

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

Date of Meeting: 3:00 PM, Thursday, August 26, 2010  
Meeting Location: Union County Government Center  
155 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Lewisburg, PA  
Meeting #: **Recycling Stakeholder Meeting #2**  
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Joyce Hatala opened the meeting. She went around the room for everyone to introduce themselves. Joyce asked everyone if they had any trouble viewing the website or notes from other meetings. No one responded.

Joyce asked what issues they would like to see addressed in the solid waste plan, what's working for them and what needs the most attention.

The discussions started with Charlie Fritz from the Town of Bloomsburg. Charlie said things are going pretty well; yard waste and extra paper has boomed and the residential recycling rate has increased. Joyce viewed the Bloomsburg recycling facility and said they are taking a lot more tonnage at the compost site, as well as at the recycling center. Charlie advised that they could take more material at the recycling center if it's source separated.

Gregg Rokavec from Evan Hospital commented that he sees the need to be able to open recycling up to what materials can be recycled - the choices are endless. He'd like to see a consistent vendor for #5 - #7 plastics, Styrofoam. He'd also like to see better markets for ID bags. Dave Minnear asked if the hospital has a lot of fluorescent light bulbs that they have to recycle. Gregg responded yes, but they have a vendor for that. Joyce Hatala asked if the hospital has staff to handle recycling. Gregg responded yes, traditional items are being handled properly. Gregg continued stating that with tin cans, for instance, there is a lot of rinsing, and it's not always practical. Dave Minnear commented that in the B&I meeting, they are running into an issue with mattresses, and that they must be thrown away from hospitals when they are worn out. He asked Gregg if the hospitals are having issues with those. Gregg answered no, the life expectancy is higher on hospital mattresses.

John Hunter from SCSWMA stated that he'd like to get rid of household hazardous waste more frequently – even if it's a special collection. Joyce stated we would be discussing, eventually, how to pay for that. The State will pay up to half currently. Steve asked if the state would still fund it? No one knows but Joyce said she would look into it. Joyce said there is a DEP-SWAC meeting scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> to find out what they are funding and what they aren't funding; are they going to add it.

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Jesse Pyers from Hometown Disposal said he agrees regarding household hazardous waste. As a hauler he sees how much of a pain it is for a homeowner to try to get rid of it. Once it shows up in the waste stream, it's already too late. He'd like to get rid of it before it hits the trucks, etc. Tires, electronics, he'd like to see a better handle on it so it doesn't get in the pattern of tossing it. Joyce asked if there is still a problem with tires. Jesse said yes, they are all over, in creeks, dumpsters, etc. Joyce asked if Jesse has a place to take them. Lycoming takes them, but for a regular route truck it's more difficult to manage it. DEP won't allow Lycoming to put it in the fill. Steve Tucker stated that they recycle them through Modern Supply.

Bob Huntington from Union County commented that the drop offs work well. Dave Minnear asked who owns the drop offs. Bob said it goes back to Lewisburg Borough. Lycoming helps them spec it to match the trucks. Bob puts grants in on their behalf to help the County and he coordinates it. Joyce complimented the Union County and Snyder Reps, including the Lycoming coordinators for their drop off services and how it's working. Bob receives many questions about light bulbs and household batteries. People are green until it costs them money said Ellen Montis. Ellen said Michelle from DEP was at a previous meeting this week and she said there really is no outlet for alkaline batteries. Joyce said we'd ask to see if maybe some of these larger companies take these items. She's currently doing research. Bob said there are household hazardous waste problems everywhere.

Caroline Creasy of Columbia County said issues for her are rural areas, illegal dumping paint, tires. She'd like to restore more of a rural disposal program. Caroline commented that they used to have drop offs but because of the lack of administrative fee money to the County, they eliminated rural drop offs. Joyce asked that if there were a source of funding, does she think it would come back. Yes, said Caroline, it's a matter of money. Joyce commented that there is the Green Box Program, where a box is placed at the township building, and people bring their disposables to it. If it's staffed, it would probably be better, she said. Steve Tucker commented that there would be a mess if it was not staffed because other items would come that can't fit or can't be disposed. Jesse from Hometown Disposal said he's been at the other meetings and all of it seems to come back to recycling and money. Jesse said Hometown Disposal is interested in getting into recycling. Malcolm Dirk commented that at the end of the day someone is paying for it, yet the funding is drying up. He told everyone not to be afraid, reach out, and ask. If it works, then it's better for everyone. If it doesn't work now, but does work in the future, he would consider that too.

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Steve Tucker said one of the things disheartening about grant money is you don't always get back what you put in. Steve discussed the DEP tipping fee, which makes funds available to counties and municipalities through a grant program, and suggested that we possibly look at it from a standpoint of an "opt out". In other words, write the legislation, such that a portion of the \$4.00/ton DEP collection - say \$2.00/ton would go into a regional fund, if the municipalities agree to opt out of the DEP grant program. In this way, the region would distribute funds within the region to run their own programs. They would allow the region to quantify the potential funding, put it in a fund (trust), and any municipality looking to be paid back would submit invoices to be eligible. The taxpayer doesn't get hit any differently and the citizens are being served better because there is money coming. Details of setting it up would need to be reviewed.

Andrew Holter of Berwick Borough said that outside their municipality they are expanding recycling to rural municipalities. They are a small municipality but to their neighbors, they are the largest. They receive many phone calls to take items. They have agreements with neighboring municipalities. We have people going to Bloomsburg to drop off their recycling; Berwick doesn't get the direct benefit. He would be interested in seeing an expansion of the program to have drop off boxes in other places, expand the rural. Steve Tucker suggested that we consider a point of common interest, maybe a shopping facility to receive it possibly.

Joyce asked if anyone knew if education is required for mandated communities? She believes that if you want performance grant money, you need to do something pertaining to education twice a year. Joyce will find out.

Jake Stiefel from Selinsgrove Area School District said he could try to speak for all school districts when he said he's in the same boat as the hospitals. It was working well recently, and single stream works for them so they don't have to haul their recyclables. Their contract through Waste Managements handles all the materials being produced. Dave Minnear asked if Jake knew where Waste Management was taking it? He's only heard rumors but the drivers say "south". Jesse said he suspects that they are contaminating the cardboard load and giving it to Jason Yorks (LCRMS). Jason Yorks said he doesn't do single stream so contaminated material would be landfilled. He said that until you follow the truck and figure out what they're doing, there's not a whole lot to do about it. Jake said they aren't passing it off as a cardboard container. He said he went outside and all of the recyclables were going in the same place on the truck. Joyce commented that if you currently have source-separated collection and it's working, keep it. Jack said they have too much to haul but not enough to justify someone bringing out 6

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different containers. Jason Yorks said he would know if he was getting that much so he doubts large volumes are coming in.

Janet Powers from Selinsgrove Borough said that they are the only ones mandated in Snyder County. Residents pay a fee with their water bill for their recycling. Everyone wants to bring it to them and it's a problem. Joyce asked if it's working well and Janet responded yes, they work with Lycoming. Debbie Wolf said Selinsgrove is working well and are open on a Thursday, including Saturday. Debbie said there are some recycling opportunities available that no one knows about, for example, Preston Boop and his efforts to compost food waste, Dauphin Electric takes fluorescent light bulbs, etc. She would like to see more education instead of everyone developing their own program, including special programs: for example, electronics programs once a year, household hazardous waste, tires every once in awhile, pharmaceuticals (currently being worked on). Joyce said that the feedback she gets from people (everywhere) is that no one knows who takes what. She said we need to let people know where to go.

Jason Yorks commented that everything has been brought up already that he feels is important. He doesn't push electronic recycling since they have vendors for those items. Getting the word out about these companies that take certain items and trying to make a website accessible for people to know this information is what he feels is important. Jason said that they have expanded drop off sites to 27, just in Lycoming County. The farthest drop off site is in Brown Township, which is about 65 miles away. The Supervisors and drivers have a good handle on it and they know to pull full containers only. Drop off sites are unmanned and they do have their issues with other things being dropped off but they handle it. They also have 13 curbside routes but those only collect glass, tin, and aluminum. Drop offs make sense for specific areas. Selinsgrove has great drop off sites. Jason doesn't think the tonnage is going to increase to accommodate more staff. He's able to recover costs of travel and equipment if he pulls full containers.

Joyce asked if the group felt the citizens would be willing to pay more to increase recycling, or if they would reduce recycling. It all boils down to how we pay for it. Steve Tucker said it's not legislatively popular to do a tax. With respect to the landfill administrative fees, the counties can't legislate a fee but you can negotiate it in a disposal contract. If it's advertised as a system charge and we educate people, it may pass through. Jesse Pyers from Hometown Disposal said the haulers may be more willing to take it if there was an economic incentive for the haulers. Kevin McJunkin stated that you have to pay a fee to dispose of a battery but he was not sure where that fee goes or how that works when you dispose of a battery. Someone commented about the point of

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sale fee but the retailers killed the bottle bill. The tire take-back charge would work well if we could get it put on other items we need to recycle.

Ellen Montis commented that retailers take the point of sale fee because they are doing the handling of the items to recycle. Jake Stiefel said you could charge people for anything, but what about local needs. He asked if some of this money could go toward seeing more results in recycling. He personally does not have a problem paying taxes but he's trying to figure out what he's getting with the money he's paying.

Joyce asked what everyone thought if the municipality added a fee (not a tax) to get more recycling. Jake suggested an example that Selinsgrove could offer a plan for people to pay \$20 per year for a sticker on their car to bring their recycling to them. Something like this might work. Charlie asked if anyone has a "pay as you throw" program. Jesse said Hometown Disposal offers that program to its customers and they can buy tags from them, put it out at the curb, it's already paid for, they sit it out when they have it, they only pay for it when they use it; it benefits and drives recycling. Jesse commented that this program reduces a trash bill by recycling more. There's a reward for recycling if you use this kind of system.

Joyce and Jesse noted that reducing illegal dumping comes down to enforcement. The Adopt A Road program was established by the State and it gets the community involved. It slows down illegal dumping because people are more likely not to dump illegally when or if they know someone who's monitoring the roads. It gives it a local perspective. Jesse Pyers said illegal dumping and burning doesn't occur because there is a lack of haulers, etc., it comes down to the mentality of rather than paying that fee for that service, they burn it or throw it because they just don't care. Jesse said we need to check the Township code – it's in there and it's strict (in Selinsgrove).

Joyce asked for input on if we have enough waste collection. We would have more money in the programs to fund the systems if those who illegally dump paid into the program. Joyce wondered if we add additional tonnage, if it would increase funding of new systems.

Jason Yorks, the Recycling Steering Committee Representative, asked how many sanitation authorities are getting demographic information. We want to come up with a percentage of homes that are on septage vs. wastewater treatment to find out if we have enough capacity for sludge disposal. Jake asked if there was a difference between septic and sand mound systems, and asked if the counties have the information (the sewage enforcement officers may have this information per Rachel from Columbia). Steve

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Tucker stated that the 537 update plans might require better records of this information. Kevin McJunkin suggested that we contact the sanitary authorities to find out how many people they had in the system. He feels it might be simpler than doing it municipal by municipal. Dave Minnear said total sludge tonnage is insignificant in comparison to the total garbage, but that we would attempt to obtain an estimate.

Bob Huntington asked if there was a way to decrease the amount of non-recyclable materials in products, and address that kind of thing through this program? Do we have a way to keep it from getting there in the first place? Jake said it would be better to have federal incentives for that.

Joyce asked the group about what can be done to improve recycling in the Region. It was decided to bring more services to the table and do a cost analysis. We need to provide more education to the citizens and businesses so they know what they can recycle, when, etc. We should create a website for people to know what's available in their region (i.e., Staples takes printers, etc).

Dave Minnear said we discussed the idea of clearinghouses. It's important for industries to talk to each other. A good idea might be for residents to talk to each other by providing contact information through a website (but not like on Craig's list). Joyce commented that "PROP" has done this kind of thing before for people; there is a company called PA Clean Waste; we can use this to close the loop, etc. The Region would have to pay someone to do a clearinghouse for residents. Without that administrative fee, it would be difficult to maintain. Steve Tucker brought up the opt-out program. You're redirecting funds to the goals you have established. It's got a good shot to pass if we can get the right people at the right time with Legislators to sit down and talk it through.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

The next meeting is Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Johnson  
EfficientC