

**Summary Minutes
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWAC)
August 20, 2009
Lazarus Government Center
50 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215**

The Following Members Announced Their Attendance at Roll Call:

Eilert Ofstead, Environmental Advocacy Organizations
Erv Ball, Health Departments
Erin Miller, Municipalities
Brad Biggs, Ohio Department of Development
Jean Byrd, Public
Dan Harris, Ohio EPA
Terrie TerMeer, ODNR
Chuck Keiper, Counties
Holly Christmann, Single County Solid Waste Management Districts
Chris Jacobs, Joint County Solid Waste Management Districts
Joseph Denen, Municipalities
Larry Johns, Townships
Kathy Trent, Private Solid Waste Management Industry
Belle Everett, Townships

Steve Hill, Industrial Generators, arrived after roll call.

Review of the May 21, 2009 meeting minutes

The minutes from the May 21, 2009 SWAC meeting were reviewed and approved on voice vote.

Welcome and Introductions (Dan Harris, Ohio EPA – DSIWM)

Mr. Harris started by welcoming new SWAC members Erin Miller and Holly Christmann. Ms. Miller, representing municipalities, is the environmental steward for the City of Columbus. Ms. Christmann, representing single county solid waste management districts (SWMDs), is program manager for the Hamilton County SWMD.

In addition, several other members were re-appointed to SWAC with terms ending June 23, 2011. Jean Byrd, Belle Everett, Chuck Keiper, and Steve Hill were all re-appointed.

Dan indicated that the main objective of the meeting will be to do the final review of the state solid waste management plan (state plan). Tom Kurtz will provide his presentation first, and then the remainder of the agenda would proceed starting with DSIWM's legislative updates. The state plan review and adoption will then take priority.

Anaerobic Digestion Technologies (Tom Kurtz, Kurtz Bros., Inc.)

Mr. Kurtz provided a presentation on anaerobic digestion and the future of biogas as an industry in Ohio. Anaerobic digestion is a natural process whereby microorganisms break down organic waste materials (biomass) in the absence of oxygen and produce biogas, a renewable energy source. Schmack BioEnergy, a subsidiary of Kurtz Bros., has completed an anaerobic digestion facility in Akron and currently has numerous projects in the design or construction phase throughout the United States, including:

- Wooster, OH – OARDC campus
- Wooster, OH – ATI campus
- Columbus, OH – SWACO/City of Columbus
- Zanesville, OH

Schmack BioEnergy is partnering with the German company Schmack Biogas, which has over three hundred plants in Europe. Germany was looked at as a case study. The number of digesters in that country has increased four hundred percent in the past decade. This renewable energy industry accounts for over 96,000 jobs in a country the size of Montana.

Mr. Kurtz reiterated that with the current push for renewable energy industries in Ohio, this success story could be replicated if Ohio was to embrace the model Germany used. He proposed a scenario to build thousands of digesters, indicating the jobs and energy that could be generated by investing in the industry.

Some next steps were indicated that would help with the growth of an anaerobic digestion industry in Ohio. One way is to support the creation of more incentives for diversion. Secondly, efforts to clarify regulations and permitting for combined feedstock facilities are needed.

Update on Legislative/DSIWM Issues (Dan Harris)

Mr. Harris provided a summary of solid waste related changes resulting from the State of Ohio's recently approved budget. The state disposal fee was increased by \$1.25/ton for a total of \$4.75/ton. \$1.00 is to go to Ohio EPA's Environmental Protection Fund and \$0.25 will be for Soil and Water Conservation Districts. There was also a provision included that clarified that fees do not apply to material that is composted, including food waste. Another provision clarified that any SWMD rules that restrict out-of-district waste must be approved by Ohio EPA before being implemented.

Dan also indicated that Ohio EPA is doing a test run of the new e-Business center. All solid waste and C&DD facilities will soon be able to use this online resource to pay Ohio EPA fees.

State Solid Waste Plan revision – discussion and summary

Ernie Stall of DSIWM's Planning Unit provided an update regarding the 2009 revision of the state solid waste management plan (state plan). Ernie first provided a summary of the changes being made with this state plan. These changes include:

- New methodologies for determining population credits associated with drop-off recycling locations - a survey model and a tonnage model;
- Three new options to meet the infrastructure goal. The added flexibility creates incentives to implement more effective recycling programs, and focuses on program effectiveness.
 - Incentives for volume-based trash collection/non-subscription curbside programs;
 - Incentives for new non-subscription curbside program in the largest municipality or municipality that comprises 15 percent of county population; and,
 - an option for multi-county SWMDs that allows for the elimination of drop-offs to make other drop-offs more effective.
- Establishes minimum standards for drop-off recycling programs;
- Establishes four required outreach and education programs: a Web page, an infrastructure inventory, a comprehensive material-based resource guide, and having a speaker/presenter available;
- Requires all solid waste management districts to develop a marketing and outreach plan;
- Requires solid waste management districts to measure effects on greenhouse gas emissions;
- Establishes 11 state-level strategies;
- Introduces a new chapter focused on waste-to-energy; and,
- Recommends two new and changes to four existing siting criteria.

Relating to the incentives and added flexibility for the infrastructure goal, it was clarified that a specific timeline to implement the new programs could not be specified in the state plan. It was explained how each SWMD is on its own plan update schedule and any time requirement would have to be related to their next plan update's schedule.

Relating to the State strategies, it was asked what the goal of streamlining permits included. Anaerobic digesters were used as an example. Because these facilities would receive food waste, DSIWM, the Division of Surface Water, and the Department of Agriculture all likely have applicable permitting requirements. There are efforts being made to eliminate duplicative permitting for these facilities. Another example would be the use of biomass in power plants.

Chris Jacobs related to the message in the state plan that the infrastructure goal is not a means to an end, but ultimately higher recovery rates are the goal. He related his lack of faith in the reliability of the waste and recycling data collected, specifically the misreporting of commercial waste as industrial waste at solid waste facilities. It was indicated that the new District Solid Waste Management Plan Format, to be developed after this plan update is complete, will include updated industrial generation information based on statewide data. There are also efforts to partner with groups such as the Ohio Manufacturers Association to gather additional data. Ohio EPA is very aware of the challenges of data collection and will be working in concert with SWMDs to allow for better data in the future.

Kathy Trent asked why SWMDs were required to do greenhouse gas calculations as part of their solid waste plans and how the calculations would affect approval of those plans. It was explained that the only requirement, as far as a plan's approval, would be that the SWMD include the calculation in their plan. The WARM model developed by US EPA is a useful tool to track greenhouse gas reductions and allows for an additional environmental connection with recycling. Holly Christmann added that her SMWD already uses the WARM model to do greenhouse gas calculations. Political jurisdictions have requested that the information continue to be included with the SMWD's recycling reports and the information has also been used for the bigger picture for Hamilton County.

Next, Ernie discussed the public comment period, the five public hearings that were held around the state, and the interested party comments that Ohio EPA received regarding the state plan update.

Ohio EPA received comments from nine interested parties. Almost all of the comments concerned the new and proposed changes to siting criteria. Ohio EPA made a number of changes to the language in the state plan to address these comments.

After discussing the comments and the changes that were made, SWAC members were asked to vote to approve the state plan. The new state plan was unanimously approved.

Ernie completed his presentation with a summary of the remaining steps to complete the state plan and additional projects that must be completed once the director of Ohio EPA adopts the updated state plan. These projects include adopting rules to implement

the updated state plan, completion of the solid waste management district plan format, development of the model programs guidance, and training.

DSIWM's multiple award contract and the Closed Landfills and Orphaned Site Evaluation and Rating Team (Bob Large, OEPA-DSIWM)

Mr. Large started by introducing the new DSIWM Contracting and Remediation Oversight Unit (CROU), formerly known as the Scrap Tire Unit. The same people from the Scrap Tire Unit remain in the new unit with their duties expanded, but still act as the point of contact for the scrap tire program.

Another new entity is the Closed Landfill and Orphaned Site Evaluation and Rating (CLOSER) Team. The CLOSER Team will be responsible for evaluating sites around the state where:

- Solid waste is no longer accepted;
- All enforcement actions are complete (no company or personal assets left);
- There is the potential to impact public health, public safety, and the environment (i.e. gas migration, leachate outbreaks).

The team will be taking a new approach to tackling many problems sites that have existed for some time. The approach is borrowed from the scrap tire contracts. A multiple award contract was awarded on May 26, 2009 to three different contractors. The advantage is Ohio EPA had to go through the full contract award process only once rather than for each project. These three contractors will then bid for each project as they are prioritized by the CLOSER Team using labor rates established in the multiple-award contract. The contract is for one year with three optional years included.

A summary of the currently identified sites in Ohio was provided. Those sites where property owners have already provided access for closure activities were highlighted. The different project tasks include resolving gas migration problems, leachate outbreaks, erosion, and limiting groundwater impact. CLOSER Team members include representatives from each Ohio EPA district office and members from DSIWM Central Office as well.

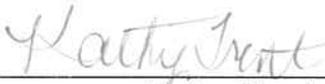
In the next few months, the CLOSER Team will gather data on priority sites. The contract will be utilized to develop cost estimates and work should start at those sites with financial assurance available. Cost requirements will be included in the scoring system as it is developed and a budget will be developed for the next budget cycle.

Agenda Items for the November 19, 2009 SWAC meeting

Because time ran out, the update on the City of Montgomery's RecycleBank pilot project will be rescheduled for a future SWAC meeting. Also, ODNR will have updates regarding their grant packages for the next SWAC meeting. No other agenda items were recommended at this time.

Respectfully submitted: 
Erv Ball, Vice Chair

Minutes approved on: March 25, 2010

Certified by: 
Kathy Trent, Secretary