

MEETING NOTES
Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee
***Municipal Stakeholders Meeting #2**

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Tuesday, August 24, 2010
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center
155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA
Meeting #: **Municipal Stakeholder Meeting #2**
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Terry Keene from Barton & Loguidice opened the meeting. He handed out the current schedule to those who did not attend the last set of meetings. Terry introduced Kerry Tyson from Nittany Engineering, Cathy Johnson from EfficientC, and he also mentioned the other Consultant Team members who were not present. Terry reminded everyone to visit the website to view the minutes from previous meetings, current schedules, etc. Terry went over a few housekeeping items such as reminding everyone to please sign in and out as we can use it toward the matching share of the planning grant. Terry also asked everyone to keep track of the miles they travel to attend these meetings, as mileage can also be used toward the grant match. The next meeting is currently scheduled for Oct. 5, 2010 at 4PM (note – the next meeting of the Municipal Stakeholders Group has since been rescheduled to Tuesday, December 4 at 4PM at the Government Center). The meeting will be held at Union County Government Center but in the Commissioners room (note – will be now be held in the Union Café).

Data Gathering

As an update, Terry advised that the Consultant Team is currently gathering information discussed from the previous meetings. Joyce Hatala and Terry Keene visited Columbia County in Bloomsburg today. They visited Montour County a few weeks ago. The Consultant Team is putting together surveys for wastewater treatment plants, hospitals, etc. Terry explained that the Consultant Team is discussing whether a Municipal Survey is needed for this region as part of the data gathering effort. Terry asked if the Municipal Committee thinks a Municipal survey would be of value. Terry stated that it is good data to have, but the information might be somewhat limited. Typically, the information that could be gathered in a municipal survey would list the municipality, type of waste and recycling services they have, the cost of services, if they are interested in adding other services, what issues they have, etc. Tom Zorn from East Buffalo Township stated he felt it was important information, but wasn't sure if this information was already on a state website or elsewhere. Tom feels it is good information to collect and share with other municipalities. Terry commented that the data received may not impact the recommendations that we make; but agreed that it may be good to collect this information to share, if it can be conveniently and practically done. Due to the size of this 5-County Solid Waste Plan, the Consultant Team is doing other things to gather much of this information as well, and it may be very time-consuming to collect and tabulate data for

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every municipality within the 5-county region. For example, data on other services offered, such as recycling, etc., are being gathered by the Consultant Team separately.

John Weigle, from Freeburg Borough, feels there will be some value to the information provided, but response rate may not be high, due to some townships having only part-time staff and multiple duties to perform. Bob Cravitz, from Snyder County, said he would like to see what haulers charge for services across the region, and suggested the plan have a listing of all the hauler information (service areas, services offered, prices, contacts, etc), to give the municipalities more leverage to get a cheaper rate from the haulers. Bob felt that maybe the Township Secretary might have the information to fill out the survey. Terry Keene responded that this information is easier to collect in areas where there is a lot of municipal bidding for services. In this 5-county study area, only two municipalities currently bid for garbage collection services. All the others operate on a "subscription basis," where each resident and business contracts individually for service. Hauler charges can vary widely depending on location of the customer and many other factors. Because of the prevalence of private subscription service in this region, it may be very difficult to gather representative hauler cost information, since the municipal offices would not track information on what most of the private haulers from within the region are charging, and the private haulers are unwilling to share this information publicly. John Weigle stated that Freeburg Borough has a variety of haulers, and they do not have a set place where they can view their rates. Jerry Ward, Montour County Commissioner from Danville Borough, commented that their Borough has 10-15 haulers they work with. If he sent a survey to them, their rates would range from \$10-\$25 per month; they already know this information for the haulers servicing their borough.

Terry and Kerry agreed that while such a listing would provide valuable information, there will be too many variables to list hauler costs, and it would take a significant effort to try to collect this data.. Tom Zorn suggested that maybe adding information to a website, clearinghouse listing, or central data location as well, would be beneficial to share information; for example, a list of the local haulers, service areas, contact information, services offered, local landfills, basic information to help those as they shop around for a waste hauler. Terry stated there is value to that information, and that the haulers may be willing to participate in providing such data, as long as rates are not published.

Kerry Tyson suggested that we might want to go to the County Planning Departments. He stated that the county planners gather this kind of information regularly. It might prove beneficial to check with them first to see what information they already have. Jesse Pyers from Hometown Disposal (a local hauler) said he agrees that this website

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would be great, as long as no rates are posted. He stated that too many factors affect the rate, and we might find possible holes in service. Tom Zorn said he wasn't thinking about it in terms of haulers – he was thinking about it in terms of recycling. Some municipalities do their own recycling. He feels it would be great information and useful for recycling purposes, not to mention other services.

In Millvale Borough, a local hauler picks up recycling at no charge and then sends reports to the county so they have the data. County recycling coordinators should have all that information. Terry said it looks like we need to start with the county recycling coordinators first and find out what information they have, what voids are there, etc. Terry said that if this information is already accumulated and provided to the counties, we can gather this data efficiently from the county Recycling Coordinators. The conclusion of the discussion on a Municipal Survey is that the Consultant Team will discuss this further, and will determine the need, effort required, other possible sources of data, and the concept of a website or data location for hauler service and contact information as part of the regional plan effort.

Discussion of Issues of Concern

The issues raised at the first Municipal Stakeholders meeting provided for a very good round of discussions. Terry asked if anyone had a chance to review the notes and/or if there are any changes that anyone would like to make about the notes from the first meeting. No comments were made (except positive comments about the detail of the notes from Tom Zorn).

The agenda for the second Municipal Stakeholders Group meeting contained a summary of the key issues raised during the first Stakeholder Group meeting. Kerry Tyson reviewed the summary list of issues of concern from the June 29, 2010 meeting with the group. The first issue was investigating the need for a household hazardous waste disposal program. Kerry stated that we are looking for potential solutions. Certain programs cost money, but what is the demand? These are things that we are looking to find out. Kerry stated that Clinton County does a household hazardous waste program, and it's very expensive. Ellen Montis reported that Lycoming County Resource Management Service does not offer such a program.

Another discussion point is disposal of pharmaceutical waste – what do we do with it? Kerry stated that local pharmacies and drug stores are participating more and more, but there is liability involved at their end. He suggested that anyone interested in pharmaceutical recycling should check with their local pharmacies and related websites. For example, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is sponsoring a one-day

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pharmaceutical drug take-back program in late September. Part of the problem with offering such a program is the liability. Preston Boop said that in Union County, there is now an initiative through the Sheriff's office (part of the DEA take-back program?). They are looking at all the liabilities because they know they can't take just anyone's prescription drugs. The Sheriff's office is staying on top of it and looking at all the HIPPA issues, legal issues, etc.

Kerry Tyson commented that another issue raised at the last meeting was improved yard waste recycling and composting. There were requests for education, advertising, what programs are available, etc. pertaining to yard waste and composting. Kerry commented that some facilities take food waste also. Terry Keene stated there is a lot of opportunity for waste diversion through food waste composting, including education and generation aspects. This topic should be addressed in the recycling section of the revised plan.

The group had inquired about conducting an evaluation of curbside recycling versus drop-off recycling, regarding efficiency, participation rates, volumes diverted, efficiency and cost. Terry stated that this issue could probably be analyzed in the recycling portion of the study, if there is a strong interest. Certain counties think one way of recycling is better than another. Kerry stated everyone must keep in mind that recycling comes with costs, even though everyone wants to recycle. In order for recycling programs to be successful, the citizens must be willing to pay the program costs.

School district recycling was another topic of conversation, including the need for improved cooperation with the schools. Schools are a major source of paper, and educating them is a simple way of increasing recycling. Tom Zorn mentioned there is a bigger part to the schools. If we educate the kids now, it moves on to their homes and the kids teach the parents, etc. Terry commented that at the last round of stakeholder meetings, all of the groups were interested in recycling. We heard that the colleges/universities were going full force to recycle, but the school districts were having trouble implementing such measures. We need to encourage the schools to do more. Kerry stated that the lack of school recycling is not just in this 5-county region, it's everywhere, and the school districts in other places feel that if it's going to cost money, they're not going to do it.

Another point that was addressed was the need for the improved distribution of recycling information and education. A lot of this plan update will be to present "what is happening in other areas" – information sharing, participating in education, recycling, and efficiency, then evaluating the different kinds of programs that will help everyone. All this information will be listed in the plan as a resource for use. In addition, it will also

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be utilized to develop a plan to address the need for improved recycling information and education development.

Kerry stated that one of the topics from the last meeting was to see how the existing in-place collection system could be improved. Terry stated although the plan may develop some suggestions on this issue, this aspect is mainly up to each municipality, and the haulers within each municipality, to address, because the five-county area is primarily subscription service. The plan may provide sample bid documents for waste collection (and recyclables?) for use by municipalities if they so choose.

Another point of opinion offered was that waste collection needs to remain competitive and be run by private enterprise. Many in this group believe that the private sector needs to continue to be a key provider of this service. Terry said that as it was discussed earlier, it would be a municipality-by-municipality decision on whether to bid for services or leave it as a subscription system. Either way, the private sector would most likely be providing the waste collection service. Terry stressed that while no “flow control” was being proposed by the plan, it may contain some model ordinances and other aids for the contractual bidding of refuse services on a municipality (optional) basis.

Kerry stated that another topic raised at the last meeting was that people want more recycling opportunities in the five-county area. Preston Boop commented that he noticed recently, while attending public gatherings in his area, that there are no containers to put recyclables in. There needs to be a bigger presence for recycling, including containers, and people will participate more. Kerry stated that it may be because it was a non-mandated community he was in, or, no one thought of it when they put the public program together. Kerry stated that if people and organizations go to their county recycling coordinators, the coordinators can tell them what’s available for public programs. Terry said that there are many of these programs well-established for residential recycling, but not as much for commercial and special events recycling. Kerry suggested that the five counties network and find out what others are doing.

The final issue from the June meeting was that the five counties need to work together to share recycling information, ideas, and education. Initiating an exchange of information, such as a list of county recycling coordinators, available county recycling programs, phone numbers, etc., is a great place to start. This theme is also a part of many of the other thoughts and issues that were raised above.

Frank Dombroski asked if anyone has done anything at a higher level with doing away with burn barrels. Terry stated that in order for the municipality to get grant money to assist them with their recycling programs (over a certain threshold funding level), they

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have to have an anti-burning ordinance in place for recyclables, or they won't get the grant money. Recyclables include the common Act 101 list of eight recyclables (metal, glass and plastic containers, plus paper products) and leaf waste. Kerry stated that the State has plans in place but they go about it in different ways. It really comes down to enforcement, also. Kerry stated that the plan should provide everyone access to recycling and disposal facilities. John Weigle stated that in their county, they came up with burning two specific days per week. He said it's a very touchy subject. The room would be filled with people if you put a ban in place. Terry stated that if this group feels strongly about it, we could suggest it be studied further in the plan.

Roy Bower asked how the municipalities could be assisted in the recycling efforts, such as by educating people more, etc. However, he does understand that it is very costly to recycle. We should come up with a way (like adding five cents to purchase a bottle of pop, for example), so it's not so easy to just throw it away. We are a throw-away society. Preston asked if the recycling coordinators should start a school education program. Maybe set it up, put the containers in, speak to the kids, get enough grant money for containers, etc. John Weigle said it's just a matter of having the containers available and it will work. Kerry noted that Mifflin County initiated a school recycling program through the individual school building teachers, rather than the administration, and that approach worked fine. Grant money is a possibility. Jesse Pyers commented that if school districts want to recycle, the school districts need to put a recycling requirement in their bids, and get the most competitive price. It's then up to the school to get recyclables collected and into the containers for the contracted hauler to pick up and recycle.

If we can come up with ways to recycle that keep costs down, people may recycle more. Suggestions such as using pay-as-you-throw bags (many options were brought up) were discussed. It was suggested that maybe instead of selling bags, you could use tags. Also, some counties have recycling at curbside and use private haulers. Jesse Pyers stated that his company offers subscription recycling in their services. Tom Zorn asked about the "pay as you throw" program – it encourages people to recycle. He said that if you were saving residents money, you'd help increase recycling with the citizens. Jesse noted that in his experience, unless you only set out one (or two?) bags per week of garbage, pay-per-bag is usually not bid cheaper than unlimited service.

Terry asked if anyone had any new ideas. No one commented. He asked if anyone had any thoughts. Jerry Ward commented that the pay-as-you-throw program sounds very interesting. With that kind of program, people start thinking about what they are throwing away. When a person notices what they are doing, it makes a difference. Terry commented that the State encourages the pay as you throw program – and agrees that the economics of the fee structure encourage recycling.

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Montour County commented about tire recycling. DEP doesn't want to be involved. The problem is that if people get charged to recycle tires and the person taking the tires is making money on both ends, the consumer won't pay to have them recycled; they will just dump them or throw them down a hill. The haulers have a problem because tires can't be picked up unless they are cut. DEP wants to make sure they are being handled properly. Tires can be taken to the landfill but not in large volumes. It's preferable that they do not get taken to the landfill and that they are recycled.

The group entered into a discussion on household single stream recycling. Jesse Pyers said that while single stream recycling is much easier for a household to do, there is not a facility close enough to do single stream in this five-county area. He said PA is too spread out and it would be a lot harder to have more locations to accommodate single stream. He feels that in order to have an effective recycling program, it comes down to cost, caring, and education. Terry confirmed Jesse's comments about the lack of single-stream processing facilities in the region, thus making single stream collection of recyclables impractical at this time. All of the recyclables processing facilities in this region are set up to process source separated or minimally-mixed recyclables loads.

Kevin McJunkin commented that he had a conversation with PA Cleanways. They recently surveyed three counties regarding open dumping in our 5-county region. He suggested that we get the information from their survey. He wonders if illegal dumping is an issue in the three counties from the survey. Municipalities said it's a constant battle for public works to clean up the dumping of items like computers, furniture, etc., because people throw it away instead of recycle it. Shane Pepe of Berwick Borough said his borough has a dumpster day where general riff-raff is collected. It gets rid of 100,000 lbs of people's junk per year. He reported that the disposal is free to the town residents and that he gets his expenses off-set by DEP. It saves on trash in the town.

Shane said he also feels it's ironic that private haulers state they are interested in providing recycling services in the region, since two (2) haulers in his area received \$10,000 fines for mixing recycling with waste. Shane continued by saying that he does understand why haulers aren't entitled to grant money and municipalities are. Shane said he feels that maybe the issue of including private haulers in recycling services is a bigger deal than it actually is. He said that perhaps not that many haulers are interested in recycling. Jesse Pyers said that Hometown Disposal is one of the haulers that wants to get into recycling, and a lot of the bigger haulers are the ones that want get into recycling. Haulers have a place in the recycling industry – they can provide a value-added service to the residents. We need to determine what the needs are, and if the haulers are interested in providing any of these services. Shane Pepe said DEP was adamant about using

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haulers, and legitimate ways to dispose of the collected recycled material. Shane asked why we couldn't create a plan to help the haulers get grant money to help them get involved in the recycling business. This would require further consideration, as DEP does not provide 902 recycling equipment grants for private businesses.

Terry summarized the committee's new ideas from this meeting:

- We want to further consider the practicality of conducting a municipal survey
- Have a clearinghouse for hauler contact information, services and areas served
- Encourage public events and public recycling, and support expanded commercial recycling programs
- Consider providing a sample anti-burn ordinance document in the plan
- Bottle bill – Terry will check on to see if there is a bill under consideration at the State level
- Schools/services – put recycling needs in the bid – provide value added service. Consider putting a sample bid document in the plan for school districts
- Include pay-as-you-throw program information in the plan
- Find recycling outlets for used tires and difficult-to-get-rid-of material.

Terry mentioned that the Consultant Team will next tabulate the issues that have been raised by the five stakeholder groups, and will review this list with the Steering Committee, to get direction on how to proceed on addressing these issues. As final list of action issues will then be made available for all committee members to review.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Johnson, EfficientC