

**Summary Minutes  
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWAC)  
August 18, 2011  
Lazarus Government Center  
50 W. Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215**

**The Following Members Announced Their Attendance at Roll Call:**

Erv Ball, Health Departments  
Erin Miller, Municipalities  
Jean Byrd, Public  
Dan Harris, Ohio EPA  
Steve Hill, Industrial Generators  
Terrie TerMeer, ODNR  
John Bayliss, Counties  
Anne Fiehrer-Flaig, Single County SWMDs  
Thomas Ferrell, Counties  
Chris Jacobs, Joint County SWMDs  
Joseph Denen, Municipalities  
Gary Sims, Private Recycling Industry  
Matt Trokan, Statewide Environmental Advocacy Organizations

Belle Everett, Townships and Christopher Valerian, Private Solid Waste Management Industry arrived after roll call.

**Welcome and Introductions – Dan Harris, Ohio EPA - DMWM**

Two new members were introduced to the group. Anne Fiehrer-Flaig is Coordinator of the Butler County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD) and will be representing single county SWMDs on SWAC. John Bayliss, Logan County Commissioner, is a new county representative. Also, Gary Sims and Steve Hill were re-appointed and there are three seats that have not been appointed as of yet.

**Review of the May 19, 2011 meeting minutes**

Thomas Ferrell MOVED to accept the May 19, 2011 meeting minutes presented today. Chris Jacobs SECONDED the motion and the minutes were approved on voice vote.

**DSIWM General and Legislative update – Dan Harris, Ohio EPA - DMWM**

Mr. Harris shared that the Division is evaluating it's of role in promoting construction and demolition debris (C&DD) recycling. More recycling is currently being done and a couple of meetings have been held with the C&DD industry. It was related that C&DD is

addressed in the State Solid Waste Management Plan, but no there are no specific goals since it is not “solid waste” by definition.

There are currently two bills proposed that relate to coal combustion residuals. The general approach is to regulate the waste stream as a solid waste. The proposals address a lot of concerns that Ohio EPA provided in comments. Also, the compost rules will be filed as proposed rules very soon.

Mr. Harris also related to a recent Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials conference attended by Ohio EPA-DMWM staff. Topics included sustainability, organics recycling, frameworks for working with local health departments, rural recycling, pharmaceutical waste, landfill fire best management practices, and abandoned landfills.

### **Ohio EPA Director Scott J. Nally**

Director Nally thanked SWAC members for their commitment and time spent serving on SWAC. He related that he previously worked at Ohio’s sister agency in Indiana for six years. The regulatory framework is similar in Indiana, which has made the transition easier.

Director Nally provided some of the changes underway at Ohio EPA. One of his first tasks was to set up an efficiency task force within the Agency. He related that he intends to better market Ohio and Ohio EPA. The Ohio EPA website will be seeing some upgrades as part of an effort for more consistency across the Agency. A virtual file cabinet will soon be available – five years of non-compliance documents are currently being processed. He also indicated that Ohio EPA’s permitting process is being streamlined where possible, allowing issuance of general permits rather than specific programmatic permits.

Specific to solid waste and SWAC, Director Nally indicated that House Bill 592 will be re-evaluated in the upcoming months. It has been twenty years since the legislation has been looked at. This may necessitate SWAC to meet more than quarterly. It is known that there are potential changes that may be controversial, but other parts that can easily be fine-tuned. It is possible that the evaluation could involve a two phase process. That way the easy fixes could be addressed quickly through the first phase and wait to address the bigger issues when the timing is better. An open, honest discussion in this type of forum will be formulated in order to have open dialogue. The Agency will be looking to SWAC for advice since it is the advisory council – there is a potential for a big role as we try to think outside the box.

### **City of Akron Recycling Program - Paul Barnett, Public Works Manager**

Mr. Barnett started by giving an overview of the City of Akron’s demographics. With a

population of 206,000, Akron covers 49 square miles and includes 69,000 curb trash service customers. Akron crews service 77 percent of the customers, with a "managed competition" contractor offering service to the remaining 23 percent. The weekly recycling routes collect 8,000 tons of recyclables annually.

The city made many significant changes to the trash services in 1989. Driven by customer demand, Akron started providing curbside recycling service. The expectation was that the money from the sale of recyclables would allow for sustainability of the program. Also at that time the trash service went to an automated collection.

In 2006, a study showed only a 23 percent participation rate in the recycling program. A decision was made to do automated recycling collection at that time, which provided considerable savings related to workers' compensation injuries. A broad education program was implemented simultaneously that included public meetings, water bill stuffers, billboards and significant news coverage. In addition, residents were offered a monthly two dollar savings if they committed to participating in the recycling program. Within months of implementing the automated recycling cart service, the streets looked cleaner and the resulting participation rate at the end of 2009 was 49 percent. The processing of the recyclables incurred a cost of approximately \$200,000 annually at that time.

The continued educational efforts have increased the participation rates to 69 percent in 2011. Also, the contract for processing recyclables was awarded to a new company that results in Akron receiving \$300,000 annually. This was a result of the revenue sharing negotiated in the contract. The resulting reduction in recycling costs made recycling considerably cheaper than trash on a \$/ton comparison.

There were other interesting aspects of Akron's new recycling contract. The company that was awarded the contract, Greenstar, is out of Pennsylvania and plans to expand geographically. They are investing \$10 million in a facility built in an old airplane hanger in the Akron area. The company has agreed to pay \$1/ton royalty on recyclables brought in and the site is being considered as a new location for the household hazardous waste (HHW) collection program in the city. Greenstar also plans to incorporate a technology that would convert residual plastic materials into a high grade fuel oil. The revenue sharing included in the contract included a "floor" if markets would go down (only one or two months where it would have been negative in the last five years). It also included a back clause that allows other municipalities to sign up for the same pricing formula.

### **New Program Development and Materials Conservation Unit - John Schierberl, OEPA-DMWM**

Mr. Schierberl reviewed some of the beneficial use projects the new unit has been tasked with. Spent foundry sand is one targeted material. The goal is to find an outlet

to keep the sands out of a landfill, or to use it as a daily cover at a landfill. Sampling methods are going to be the key. Street sweepings are another material being evaluated. Again, sampling is the hitch. Ohio EPA's goal of protecting human health and the environment has to come first. Lake and river dredging are likely to come up soon.

In addition to the beneficial use involvement, the unit has many other activities going on. The unit has been part of discussions regarding the new definition of solid waste and coal ash. They will be part of the state electronics challenge as well as continued work with pharmaceuticals, food waste, C&DD recycling, and product stewardship.

### **Programs of the Geauga-Trumbull Joint SWMD - Bob Villers, Director**

Mr. Villers started by providing a brief history of the Geauga-Trumbull Joint SWMD (District). The District was formed in 1993 after separating from Ashtabula County. The two counties have significantly different demographics. Trumbull County has the cities of Warren and Niles and a population over 210,000. Geauga County's population of 93,000 is considered to have a significant amount of "bedroom" communities that commute to the Cleveland area.

The District was funded by a 50 cent export fee until 1996, when a \$3.50/ton generation was implemented. The District changed to a \$5.50/ton "contract" generation fee in 2007. The resulting \$1.6 million annual fee revenue is used to implement numerous District programs. These include drop-off recycling programs, HHW collection, scrap tire grants, appliance collection, health department enforcement, letter clean-ups, education and awareness programs, electronics recycling, waste audits, and a law enforcement program as well as others.

Details were provided for the District's drop-off recycling programs. The District originally operated eight sites accepting co-mingled recycling in 30 yard roll-off containers with help from an ODNR grant. In 1997, the District added 15 additional sites bringing the total to 23 sites and collecting 1,035 tons/year. By 2002 the District operated 49 sites, collecting over 4,500 tons/year and the cost to operate the sites had exceeded \$410,000 annually. In 2003, the District changed the collection program to collect newspaper in separate in 8 yard front loader containers, resulting in \$100,000 savings annually. In 2010, the District collected 6,951 tons of material at 45 sites at an annual cost of approximately \$400,000.

The District's scrap tire program was originally funded by an ODNR grant. Four tire amnesty events were conducted annually. In the District's 1996 plan update, an amnesty day program was included and a scrap tire grant program was developed for the political subdivisions. Grants provided local political subdivisions funding to hold their own collection and pick up illegally dumped tires along roads. A total of \$60,000 was allocated to the program. By 2004, 39 out of 56 political subdivisions were using

the scrap tire grants. In 2006, the District discontinued the amnesty days and provided additional funding (\$100,000 annually) for the Scrap Tire Grant Program. Grant minimums were \$1,000 per political subdivision and the remaining \$44,000 was divided based on population and amount requested. In 2010, 52 out of 56 political subdivisions participated in the Scrap Tire Grant Program at a cost of \$80,120. The county road department assists with monitoring the sites and notifying when the containers are full. Law enforcement at contaminated sites has been an ongoing effort. Since the program has matured and recycling amounts have leveled off, the District has been pushing communities towards curbside collection.

The District's appliance program was started in 1997 with two one-day events including freon removal. The District has continued the two appliance collection events per year since 1997. The total cost of the appliance recycling program in 2010 was \$13,940.

The District's HHW collection started in 1997 with two one-day collection events. 1,397 vehicles participated at a total cost of \$149,360. In 1998, the District added an additional collection event in Trumbull County, for a total of three events. The cost of the HHW collection program had increased to \$295,000 in 2001. In 2002, the District added another event in Geauga County for a total of four one day events a year. The District realized the program needed some major changes in order to reduce cost and increase the efficiency. The goals included a reduction in the wait time and increasing the days of service. The District opened a seasonal HHW and electronics collection facility in June of 2005. The facility is available two or three times a week for five months of the year and a one day HHW event was still held in Geauga County. In 2010, the seasonal facility processed 1338 tons of material at a cost of \$136,312. The one day Geauga County event processed 40 tons of material, at a cost of \$44,379. In addition, over 32 tons of electronics were collected and recycled. In 2011, the District expanded the Electronics Recycling Program to include a one day event in Geauga County.

### **Product Stewardship – Andrew Booker, OEPA-DMWM**

Mr. Booker started by sharing the general concept of product stewardship. Many goods become obsolete in just a few years and there is no cost to business if we continue to throw away more and more material. There are no incentives to create products that last longer or are more easily recycled. Under the current system, there is a lack of incentive to design better products.

To a large degree, local governments are responsible for managing this increasingly complex waste stream. The result is an "end of pipe" solution. Product stewardship is an alternate model where producers, rather than government, assume responsibility for the end-of-life management of certain goods. Many businesses are already doing this nationwide on a voluntary basis. Product stewardship directs all those involved in the life cycle of a product to take responsibility for the impacts to human health and the

natural environment that result from the production, use, and end-of-life management of the product. Cost of management is included in the product's cost (like marketing costs).

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is one specific implementation of the product stewardship concept. EPR entails that manufacturers set up and pay for collection programs. This shifts the burden of collecting products off of local governments, provides an incentive for manufacturers to design products that are easier to recycle (or have fewer impacts in the first place), and creates more opportunities for collection.

Some states are passing laws to require manufacturers to collect their products. As of October 2010, there are more than 60 state laws mandating EPR. In Ohio, electronics waste legislation was introduced last year, but did not get out of committee. Other common products that have been covered by EPR legislation include auto switches (mercury), batteries, carpet, cell phones, electronics, fluorescent lighting, mercury thermostats, paint, and pesticide containers.

### **Glass Recycling Initiatives - Angela Carbetta, Marion County Recycling & Litter Prevention and Holly Christmann, Hamilton County SWMD)**

Angela provided an overview of the "Glass Act" Bar Bottle Recycling Program in Marion County. The program is a result of a grant from ODNR that was matched by a local company, Ohio Galvanizing. The grant monies were used to purchase special glass recycling containers for exclusive use by participating bars and restaurants. Two haulers committed to participating and ensured at least a net neutral cost change. A local recycling facility also provided an alternative processing site for the material.

Nearly 40 participants joined the program and approximately three tons of glass per week are being diverted from landfills. An increase in cardboard recycling was another result of implementing this program.

Many examples of the promotion techniques were also provided. These included brochures, newspaper articles, radio interviews, and Glass Act decals for inside the establishments.

Holly Christmann provided a quick overview of the Hamilton County SWMD's bar and restaurant recycling initiative. The recent initiative is an expansion of an existing recycling at work program and is result of increased calls for assistance from bars and restaurants. The opportunity to reduce material going to landfills was seen and the SWMD provided needed technical assistance to these entities in order to set up new recycling programs in a sector where few currently existed.

The technical assistance provided included provision of some supplies, staff education and extensive promotion. The space-efficient interior collection containers were

provided to participants with help from an ODNR grant. The promotion techniques included decals, coasters, press releases, information on the district website and social networking sites, paid advertising, as well as a program launch event that included a press conference.

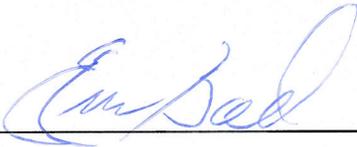
Thirty five bars and restaurants started recycling, resulting in an estimated 323 tons diverted in the first year. One participant reported that trash pickup was reduced from five times a week to only two resulting in "significant savings."

There were some keys to success and lessons learned from the initiative. Partnerships were formed with recycling companies as well as young professional organizations. Ensuring commitment from haulers is essential because glass is a problem for some recyclers. Purchasing lids for containers would be very helpful. The need for promotion of the program cannot be underestimated. It was also noted that tracking individual tonnages was difficult since trucks are not equipped with scales.

**Agenda Items for the November 17, 2011 SWAC meeting**

Potential agenda topics offered included: glass bottle recycling end-user point of view, Franklin County Environmental Crimes Task Force, and a discussion of H.B. 592.

Mr. Harris declared meeting adjournment.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  


*Vice Chair*

Minutes approved on: \_\_\_\_\_  
*November 17, 2011*

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
*Secretary*

