

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee**  
**Steering Committee**

Date of Meeting: 1:00 PM, Tuesday, December 6, 2011  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center, 155 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lewisburg, PA  
Meeting #: Steering Committee Meeting #5  
Attendees: See attached Sign In sheet  
Counties Represented at Meeting: Snyder, Union, Lycoming  
  
Stakeholders Represented at Mtg: SW Haulers  
Citizens  
Recycling  
Municipal  
  
Not Represented: Montour County  
Columbia County  
B&I Stakeholders

Kevin McJunkin opened the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves. Dave Minnear provided everyone an update as to where the Plan stands, and the status of the first phase of the Solicitation of Interest (SOI) process with landfills. We now have to go through the 2nd phase (interviews/follow-up inquiries). Then we have to modify the Plan to reflect the SOI Submittals. The 2010 census data is now available, which means that actual population data is now available. We may also look to see if we have 2010 waste data. In reference to additions to the schedule, we will try to get the Regional Plan Revisions and the SOI review recommendations to the Steering Committee by mid-February 2012, and then send the draft Regional Plan to DEP, and soon after begin the public meetings in each County. The Consultant Team originally stated in the Plan that it would be ready to implement by January 2012; however, in the meantime, there have been numerous modifications to the Scope and the official start of the new Plan is now January 2013.

Terry Keene from Barton & Loguidice stated that there is a strong interest in more recycling to be included in this 5-County Plan. The Consulting Team tried to identify what items of additional enhanced recycling could be added or enhanced in the Region. In the SOI, the Steering Committee developed an Integrated Waste and Recyclables Management Service Program (IWRMP), which included approximately 20-30 different regional recycling program enhancements, and the Team estimated the costs to implement those program enhancements. As part of the SOI, the disposal sites were asked to consider ways in which they could support the IWRMP.

In addition, transfer stations were asked in the SOI to commit to doing three (3) things: 1) that any waste they receive from the 5-County Region will go to facilities designated in the Plan; 2)

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that they will document the waste they deliver by original county of origin; and, 3) that they share a copy of their operating permit.

Thirteen (13) disposal sites and four (4) transfer stations responded to the SOI. The SOI Evaluation Team, which is a subcommittee of the Regional Steering Committee, has reviewed the proposals, and it was still in a process of scheduling follow-up meetings or discussions with these sites to further clarify and understand the details of their Submittals. The Evaluation Team will then make recommendations to the Regional Steering Committee on the results of its evaluation of the Submittals. Terry Keene said that recommendations will probably be made by late January or soon after, and should line up well with the overall project schedule. Pertinent data from the solicitation process and the responses will be put in the Plan.

Kevin McJunkin asked Terry Keene to discuss the process of notifying the Region of the availability of the SOI release. Terry commented that the State requires, in an effort to support a fair, open and competitive process, the SOI release be advertised nationally and locally. There was an ad placed in mid-September in Waste Age magazine (a national trade publication); DEP advertized the SOI release in the PA Bulletin; and locally, an ad was placed in 3 local newspapers in the region. In addition, Dave Minnear made a list of all disposal sites that had accepted waste from the Region in the past 10 years, and mailed the advertisement directly to them, as well as transfer stations that are known to be handling waste in the Region.

Terry Keene stated that the submissions have been received, recommendations will be made and once the SOI recommendations have been approved, they will be included with the Regional Plan. Any facility that wants to be added to the Plan following the date of the SOI Submission due date (November 18, 2011) will have to follow the procedure outlined in the Plan, in order to be considered for being added to the Plan as a Designated Facility.

Dan Grove of DMS asked about the time line to add a new facility to the Plan. Terry said the facility would have to follow the procedure outlined in the Plan: submit their request (consisting of the same information as was requested in the SOI), the request would then be reviewed and a recommendation would have to be made, and once it is approved, it would be added to the Plan. Since this is a 5-county plan so it may take longer for the approval process.

Jack Pyers asked about the evaluation team and how recommended facilities will be chosen. Terry Keene stated that the Evaluation Team is made up of one representative from each of the four counties. (Terry said that during discussions with the State, Lycoming recused themselves from the discussions, since they own a landfill that will be included in the Plan, and wanted to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest).

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Jack Pyers asked why the SOI review has to be handled confidentially. Terry Keene answered that while the SOI responses are under review, they are considered confidential until clarifications and internal reviews and recommendations are complete. Jack said he doesn't understand where the issues would be. The best he can understand is that a landfill can apply if they want, and should be accepted into the Plan, as long as they meet the minimum criteria. Terry agreed, but noted that there was some potentially confidential information included in the submittals, and in this interim period, there is a practicality in limiting the release of interim, pre-final information to a broad audience, and that this information and the recommendations will be released in due time (the January-February 2012 target date).

Terry also clarified for the RSC that a facility can be accepted as a Designated Facility even if they do not agree to assist with the items noted in the Integrated Waste and Recyclables Management Program, but only provides waste disposal services. Jack asked if the Evaluation Team decides they are not happy about a participating landfill not participating with the IWRMP, can the Evaluation Team reject the landfill from participating in the Regional Plan solely on that basis? Terry answered no, but clarified in more detail. Jack expressed his concern that when it gets to the point where the Evaluation Team starts talking to the facilities, he would like to contribute to the discussion. Terry said we are in the middle of the review process and once we are able to prepare the summaries of the Submittals, with clarifications, they will be made available publicly (to the RSC) for review, thus hopefully resolving the confidentiality issue for Jack.

Jack said he understands the need for minimum requirements for the landfills in order to be part of the plan, but would like to understand the evaluation process better. Terry said the Evaluation Team has asked for written clarification on some of the responses before finalizing the Consultant Team's review. Jack stated that he understands that this should be a very open process and he feels that it seems as though the door has closed a little bit at this important juncture. Jack said that he understands Terry has had more experience with this but in his experience, he's never run into this situation where he is not allowed to see the information. Terry said that maybe before the recommendations are given, we can provide the information to the Steering Committee to review before the Plan is finalized, but again emphasized that some of the information may be identified as being confidential.

Kevin McJunkin said that we may have to adjust the Integrated Waste and Recyclables Management Service items depending on the type of responses the facilities give. Kevin said we may not be able to do everything that the Committee had intended based upon the responses received. (Note – Lycoming County has not been involved in the SOI Submittal review process, at DEP's request, for the reasons noted earlier).

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Jack also asked about letters from the PWIA and PIWHA, and whether those concerns have been resolved. Terry said that the letters have been reviewed internally, and that the Consultant Team is comfortable with the approach so far and would address those in a response to the organizations.

Sam from the Citizens Stakeholder Group asked about the six (6) basic criteria identified in the SOI, and how they were developed by the consultants or the group. Terry said that he believes that each county should be able to solicit for the specific services they want, such as a request to consider supporting full integrated waste and recycling services to the residents. For the respondents to the SOI, a series of services were identified (the IWRMP), and the Respondents were asked if they could/would participate in completing those items, but it was noted that participation was optional. Sam then asked if the evaluating committee makes the final decisions as to which respondents are included in the Regional Plan. Terry said the Evaluation Team will present their findings and recommendations to the Steering Committee and the Steering Committee will finalize the recommendations. Dave Minnear said that in the SOI, a chart was included showing what the Region would like to accomplish, and emphasized that the SOI is not a disposal package, it's an integrated waste management plan. Terry said the waste disposal and IWRMP contracts will not be finalized until the Final Draft Plan goes to DEP and is approved, but will be in process such that the 10-yr Planning Period will begin with an intended contract start date of 1/1/2013.

Dave Minnear discussed the schedule in the SOI, and said it has already changed. The intent is to sit down and get clarifications from some of the Respondents. Clarification meetings were set to begin the week of December 19<sup>th</sup>, and once this is complete, then recommendations will be made. The proposed schedule is as follows: Hopefully, in late January or February the 90-day public comment period on the draft Regional Plan may begin; then in April or May (within the 90-day comment period), the five (5) counties will have their public hearings on the Draft Regional Plan; the Regional Plan will be finalized listing all comments, with responses to the comments received; and then in July/ August it will be submitted to each of the five (5) counties in Final form for adoption. In September/ October, the 90-day municipal ratification period begins, and then submittal of the Final Plan to DEP December/ January, with the intent that the landfill contracts will go into effect January 2013 or soon thereafter. Dave said he believes this schedule corresponds with the schedule proposed by DEP.

Kevin McJunkin stated that once the SOI clarifications are completed, a summary of the responses with the Evaluation Team's recommendations will be presented to the Steering Committee at its next meeting.

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Dave Minnear said that with respect to the “negotiation”, it will just be a clarification, since we are not planning on changing or adding to something they already proposed.

Jack Pryor stated that he’s presuming, because of the distance between all the facilities, that there is probably a percentage of those that may not provide any recycling support at all. Terry said that there were a broad/wide range of responses on that topic. Some provided more detail on their proposed manner of program support than others.

Sam from the Citizens Stakeholder group was wondering about the issue with Lycoming recusing itself from being part of the next meeting. She asked if the committee could invite the other proposers. Terry responded that this is an open “menu-type plan, including any qualified facility, so there is no advantage to be gained by Lycoming County having a representative at the next Regional Steering Committee meeting. Terry said this is more of a DEP issue, and not necessarily a committee issue.

Dan Grow asked about the process to add future facilities. Dave and Terry stated that the process for addition of facilities would be included in the Plan.

Jack Pyers asked where he can locate the six criteria questions and Terry Keene responded that they are located in Section 9 of the SOI, Evaluation Procedure, on pages A10 and A11.

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cathy Johnson, EfficientC