

MEETING MINUTES: City of Philadelphia Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee (SWRAC)

DATE: February 26th, 2015

LOCATION: School District of Philadelphia Central Offices, 440 N. Broad Street

ATTENDEES:

SWRAC Members Present

Bob Anderson, ReCommunity Recycling
Phil Bresee, Streets Department/Recycling Office
Jack Embick, Environmental Law
Paul Kohl, Philadelphia Water Department
Sal Iadonisi, U.S. Recycling
Maurice M. Sampson II, Niche Recycling
Debbie Zimmer, Dow Chemical
Fern Gookin, Revolution Recovery

SWRAC Members Absent

Jeff Cardwell, Philadelphia School District
Katherine Gajewski, Mayor's Office of Sustainability
Dan Garafolo, University of Pennsylvania
Charles Raudenbush, Waste Management
Michele Feldman, Keep Philadelphia Beautiful
Vivian Van Story, Community Land Trust Corp.

Others Present

Mike Roles, Clean Water Action
Matthew Braden, Office of City Council Member Dennis O'Brien
Laura Cassidy, Philadelphia Prison System
Mike Giuranna, US EPA Region III
Francine Locke, Philadelphia School District
Dylan Wells, Niche Recycling
Shannon Detweiler, ReCommunity
Kemry Heinold, Rehrig Pacific
Tim Bennett, Bennett Compost
Bob Bylone, PA Recycling Markets Center
Jack Himes, PA Recycling Markets Center
Lisa Thresher, US EPA
Veronica Harris, Montgomery County, PA
David Newman, Newman Paperboard

City Staff/Consultants

Scott McGrath, Director of Environmental Services, Streets Dept.
Ian Hegarty, Recycling Program Planner, Streets Dept.
Jim Osborn, ARI
Allison Sands, Recyclebank
Virginia Cain, Recyclebank

Call to order/introductions:

The meeting was called to order by SWRAC co-chair Michelle Feldman at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from February 5th were approved by voice vote.

Presentation:

Bob Bylone, executive director of the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (PARMC) gave a presentation on the organization's formation, structure and mission areas. Jack Himes, also from the PARMC, delivered a presentation on E-Scrap industry challenges, particularly in Pennsylvania. A key portion of Mr. Himes' presentation focused on Pennsylvania's Covered Device Recovery Act (CDRA).

The presentations will be made available to SWRAC in the drop-box folder.

Organics Recycling Updates:

Phil Bresee provided updates to recent organics recycling discussion topics:

Organics Recycling Feasibility study – Staff has received tentative OK from PA DEP for use of Act 101 Section 901 grant monies. Bresee reported that timing of the bulk of study will be pushed back into the summer (FY 2016) due to budgetary constraints. However, it is possible that introductory portions could be tasked and accomplished sooner.

The project consultants will be Alternative Resources, Inc. and MSW Consultants. Staff and the consultants have yet to finalize a scope of services and determine which firm will be responsible for portions of the study. Likely project scope areas will include reviews of existing organics recycling processing capacity, key players, end-market capacity and uses, infrastructure reviews, legislative approaches, and collection options.

Council Bill No. 140903 (aka the O'Brien & Bass "dumpster bill") – This was passed by City Council 16-0 on the bill's second reading on February 19th. Staff delivered testimony on the bill at a February 10th hearing of the Streets and Services Committee. The legislation was delivered to the Mayor's office and is awaiting his signature. Bresee indicated that the Streets department will need to craft regulations. \

SWRAC members entered into a discussion on the formation of an organics recycling subcommittee in order to further discuss and make potential recommendations to the full SWRAC on organics recycling issues. Bresee indicated that the Streets Department would be supportive of that and that non-SWRAC members would be eligible to participate so long as there is a member, non-member balance. Maurice Sampson polled meeting attendees on their interest in participating with the following individuals indicating yes:

Michael Roles
Tim Bennett
Paul Kohl
Matt Braden

Mike Giuranna
Dylan Wells
Maurice Sampson

Bresee said that he would send out at meeting notice and host at MSB before the next SWRAC meeting.

Solid Waste Management Plan Update:

Bresee and Jim Osborn from ARI reported that chapters 1 through 4 of the draft SW plan have been submitted to DEP. They explained that Chapter 5, which is the heart of the plan, still needs to be refined, including having SWRAC feedback incorporated into it. Bresee reported that staff would upload completed draft chapters into the SWRAC drop-box folder in advance of the March meeting.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 26th.