

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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Broome County Environmental Management Council Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC)

Minutes from November 24, 2008

Conference Room "A", Broome County Health Department, 225 Front St, Binghamton, NY

Present: Kevin Mathers, Debra Smith, Mario Nirchi, Adam Robbins, Catherine Sullivan, Julia Hoover, Josephine Chu, Stacy Merola, and Kris Lau. **AWE:** Tony Lubzanski, Ron Keibel, and Ildi Mitchell

1. The meeting was called to order at **4:08 pm**. Introductions followed. October minutes were corrected to clarify under item 3, SWMP Next Steps, the first bullet should read "While awaiting results from *recycling/waste characterization*, the consultants (RW Beck) began work on a waste characterization using the Iowa study for comparison. The consultants must file a FOIL (Freedom of Information Law) request to obtain the *OCCRA* study." Kevin moved, Julia seconded, to approve minutes from October as amended. Motion carried.

2. Division of Solid Waste Management (DSWM) Reports

Solid Waste Mgmt Plan Update

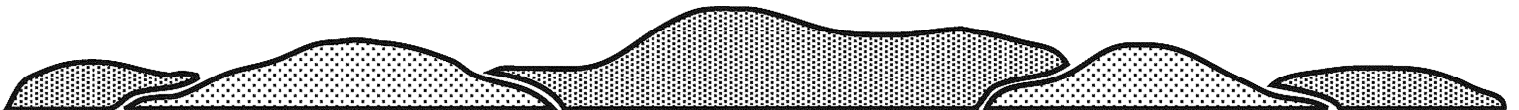
- The DSWM awaits results of the waste characterization, and R.W. Beck continues to work on white papers.

Recycling

- Broome County Recycling Guide –new guides are printed; there was a full color insert in Press & Sun-Bulletin Nov 15 detailing what can and cannot be recycled, along with disposal tips for other wastes like electronics and hazardous wastes. The guide also contains info to obtain a recycling bin, and contact info for businesses and those planning public events. The insert went out to approximately 58,000 people.
- The Press & Sun- Bulletin's publication 365: Your Life Made Easier will feature a "green" edition that contains recycling information and waste reduction tips.
- The holiday tree recycling press release will go out in mid-December to radio stations.
- Debra continues to conduct landfill tours.
- Debra is compiling the annual recycling report for the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – she will send letters on or around December 1 to about 260 businesses to request reporting data. Responses are due back around January 12. Generally, only about 10 percent of businesses respond.

Landfill

- Landfill entrance – Shumaker Engineers (SCE) has recommended that a new road be built parallel to Knapp Road from the existing entrance to Dunham Hill Road. The conceptual layout for this is complete. Additional borings were done on November 20 to evaluate the depth to bedrock and its density. If the top of the hill can be cut deeper it will even out the fill needed for the other side. A portion of Knapp Road by Dunham Hill is planned to be abandoned. The County and SCE met with Town of Nanticoke officials to discuss the road work. The Town will have a special meeting of its board to approve the plan. There is a meeting with the Landfill Citizen Advisory Committee (LCAC) on December 15 to discuss the entrance issues. The County has not received the layout for the facility north of Dunham but expects to have it by the LCAC meeting. SCE is continuing to work on wetland issues related to the project. The US Army Corp of Engineers will consider this an extension of the original wetland impacts, and the County will need an individual wetland permit as opposed to a Nationwide permit. It is anticipated that the DEC will issue its findings on the Supplemental EIS in December and post the permit modification.



- Landfill gas – Broome Energy installed 10 new landfill gas wells in November and they are waiting for DEC approval to put in eight more. They have four engines operating on site.
- Wetland for leachate treatment– A pilot project *is* planned for this winter to evaluate the worst case conditions and will last at least through the spring. All leachate will be contained and none will be released on site during the pilot.
- Landfill daily cover – Auto fluff from Upstate Shredding (Owego, NY) has stopped coming to the landfill while they are working on their facility, but may resume after the first of the year. The DSWM is looking for other alternative daily covers, and is investigating the feasibility of using processed construction & demolition debris (C&D), incinerator ash, tire chips and cut glass.

Other

- Stacy inquired on behalf of Tony Lubzanski about a story that *60-Minutes* ran recently about TV/computer recycling and how parts end up in third-world countries. A company in Colorado claimed to the City of Denver that they processed electronics in the US but were caught red-handed. How do we know the fate of our recycled computers/TVs even though we have specifications to follow? The DSWM requires certifications for end outlets for all of the materials processed. The contract to process equipment is currently out to bid; they will be held accountable to the County's requirements, which is the best the County can do. Bids are expected back December 15.
- TV recycling - Electronics manufactures Sharp and Panasonics are accepting TVs for free recycling from individuals at two New York locations: the Town of Union (which may not be correct) and EcoInternational (ECO) on Stage Rd in Vestal. DSWM expects an increase in the number of TVs for recycling as the switch over to digital broadcast nears. Debra wants to create a webpage on gobroomecounty.com to address television recycling.
- Yellow (telephone) Book – Debra informed the group that people can now sign up on a website (location???) to stop receiving the phone book automatically if they do not want it. This will help to reduce wastes.
- Water filters – Brita now has a recycling program (in the UK) to recycle spent filters.
- Electronics take-back - Sam's Club and Radio Shack have electronics trade-in programs; however, Sam's Club will take it only from members. Eco International takes electronics back from the public on a general basis.
- The DEC's 2009 NY Recycles calendar and school recycling information were distributed. The handout provides info on the Go Green Initiative, Green school, and 2010 calendar poster contest.

3. NYS Budget ('09-'10), the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and the Bottle Bill

The Governor's attempt to modify the current 2008-2009 budget by calling a special Legislative session in November proved unsuccessful. Recommended reductions for the current budget year will be carried over into the Governor's proposed 2009-2010 budget. Governor Patterson is proposing to move a portion of Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) monies (\$50 million) to the state's General Fund to help close existing budget gaps. His proposal reduces solid waste programming by \$9 million from \$26.5 million; of most significance will be a \$7 million reduction from \$8.75 million for secondary market research and implementation. Other areas of the EPF are targeted for reduction including farmland protection, water quality improvement programming, ag- and non-ag non-point source pollution control programming, and open space land acquisition to name a few.

Inclusion of an enhanced Bottle Bill in the Governor's budget could generate revenue (from unclaimed nickel deposits) that may *slightly* offset EPF losses. With a new majority in the NYS Senate, perhaps there will be stronger support and consideration for an expanded Bottle Bill. Traditionally, the RWMC and EMC have supported expanding the Bottle Bill to include non-carbonated beverages as a litter control mechanism and to generate revenues for EPF programs. Stacy summarized the EMC's bottle bill compromise letter that was sent before to state law makers for consideration. The County Legislature had a resolution in committee that supported an expanded bottle bill earlier this year; however, because the measure failed to be included in the state budget, the County Administration Committee withdrew their resolution from consideration.

Discussion followed about budget timelines. Kevin asked if the EMC's Natural Resources Committee has taken a position on this issue since there are implications for open space and water programs. He suggests that perhaps one letter can be approved by the EMC that merges all of the issues. The RWMC took no action. Staff will present the issue to the NRC in December or January and report back to the RWMC at next meeting.

4. Announcements/Member Items of Interest

- Kevin provided an update on the proposed private compost facility in Kirkwood - that a public hearing scheduled for November 25 would not happen because more paper work is passing back and forth between the applicant's lawyer and the town's lawyer. Brief discussion ensued. The exciting thing about this facility is that the operator would like to get into food waste composting eventually, which would be a first for this area.
- Stacy came across an article about a drug take-bake program in Alachua, Florida. At collection locations, residents were asked to empty their medications into a collection container and then take home the empty containers. The collection vessel held a dilute acid to render the discarded drugs unusable. Stacy will share that article with Josephine who was researching this topic. Debra said the DEC is looking into variances for Part 360 waste rules to allow for legal transport of collected controlled substances for proper disposal without violation.

5. Next meeting: Mon., Jan. 26, 2009, 4pm, Conf Rm "A", BC Health Dept, 225 Front St, Binghamton.
[**Editor's Note:** the January meeting is postponed until **Monday, February 2**, 4pm, BC Health Dept.]

The meeting adjourned at **5:15 pm**.

Kris Lau, recorder

Stacy Merola, contributor and editor