**The Delaware Anti-Dumping and Anti-Littering Task Force**

*Meeting Minutes*

**Tuesday, August 9, 2016**

**DelDOT - Farmington/Felton Conference Room**

**800 Bay Road**

**Dover, DE 19903**

**Members Present:**

Mark Alexander (CHAIR) Director of Maintenance & Operations, DelDOT

Marjorie Crofts DNREC

Ralph (Dirk) Durstein III Department of Justice

Major Galen Purcell Delaware State Police

Jennifer Cohan Secretary, DelDOT

Michael D. Parkowski Delaware Solid Waste Authority

**Members Absent:**

Senator Gary Simpson State Senator, Republican Caucus

Kelly A. Williams Governor Appointee, City of Wilmington

Julie Miro Wenger DE Non-Profit Environmental Advocacy Community, DE Food Industry Council

Dee Durham DE Non-Profit Environmental Advocacy Community, Bring Your Own Bag

Pamela J. Bakerian Delaware State Farm Bureau

Curt Shockley Department of Correction

Tina Shockley Department of Education

Robert Tunnell III Delaware Waste-Hauling Business, Blue Hen Disposal

**IF Desired Members:**

Senator Karen Peterson State Senator, Democratic Caucus

Representative Rich Collins State Representative, Republican Caucus

Michael Costello Sussex County

**DelDOT Support Staff:**

John Hindman Department of Justice, DelDOT

Geoff Sundstrom Director of Community Relations, DelDOT

Lesley Devine Executive Assistant to the Secretary, DelDOT

**Guests:**

Kurt Pilarski Waste Management

Deanna Killen Legislative Assistant, Senate Republican Caucus

1. **Welcome –** The meeting was called to order at 11:13 a.m. by Task Force Chairman Mark Alexander.
2. **Introductions –** All members, staff and guests introduced themselves.

**\*Please Note: Meeting proceeds out of agenda order.**

1. **Voting –** Representative Collins made a motion to add Kurt Pilarski, Waste Management, to the Anti-Dumping and Anti-Littering Task Force and Senator Peterson seconded. All of the task force members were in favor of the motion, no council members were opposed, the motion passed.
2. **Meeting Minutes Review -** Senator Peterson made a motion to approve the July 6, meeting minutes and Secretary Cohan seconded the motion. No one opposed and the minutes were approved without changes.
3. **Old Business**
4. Michael Costello gave a presentation on Crime Stoppers in Sussex County. He went over how the program works and the rewards that are offered.

Representative Collins stated that he would like to see everyone that is involved from DNREC, DelDOT, County Government and DSP promote the concept of Crime Stoppers in a coordinated way. Representative Collins expressed that Crime Stoppers should have a dedicated contact person that takes all the complaints and then we should do a Public Relations Campaign stating that all state and county agencies are participating in this and we ask for your help to clean up the state of Delaware. Representative Collins feels this would be a major way to get the word out in a comprehensive fashion.

Major Purcell asked if he should reach out to Mr. Mooney, Executive Director, at Crime Stoppers to see if he can do a presentation at our next meeting. The Chair agreed and feels we should implement Crime Stoppers statewide.

There was some further discussion about the different counties and what the capabilities are operating under state laws and ordinances. Also, Senator Peterson and Representative Collins discussed dumping fines and the lack of enforcement. The Chair mentioned that if the dumping fines are high enough and collected then you’re going to think about it a little more before tossing things on the side of the road and receiving a $200 ticket.

Representative Collins said if we can convert the Crime Stopper Program into a Change of Culture Program that’s what will make the difference. Everyone needs to know that we are making a real effort and change their mindset. People who want to clean up will be encouraged to hear that someone is doing something.

Michael Parkowski stated that perception of prosecution is way stronger than actual prosecution. Mr. Parkowski explained his reasoning. If someone thinks they are going to get in trouble then they are going to think twice.

There was further discussion about sending out letters possibly by the attorney general’s office or even from the agencies. Marjorie Crofts stated that DNREC doesn’t issue letters, but rather citations if they can catch them, so they will get a ticket.

Representative Collins suggested enlisting companies, restaurants or any other retail business to participate in a Take Pride in Delaware Program. He would like us to come out of this whole thing with people talking about a new day and take pride in Delaware and then attach some elements. Some elements he mentioned are Crime Stoppers, recruit companies to get out there and encourage their customers to pick up after themselves and recruit aggressively Adopt a Highway type people.

Senator Peterson stated that she is convinced if we do billboards of a picture of a pig driving down the road throwing trash out with a saying “Don’t be a pig” you’ll start to make it unacceptable. You have to make it unacceptable to grab people’s attention. We have to get the message out to people that it is not acceptable.

Marjorie Crofts suggested that we make it a challenge to make Delaware the most litter free in the US.

The Chairman reminded everyone of the e-mail that was sent out about the questions that need to be answered by the Task Force, so he can compile the report for review. He would like to receive everyone’s response and what ideas the Task Force would like to see going forward. The Chair said that he will resend the questions again and requested responses by the end of the week.

Senator Peterson stated that her understanding was that we were going to look into the Keep America Beautiful and we need to do that soon because a lot of our ideas are going to come from that. The Chair stated that Julie Miro Wenger said that Keep America Beautiful has an off the shelf presentation that they could give, but Delaware’s path forward will not to be in place until after their Strategic Planning Meeting in October, so we’ll request the general program presentation for our next meeting.

The Task Force had some further discussion on Keep America Beautiful and Senator Peterson thinks the Task Force Report is going to have a lot to do with that program. Representative Collins agreed and Michael Parkowski expressed that he is pretty involved with it and he thinks the timeline is really going to be the first of the year before we see anything organized from Keep Delaware Beautiful. They still don’t have a full board and they are still raising money, but everything we’ve discussed is what he would view as top priority with Keep Delaware Beautiful. They have a list of programs that are in place today in other states with statistics to prove that they work, but we still have some work to do in Delaware because it’s brand new. Mr. Parkowski thinks the program will help tremendously, but not solve our problem entirely with the litter problem. Dumping and littering are completely separate issues and they need to be treated separately. Mr. Parkowski expressed that littering is a problem, but it’s a lot less of a problem because some of the litter is unintentional. Some of it is just the nature of modern society because when trash gets collected some of it escapes collection and it’s not done on purpose. Unfortunately, there are some design flaws on some of the trucks and they don’t capture all of the trash and it’s not because they are maliciously trying to litter.

Representative Collins agrees they are totally different problems, but from his side of the world littering is actually worse than the dumping. The dumping is terrible, but it’s almost always in a place where no one lives and it is rarely traveled roads, so it doesn’t impact that many people. Representative Collings will have a road cleaned up and then within a week it will have litter again and some of it has to be deliberate. He’ll have guys clean up and sometimes the same day or the very next day there’s already noticeable amounts of litter and to him that is what is so demeaning. Representative Collins thinks the litter is more pervasive than the dumping.

Michael Parkowski stated that the littering Representative Collins is talking about is what Keep America Beautiful will be focused on and that is what they will generally be able to fix, but what they won’t be able to fix is the littering that is unintentional. The only thing that will be able to fix that is changes in the equipment, changes in the collection process, or cleaning it up. At Mr. Parkowski’s Material Recovery Facility (MRF) they know that stuff blows out the door and there is no way they can stop it, so the way they fix it is they clean it up. Every day they have a team of people cleaning up, so it doesn’t escape the property. There is no way to stop it because the wind blows and then things blow and you can’t stop the wind.

The Task Force discussed recycling benefits and challenges. Representative Collins said that at some point maybe we need to analyze every aspect of it and where are we really getting a benefit and where are we maybe generating a problem that we didn’t anticipate years ago.

1. Marjorie Croft gave an update on DNREC’s Waste Collection.

The Task Force has to quantify how big of a problem there is with dumping and trash. Therefore, the Chairman stated that he is going to use Marjorie Croft’s waste collection numbers along with other feedback he received/receives from the Task Force to compile the report that is due on September 30, 2016.

Representative Collins expressed he would like to have a short concise report that is forward looking addressing a problem and not just saying here’s what we did in the past because that doesn’t accomplish anything. There was further discussion between the Chairman and Representative Collins regarding quantifying the problem.

1. The Chairman distributed a handout that Alastair Probert, DelDOT’s South District Engineer, put a survey monkey together and asked the 21 other states what there DOT’s were doing as it relates to anti-dumping and anti-littering. The Chair went over the results.

Sponsor a Highway was discussed and Geoff Sundstrom clarified that Sponsor a Highway Program is strictly for corporations that want to pay a third party to get their name on a sign and then that third party contracts labor to go out and do the cleanup for them. Adopt a Highway is strictly volunteers who are going out to pick up the trash. The Chair mentioned that it might be a good idea to allow two groups to sponsor the same highway and just alternate there clean ups each month. Representative Collins thinks that we should expand the whole concept and Mr. Sundstrom agreed that it might be more effective.

1. Dirk Durstein III gave an update on Upper Creek Road. Mr. Durstein stated that Senator Peterson made some serious allegations about the way the investigation was handled, so DNREC referred it to the special investigations unit to take a look at the role if any the state police, city police, and/or county police had in how that incident was investigated. Mr. Durstein apologized because he was out of the office and he needs to follow up with the investigator to see where they are. Mr. Durstein said there was some new information that he turned over to the DNREC investigators to take a look at because there were photographs, a license plate number and some individuals that presumably might be identified, so they are pursuing that part of it. Senator Peterson replied that they had all that information two years ago and now we are almost two years out, so she doubts anything is going to happen. Senator Peterson discussed it further and then mentioned that they take it offline.
2. **New Business**
3. Discussion on Tours - The Task Force agreed that they would like to see the Keep America Beautiful off the shelf general presentation.

Kurt Pilarski made a reference to some things that were brought up about the culture and from Waste Management’s perspective. Mr. Pilarski stated that Waste Management has always been successful with schools and education, so any way they can contribute to the education he would like to be a part of it. Mr. Pilarski’s view is a bunch of kids that are involved in the process to help make the state neat and call it a Keep Your Street Neat type of campaign. Mr. Pilarski thinks if you can get the kids behind it and make it a fun program then it leads to the adults, households, and communities. Senator Peterson added that we could do color books that teach lessons and send them to the schools.

1. Task Force Report Update - The Chairman reiterated that the questions from last meeting will be sent again and to please provide feedback by the end of the week.
2. **Discussion of Future Agenda Items –** Representative Collins requested that Tina Shockley, Department of Education, give a presentation on how it would be possible for Keep Delaware Beautiful to get into the schools.
3. **Public Comment –** No public comment was made.
4. **Adjourn –** Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marjorie Crofts, seconded by Representative Collins. No one opposed. The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

**Attachments:** Michael Costello’s handout, Marjorie Croft’s handout, and Chairman’s handout

**Minutes Prepared By:** Lesley Devine, DelDOT