**Recycling Public Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday October 29, 2014**

Location: Tatnall Building, Dover, Delaware

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)

Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)

George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)

Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)

Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)

Brian Nixon (Delaware Chamber of Commerce)

Mike Parkowski (DSWA)

Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)

Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)

Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)

Members absent: Dick Cecil (Delaware Association of Counties)

Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)

Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)

Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)

Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)

Julie Miro Wenger (Delaware Food Industry Council)

Non-members present: Marshall Budin (DNREC) Crystal Beck (DNREC)

Rod Clemens (Goodwill Of Delaware County)

Kimberly Foster (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)

Jim Short (DNREC) Paul Sparks (Cascade Engineering)

Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries)

**Call to Order, Introductions**

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30PM

**Public Comments -** None

**Approval of September 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

The September meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program**

**Cycle 5 Contract Status**

Marshall B. updated members on the status of grant applications since the September meeting. All applicants were informed of the RPAC/DNREC funding decision via email. All applicants approved for full project funding have acknowledged their intent to accept funding. The impact of the closure of the Wilmington Organics Recycling Center (WORC) to the fully funded food waste diversion projects was discussed. Marshall said that of the three (3) projects (Kirk Middle School, Mt Pleasant Elementary, and St. Andrews) St. Andrews posed the greatest challenge given that they are not inclined to compost on-site and offsite commercial composting isn’t an option at this time. Marshall presented an option for Mt. Pleasant to convert the bin designated for food waste collection to single stream recycling which met with no objection. Kirk Middle School isn’t impacted since they are composting onsite.

Regarding partially funded projects, with the exception of the University of Delaware (UD) Center for Applied Demography and Survey Research (CADSR) survey of Delaware citizen’s perceptions and actions regarding recycling, Marshall said that all applicants indicated their intent to accept funding. UD-CADSR indicated that the reduced funding level was insufficient to cover costs and subsequently provided supporting evidence to explain and justify full funding of survey interviewing hours, labor fringe benefit costs, and indirect costs related to apportioned facilities and administrative expenses. Upon review by DNREC consideration was given to increase the funding of interviewing hours to the originally requested level; however, restoring fringe and indirect costs was not reversed. UD CADSR will be advised of the determination.

Stan M. had questions on the State waste, recycling and organics hauling contract. Marshall said that he reviewed the contract and confirmed that there is a provision for the vendor to provide internal recycling and food waste containers but no cost schedule. Marshall said that he will contact OMB for clarification and report his findings.

**Cycle 6 Guidance**

Marshall informed Council on the need to amend the guidance document to clarify that the $30.00 maximum labor reimbursement is limited to hourly wages only, excluding employer fringe benefit costs including but not limited to employer FICA share, medical benefits and pension contributions. BJ indicated that if employment of staff associated with funding research projects is dependent on funding above the $30.00 cap, consideration of higher reimbursement levels is a reasonable option to consider. Regarding the priority focus of the 6th Cycle, Stan suggested that municipal government education and outreach be included since it has been several years since the development of the first program flyers which contain some dated and erroneous information (e.g., plastic bags as an acceptable material). Mike offered to provide the ‘Delaware Recycling Guide’ at no cost to both municipal governments and private sector recycling haulers for distribution to their citizens/customers; Mike elaborated that the cost to DSWA to mail the guide to all Delaware residences is prohibitive.

BJ stated that kick-off of Cycle 6 should be discussed at the next meeting adding that the Grant Subcommittee should review the proposed changes to the guidance document and provide input to the broadening the priority focus beyond educational institutions before the next meeting.

**RPAC 13th Annual Report**

Jim S. informed Council that he completed a report draft for member review and comment. Jim referred to portions of the Executive Summary on the projection screen. He pointed out that a new graph was needed to present the full data range. The reported recycling diversion rate of 41.2% is not a final number due to year over year under-reporting of fiber. Capturing data for office paper generated by financial institutions and shredded by document destruction companies proved challenging for DSM due to the consolidation of several document destruction companies that previously reported separately. DSM is reaching out to the document destruction companies to bridge the office paper reporting gap before finalizing the official recycling diversion estimate.

Jim asked for member input to the Council’s recommendations to the Governor. Recommendation 1 *(Provide RPAC the discretion to fund those purposes specifically identified in the original Universal Recycling Legislation- 7 Del. Chapter 60. Subchapter III)* remained unchanged from the 12th Annual Report. Stan said that a reference to the January 1, 2014 implementation of commercial recycling should be included in Recommendation 2 *(Lead by example – require recycling in all state government facilities, including public schools and libraries, the courts system, and the legislature.)*

Regarding Recommendation 4 *(Food Waste Diversion)* Jim said that of the approximate 100,000 tons of material received by WORC, about 20,000 tons was sourced from Delaware divided equally between food and yard waste. Jim continued that the market will be able to absorb yard waste; however, the absence of an alternate food waste composting enterprise is expected to result in a 1% decrease in diversion related to the disposal of previously composted food waste discards. BJ added that in addition to the immediate impact to diversion, he is concerned about lost opportunities to divert new sources of food waste, which constitutes a large portion of the unrecovered waste stream, and its impact to achieving the diversion goals in the Universal Recycling Law. Jim incorporated Council members input into the body of the text of Recommendation 4.

Council members concluded discussion with two suggestions One, to include a recommendation for DSWA and DNREC to investigate solutions to meet composting demand for Delaware generated food waste. Second, to comment on the sunset of the bottle recycling fee on December 1, 2014 with reference to assessing the need for continued funding of DNREC administrative costs and Universal Recycling Grants and Low Interest Loans beyond expiration of the bottle recycling fee and identification of alternatives to the bottle recycling fee if needed to achieve the purposes set forth in the Universal Recycling Law.

Closing discussion, Jim asked Council members to provide comments on the Annual Report via group email within the next week.

**Off Agenda Discussion**

BJ opened discussion on the DNREC Cabinet Secretary’s Order to Peninsula Compost Company LLC to close the WORC by March 31, 2014 with reference to former RPAC member Wallace Kremer’s questions of what can be learned from the closure and what can be done in the future.

Mike said that DSWA used to distribute back yard compost bins. George D. added that back yard composting doesn’t address institutional sources of food waste. Mike elaborated that DSWA staff is working on this and has had some early discussion with DNREC.

Bill M. said that in the short-run another regional composting facility that hasn’t been identified to accept Delaware generated food waste and even if a facility agrees to accept food waste previously delivered to the WORC the combined hauling and compost facility tipping fees might be at a premium over disposal. Bill suggested that smaller scale, decentralized community based composting operations may be more effective and manageable than large scale, centralized industrial composting operations. Bill further stated that the Secretary’s decision was predicated on a number of factors including but not limited to odor, quality of life of resident’s impacted by foul odors, and history of enforcement action. He referred Council members to the press release for further information and stated that the Department encourages composting where it can be done in a manner that doesn’t negatively impact on the quality of life of residents.

Mike added that odors will be generated regardless of process controls and elaborated on the difficulty of marketing compost in this area when mushroom growers in Kennett Square are giving compost away. George said that the focus should be on single stream recycling in the commercial and industrial sector.

BJ closed discussion by stating that consideration should be given to forming an Organics Subcommittee.

**Recycling Market Update**

Paul B. reported paper prices were flat in October and other commodity prices are down.

**Old/New Business**

Mike briefed Council on the latex paint drop-off event at the Cheswold Collection Station in which 33,000 lbs. of latex paint were received from 630 vehicles. All paint is being transported to a processing plant in New Jersey which blends recovered paint to make a single color batch. Stan asked if DSWA was planning on expanding latex paint collection beyond Cheswold and making it part of a multi-material collection event. Mike responded that the current plan is to maintain latex paint as a single material collection event.

Other events discussed were a recent combined Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and obsolete electronics collection event in Wilmington at Frawley Stadium in which 1,400 vehicles delivered materials and an upcoming event at Mt. Pleasant Elementary School. Mike said that they are seeing advantages to combining electronics with HHW collection events such as increased product quality and elimination of shrinkage associated with the drop off sites in which people would cherry-pick computers and other higher value electronics. Mike indicated that new CRT glass facilities are in the regulatory pipeline with enough capacity to process 50% of CRT glass at current the current generation rate.

**Additional Public Comments**

There were no additional public comments

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2014 from 1:30PM to 3:30PM in New Castle County at the Bear Library, 101 Governor’s Place, Bear DE 19701.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:30PM