

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive • Stacy Merola, Director



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Broome County Environmental Management Council RECYCLING & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Minutes from Monday, February 23, 2009

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

Present: Adam Robbins, Brent Gotsch, Patrick Haughie, Nicole Pisaturo, Adam Choy, Alissa Kordrupel, Ron Keibel, Jaime Welch, Debra Smith, Barry Klipsch, Stacy Merola, Kevin Mathers, Josephine Chu, Julia Hoover, and Larry Kline. **AWE:** Tony Lubzanski and Ildi Mitchell.

Meeting convened at **4:00 p.m.**

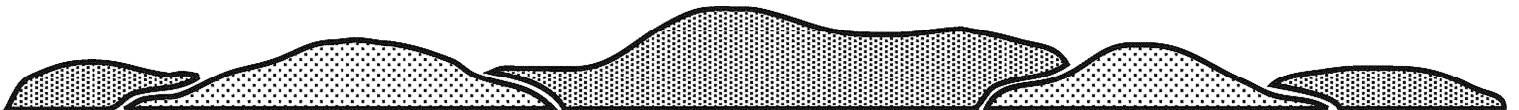
1. Minutes from Feb2 were approved on a motion by Ron seconded by Kevin. Introductions followed.

2. Division of Solid Waste Mgmt Reports

- Landfill items
 - Deb continues to compile the annual recycling reports for the NYSDEC (DEC).
 - New landfill cell 1, Section IV was recently certified by DEC. Entrance design is still underway.
- Recycling items
 - The DSWM is securing radio advertisements for grass recycling (grasscycling) campaign, which promotes leaving lawn clippings on the grass after cutting to promote healthy growth. Ads should run mid week during May and June.
 - DSWM ran in the Press & Sun-Bulletin the calendar of dates remaining for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility collections.
 - Debra also ordered 150 more compost bins (Earth Machine) that will be offered for sale at the landfill (\$38.80). Debra was invited and will attend the Vestal School's Environmental Expo in April, in addition to Earth Fest at MacArthur Park.
 - The Coca Cola beverage container recycling grant program is expanded to businesses; there is a cap of 75 units for all applicants. The regional watershed group the Upper Susquehanna Coalition – is using food grade barrels from Coca-Cola (in Rochester) for retrofitting as rain barrels. Perhaps another vendor (locally) would be willing to donate food-grade barrels for use as retrofitted beverage container recycling bins.

3. BC Solid Waste Management Plan

- BC Recyclable Materials Characterization Study – The study concluded that the County is on tract with its recycling waste composition: 75% comes from paper, while 25% comes from containers, (glass, plastic, metal). Overall the community is doing a good job keeping non-recyclable materials out of the waste stream. Question was raised about private companies venturing over to public disposal because of the markets being stale. Debra said that in order for a company to enter the public sphere they must obtain a permit, but no permits have recently been issued. The market price for plastics has seen a steady decline, but is slowly on its way back up. This price drop is acting as a disincentive for people to recycle but should fluctuate over time.



- BC Issue Paper #1 – EPP & Recycled-Content Procurement Policies – The first of ten issue papers, this addresses environmental procurement policies that the County can embrace such as getting departments to buy bulk, switching to higher grade recycled paper, intra-office policy legislation, etc. At the Division level, Solid Waste already pursues several EPP practices. In the future, the Division would like to expand this to the County-wide level. Once the plan gains support, policies can be implemented incrementally. Until then, the DSWM will issue guidelines accessible from the County’s website for businesses and schools. A point was raised about how purchasing 100% recycled paper will cost the County around \$7000 more per year. Discussion ensued. You create demand when you buy recycled content. The DSWM talks with the County Purchasing Dept to bid on paper with increased recycled content whenever possible.
- The next Issue Paper should be available by the end of next week and will address Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Multi-family recycling.

4. Announcements/Member Items of Interest

- DEIS Scope - Mulch & Soil Amendment Facility, Kirkwood – A public meeting will be held February 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the town of Kirkwood Town hall. Kirkwood, acting as the lead agency with the authority to either fund or disapprove an action, requested that a formal Environmental Impact Statement be scoped and drafted. The proposal would be designed to take yard waste from commercial entities and slowly build up a feedstock. The operation is proposed to be an indoor facility. The applicant is in the process of obtaining a special use permit for the facility but the local board would like more information and guarantee that the proposal will be free from impacts. Some concerns have been raised about the odors, traffic issues, aerosols and other airborne pollutants that will be produced from the facility. Discussion followed.
- NYS Budget ('09-10), the EPF and the Bottle Bill – The EMC’s draft letter was circulated regarding the bottle bill. Critiques were made to the expanded bottle bill to incorporate all non-carbonated juice and water bottles into the system. The bill also proposes that unclaimed nickels generated by the deposits could be about \$118 million and be deposited into the state’s Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Since some money is proposed to be diverted away from the EPF with the reallocation of the Real Estate Transfer Tax out of the EPF, some funds from this revised bottle bill would greatly supplement that loss of stable funding. The EMC’s final draft support letter advocates for a 50/50 compromise (50% going to the EPF and the other 50% going back to the distributors). The letter will be sent Feb 24 or 25 to NYS officials and the Governor. Discussion ensued.
- Free Medication Collection Event – Village of Endicott will host this event with United Health Services and the Medicine Shoppe Sat, February 28, 10 am-3 pm, Endicott Municipal Bldg. They will be collect over the counter, prescription medications, and veterinary medications. Sharps, thermometers or other medical waste should not be brought. The event is promoting the safe disposal of old medicines instead of simply flushing or disposing of them into the environment.
- Earth Fest, Sat, April 25, 10am-5pm, MacArthur School & Park – Debra will have a table for DSWM, Cooperate Extensions will have a table on composting, and the EMC will have a table and use the recycling game.
- EMC and DSWM staff will attend a deconstruction seminar at the Library Feb 24.

5. Next mtg: Monday, March 23 at 4:00 pm Conference Room “A”, BC Health Dept, 225 Front St, Binghamton [**Editor’s note:** March meeting cancelled]

The meeting adjourned at **5:15 p.m.**

Adam Robbins, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor