information back from the federal government to give us some idea of population projections? We probably won't get that census info back for at least a year or two. Dave explained that we would be relying on the County Planning Commission to give us the best numbers. Chuck Henry asked if every county has a commissioner involved on some committee? Yes was responded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39PM

The date for the next Municipal Stakeholder Meeting is Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 4:00 PM at the Union County Government Center at the Union County Café.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 1:30 PM in Montour County at the Courthouse at 29 Mill Street, Danville, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Johnson  
EfficientC