**Recycling Public Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, December 3, 2014**

Location: Bear Library, 101 Governor’s Place, Bear, DE

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)

Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)

Marianne Cinaglia (DelEASI)

Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)

Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)

Stan Mills (League of Local Governments)

Julie Miro Wenger (Del. Food Industry Council) via conference call

Brian Nixon (DE Chamber of Commerce)

Mike Parkowski (DSWA)

Coralie Pryde (League of Women Voters)

Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)

Adam Webster (Restaurant Industry)

Bob Ziegler (Waste Hauler Industry)

Members absent: George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)

Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)

Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)

Non-members present: Jim Short (DNREC) Bill Miller (DNREC)

 Kim Foster (DNREC) Dave Archer (DEDO)

 Joe Maier (Econo Haul) Rob Clemens (Goodwill)

 Kurt Pilarski (Waste Management Inc.) Dee Durham (Ptrp. for the Del. Estuary)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35 p.m.

**Public Comments -** None

**Approval of Minutes October 29, 2014 Meeting**

The October minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**Universal Recycling Grant/Loan Program**

Bill M. reviewed the draft Guidance Document that had been previously distributed. He pointed out that there were just three main changes from the last cycle. The application deadline is March 3, 2015, the funding priority is for school recycling programs, and the ineligible item of operational costs further included “indirect facility and administration expenses”. After some discussion there was consensus to change the ineligibility item to “Operational or overhead costs including, but not limited to, fuel, maintenance, utilities, and indirect facility and administration expenses”. There was also consensus to add a sentence clarifying that educational projects are also encouraged and other projects are considered. Council Members unanimously approved a motion to support announcement of the 6th cycle and release of the Guidance Document with the changes discussed. BJ asked everyone present to help identify and contact schools and other organizations to garner interest in the program.

**RPAC 13th Annual Report**

Jim S. reviewed the latest draft of the RPAC’s 13th Annual Report. He announced that the MSW diversion rate is 41.9% for CY2013 but elaborated that it has been a moving target for one main reason. The data collection consultant is also working on measuring total solid waste recycling and has been finding some MSW previously unaccounted. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding language changes to some of the Recommendations; however, the concept or intent of each Recommendation did not change. BJ shared a few changes for the Executive Summary; suggesting a comment about the 115 jobs created by ReCommunity and RevolutionRecovery, correcting the legend in Figure 1, and changing “change” to “increase slightly” in Note 1 of Figure 1. Kelly D. asked to include the yard waste grant into the table on page 3. After review and discussion, the Council motioned to adopt the 13th Annual Report with the changes mentioned.

**Organics Subcommittee – Need, Purpose, Members**

BJ tabled this discussion for later discussion in the interest of time.

**DNREC Administrative Funding**

Bill M. shared that DNREC spends close to $275,000 on personnel and other administrative costs to support universal recycling implementation, grants, compliance, outreach, and related programs. DNREC anticipates the ability to continue to fund these administrative costs for about two years based on available funding. DNREC would like to continue the conversation with RPAC to discuss alternatives to fund DNREC’s universal recycling administrative costs in the future. Bill M. explained that DNREC has spent less in the last year, and is being very careful and more conservative with its spending. Mike P. said there might be ways DSWA can partner to offset some of DNREC’s administrative costs.

**Recycling Market Update**

Paul said paper markets are largely the same except for OCC (cardboard) which is down $5/ton. Prices are generally low. Mike P. agreed, adding that when the price of oil is low, plastics and other recycled commodity pricing trends lower.

**Old/New Business**

BJ shared that Kristen Brown expressed interest in presenting information to the RPAC on pay-as-you-throw and recent updates in that concept. He plans to invite her to a future meeting

BJ announced that he met with Secretary Small, Dee D., Julie W., and Rich Kenny from the Kenny Shop-Rite stores to discuss plastic bags. The industry is interested in plastic bag initiatives and would like to be involved. The conversation was very favorable.

**Additional Public Comments -** None

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2015 at 1:30 at a location to be determined (likely Sussex Co.)

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.