

MEETING NOTES
Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee
Steering Committee

Date of Meeting: 10:00 AM, Tuesday, September 4, 2012
Meeting Location: Union County Gov. Center, 155 North 15th Street, Lewisburg, PA
Meeting #: Steering Committee Meeting #7
Attendees: Megan Lehman, Bob Huntington, Betsy Hack, Shawn McLaughlin
Dave Minnear, Terry Keene

Counties Represented at Meeting: Union County
Lycoming County
Montour County

Stakeholders Present at Meeting: None

Members Not Present at Meeting: Columbia County
Snyder County
B&I Stakeholders
SW Haulers
Citizens
Recycling
Municipal

Meeting began at 10:00 AM.

The intent of this meeting was to approve the final version of the Plan, as submitted to the Counties and the PADEP on August 20, 2012. Once that version of the Plan was approved by the Steering Committee, it could be formally presented to each of the five (5) boards of the County Commissioners for Approval at their next Meeting.

Megan informed the group that during a phone conversation with Michelle Ferguson that morning, she indicated that DEP recognized that their requested changes in the June 28 letter had been largely addressed with a good faith effort. Dave Minnear suggested that the initial focus of the meeting be on the DEP Comment Letter sent out on Friday, August 31, 2012. This letter introduced 8 additional comments regarding the Final Plan, which needed to be discussed prior to approval by the Committee. Terry and Dave both noted that these additional comments had been issued the work day prior to the final meeting to approve the Plan for distribution to the County Commissioners.

Terry noted that, in order to meet the current schedule for the Plan, it was necessary to have each of the five (5) boards of County Commissioners approve the plan no later than September 13, 2012 (representing 60 days after the end of the 90-day Public Comment Period). In addition, once the Commissioners had each approved the Final Plan, it would then need to be submitted to each of the Municipalities in each of the five (5) Counties for Ratification within 10 days of approval by the Commissioners. DEP has agreed (through discussion with Megan Lehman) that the anticipated date of plan approval by the last of the five (5) counties (scheduled for September 13 in Lycoming County) will serve as the start of the 10-day countdown to distributing the Regional Plan to all municipalities in the five (5) counties. To meet that schedule, the DEP would have to issue approval of the modifications

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associated with the August 31 comment letter by September 23, 2012. Given the short time available to address these comments, Michelle Ferguson of the PADEP was contacted during the meeting to request that an extension to the current schedule be authorized, or that it be acceptable that the comments be addressed as part of the 12-month implementation period following Final Approval.

During a follow-up telephone conversation and a subsequent meeting (held the following day between Megan Lehman, Kurt Hausammann, Michelle Ferguson and Pat Brennan of the PADEP), the following procedure was agreed to:

- It will be acceptable for the County Commissioners to accept the Final Plan “contingent upon DEP approval of the responses to the 8/31/12 letter comments”.
- Each of the comments in the 8/31/12 letter will need to be addressed prior to submission of the Final Plan to the Municipalities for ratification.
- The PADEP will not need to review the Final version of the Plan, just a response letter indicating how the comments were addressed.
- The Consultant Team will have the comments addressed by Monday, 9/24/12, so that the Final Version of the Plan can be provided to the Municipalities for ratification.
- It is acceptable for the Municipal notification to refer to the website where the PDF versions of the Final Plan will be located (as opposed to submitting hard copies to each).
- Per the regulations, municipalities have 90 days in which to vote in favor of (i.e. ratify) or against the Regional Plan. However, if more than 50 percent of the municipalities in a county, representing more than 50 percent of the population, ratify the plan in less than 90 days, then at that point, the county can deem the plan to be ratified in that county, and it can be submitted to DEP for final approval (even if completed in less than 90 days).
- If the above is completed, the Plan processing should be able to meet the current schedule, such that the Plan can be submitted to DEP for final approval by the end of December, 2012.

Following the initial discussions, Megan recommended that the Steering Committee vote to approve the Final Plan, contingent upon DEP approval of the responses to the 8/31/12 letter comments. The Committee members voted unanimously to approve that recommendation.

Given this approach, Shawn recommended that the Model Resolution that Megan had the Lycoming County solicitor prepare be submitted to the Commissioners of the five (5) Counties for approval at their earliest opportunity, such that the above schedule could be maintained. It was understood that this “approval” would be contingent upon ultimate approval of the Plan by the Municipalities and the PADEP, subject to revisions in line with the DEP comment letter dated 8/31/12.

Meeting adjourned 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Minnear
Project Manager/CDI, LR Kimball