

**Summary Minutes  
Solid Waste Management Advisory Council (SWAC)  
May 15, 2008  
Lazarus Government Center  
50 W. Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215**

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

Eilert Ofstead, Statewide Environmental Advocacy Group  
Steve Hill, Industrial Generators  
Derek Anderson, ODNR  
Mark Thomas, Counties  
Yolanda Walker, Single County SWMDs  
Thomas Ferrell, Counties  
Tim Wasserman, Joint County SWMDs  
Karl Graham, Municipalities  
Larry Johns, Townships  
Kathy Trent, Private Solid Waste Management Industry

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Andrew Booker, who is with Ohio EPA's Division of Solid and Infectious Waste Management (DSIWM). Mr. Booker pointed out that seven members' terms will expire in June and that at least two people would not be seeking reappointment. He then thanked Tim Wasserman and Karl Graham for their many contributions to SWAC over the years.

**DSWIM General and Legislative Update**

Mr. Booker then provided a quick presentation on the use of the environmental protection fee, as requested by a SWAC member in February. The \$1.50 per ton of solid waste fee is collected for the Environmental Protection Fund. In State Fiscal Year 2007, it generated approximately \$23.7 million and \$22.3 million was expended.

The 22.3 million dollars expended was primarily used to fund other Ohio EPA programs, with the most going to the divisions of Air Pollution and Surface Water. Other programs funded, from largest to smallest, were Drinking Water, Emergency and Remedial Response, Lab Services, Ground Water, local air agencies, Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention, the Clean Ohio Fund, and Hazardous Waste.

**E-waste and the Analog to Digital TV Switch**

Deb Hoffman, with Ohio EPA-DSIWM, provided a general overview of electronics recycling in Ohio. She pointed out that many electronic devices can contain hazardous components, such as lead, copper, aluminum, epoxy resin and nickel. US EPA's 2006 estimates show that Americans generated electronic waste (e-waste) totaling 1,313,400

tons of personal computer products, 846,800 tons of televisions, and 10,400 tons of cell phones.

The electronic waste that is recycled is collected via manufacturer take-back programs, SWMD collection events, and through private sector recycling facilities. Ohio EPA's Division of Hazardous Waste Management and Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention websites provide lists for private recycling facilities, and DSIWM's website provides a list of SWMD collection events. It was noted that 14 states have responded with legislation for e-waste, many of which put the responsibility on the manufacturer. Also, due to the US EPA Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Rule, which was effective January of 2007, CRTs can only be exported only if the exporter receives written consent from the receiving country.

Due to the impending switch from analog to digital transmission, many SWMDs are concerned about an increased influx of televisions to be disposed and/or recycled. Ohio EPA collected TV collection data from 22 of the 52 SWMDs. Over one million pounds of televisions were collected by the SWMDs in 2007, double what was reported for 2006. It frequently costs \$5.00 -\$10.00 per TV to have them recycled. The 22 SWMDs that collected TVs in 2007 spent approximately \$140,000 combined to do so. It is estimated that it would cost around \$250,000 total for each SWMD to have a one-day collection event. There is an ongoing conversation between the Ohio Association of Broadcasters (OAB), Ohio EPA DSIWM, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention about the possibility of providing funding to the SWMDs.

Jason Sanford, from OAB, presented next. He provided an overview about the digital television (DTV) transition. Congress has mandated that on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in America must shut off their analog signals and broadcast only digital signals. Currently, stations are broadcasting both their analog and digital signals. This change will free up the analog spectrum – portions will be made available for emergency responders, and portions will be auctioned off.

DTV is still an over-the-air (OTA) broadcasting technology – but provides better picture and sound quality and is more flexible. DTV also makes it possible for stations to broadcast in high definition or provide multiple channels of programming simultaneously (called multicasting), instead of broadcasting only one channel at a time. DTV technology can also be used to provide future interactive video and data services that are not possible with analog technology.

Every household in America that receives free OTA television signals through antennas on television sets that are equipped with analog tuners, and who do not subscribe to cable or satellite television service, will be impacted by the transition. Nationwide, the estimates are that there are about 19 million households that fit this description. Approximately 720,400 households in Ohio, or about 16 percent, are solely reliant on over-the-air broadcast for their television signals and are at risk of losing their television service if they do not take action prior to February 17, 2009. This 720,400 figure does not include the many other households that have cable or satellite service for one

television set, but rely on OTA for additional televisions in the home. There are pockets around the state where this percentage is higher than 16%. In Paulding, Holmes, and Carroll Counties, for example, more than 25% of households have only OTA capability.

There are three options available for analog TV viewers. One option is to purchase a digital television. It's possible that some of the OTA households have purchased digital TV sets already. The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) estimates that as of January 1, 2008, 50% of US households own a digital TV. The second option is for analog households to subscribe to cable or satellite service. For cable TV subscribers, the transition will be seamless and invisible. But for households who don't want to buy a new television and don't want to subscribe to cable or satellite, their remaining option is to purchase a converter box that will allow an analog TV set to receive and process a digital signal. The converter box sits between the antenna and the TV set and it converts a digital TV signal into one that can be viewed on an analog TV. The boxes are expected to be on retailers' shelves later this month, and will sell for \$40-\$70. While these boxes are a more cost-effective option than purchasing a new digital television or subscribing to cable, it's possible that the cost could be a barrier for many people. The federal government is providing some assistance to Americans in making this transition, including \$40 coupons. According to a recent survey from CEA, 48% of OTA households in the U.S. expect to buy a digital converter box and continue using their current analog TV.

Fewer than 15 million televisions may be removed from homes through 2010, with 95% of these sets possibly being recycled, sold, or donated. The CEA survey found, "87 percent of consumers say it's important to recycle their CE devices." The problem is the limited number of places that will recycle TVs, or if they do accept TVs there is a charge to recycle them. Second hand donation stores and organizations may be reluctant to accept analog TVs as the transition date nears. Those that do resell the sets will have to abide by FCC rules, which means labeling stating the TVs will not work with digital signals. Some manufacturers such as Sony have created partnerships to recycle their electronic items. It is uncertain how many consumers are aware of these options.

OAB and its member stations are involved in discussions on how to deal with the increase in television sets that will need an outlet to be recycled, but nothing is concrete at this time. One discussion has involved whether a possible statewide effort could be undertaken on this recycling issue. One concern that has been stated is that a Designated Market Area (DMA) such as Columbus includes 18 counties, so a recycling collection in Columbus would likely not be an convenient option for households in Roth and Morgan counties.

Kathy Trent, with Waste Management, provided another presentation on the efforts Waste Management has made to contribute to the e-waste recycling infrastructure. WM Recycle America L.L.C. (WMRA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. and is the nation's largest recycling company employing more than 2,800 workers and operates 105 recycling plants, including four electronics recycling plants. WMRA manages more than 7.6 million tons of recyclables per year and markets recyclables to

consumers on a world-wide basis. Their e-waste recycling services include 4 regional processing centers, 138 e-waste collection depots in 32 states, and 20 service partner processing centers in 11 states. There is one Waste Management transfer facility in Ohio that is currently accepting e-waste as part of the Sony partnership. More will be available in the near future.

WMRA “de-manufactures” the electronics collected, which separates the whole products into commodities such as circuit boards, wire, plastic, steel, copper and cathode ray tubes. Separated commodities are shipped to processors who further refine the commodities into feedstock for the manufacture of new products. Overall recover rate is approximately 95%.

Beginning on September 15, 2007, WMRA teamed up with Sony to establish the first nationwide electronics recycling take-back program. This program allows consumers to recycle all Sony-branded products for no fee at 80 WMRA “eCycling” drop-off centers throughout the U.S. It also allows consumers to recycle other manufacturers’ consumer electronics products at market prices. Within a year, the number of eCycling drop-off centers will increase to at least 150 sites and they are working towards the goal of having enough drop-off locations in all 50 states so there is a recycling center within 20 miles of 95 percent of the U.S. population.

A map was shown that illustrated which states have laws for the management of electronic waste. Less than half of the states have such laws, with most putting the responsibility on the producer of the electronics. California’s laws utilize a consumer fee, and Arkansas provides for a landfill disposal fee. Also, there are a handful of east coast states that have disposal bans in place. Many more states have bills under consideration in 2008, including most of Ohio’s neighbors.

### **ODNR Grant Recipients**

A handout was provided that outlined the 25 Community Grants that were awarded. The materials targeted for recycling were identified for each project, and the projected tons diverted from landfill were shown as well. The total amount awarded was \$915,260, and 16,000 tons of materials are to be recycled. The categories for the different projects, in order of most awarded to least, were Material Recovery Facility Recycling, Recycling Curbside, Recycling Drop-off, Deconstruction, Targeted Materials Collections, Commercial and Institutional Recycling, Special Venue Recycling, and Litter Collection.

It was noted that when selecting the award recipients, sustainability of the program was an important criterion. An example was given of the food composting programs at the state fair that was part of a grant in the past – now the program is running on its own.

### **Van Wert Solid Waste Management District Overview**

George Brake, the Coordinator for the Van Wert Solid Waste Management District (SWMD), next provided the group with an overview of the SWMD. Van Wert’s population is less than 30,000 and is located on the Indiana border in the northwest part

of Ohio. The largest city is Van Wert with a population of 10,442 – the majority of the land is use is for agricultural purposes. The SWMD office is located at the District's Recycling Center, which also has a yard waste facility, a drive-through recycling drop-off and MRF at the same location. There are no landfills located within the county, but there is one transfer facility and numerous waste haulers.

The SWMD's recycling center offers curbside collection services for the city of Van Wert and seven other villages as well and many commercial accounts. They also service ten recycling drop-offs within the district and fourteen outside of the county, as well as operating the drive-through at the recycling center. Also offered at the center is a free library as well as providing a drop location for e-waste, used oil, scrap tires, appliances, fluorescent tubes and wet-cell batteries.

The Van Wert SMWD has a variety of education programs. These include facility tours, group presentations, consulting, monthly radio spots, newsprint releases, mailings, and printed propaganda. The SWMD is proud of its ability to build partnerships with area businesses as well as other SWMDs.

The SWMD has a budget of half a million dollars annually. The revenue sources are diversified from a tax assessment, waste designation fees, sales and service, as well as grants. The SWMD employs all of the drivers and laborers needed to operate the recycling center and collection services. They also utilize inmates as they are available. Notably, the Van Wert SWMD was the first to successfully defend their use of designation as a way to capture their fees on district waste that went to landfills in Indiana.

### **State Plan Update**

Ernie Stall, with Ohio EPA-DSIWM, distributed copies of the revised Chapter VII of the State Plan. Chapter VII is titled "A Statewide Strategy for Managing Scrap Tires. He asked that SWAC members review this document prior to the August 21st meeting. Mr. Stall also distributed a handout that provided a tentative agenda for completing the Revised State Solid Waste Management Plan. Several more chapters should be distributed at the August meeting for members to review.

### **Ohio EPA's Regulatory Role w/SWMDs**

Andrew Booker, with Ohio EPA-DSIWM, provided the presentation for this agenda topic. The primary role of Ohio EPA, DSIWM is the administration and oversight over solid waste portions of ORC Chapter 3734 and OAC rules adopted under ORC 3734. The SWMD planning requirements are found in ORC 3734.52 – 3734.575 (general planning), OAC Rule 3745-27-90 (state plan goals), and OAC Chapter 3745-28 (soon to be OAC Chapter 3745-502) (fees). Ohio EPA Wears "Two Hats". The first is regulatory oversight, which is to ensure that SWMDs are following the legal requirements. The second is to provide support and technical assistance. Ohio EPA shares the mission of the SWMDs, which is to decrease the generation of solid waste, to increase diversion

from landfill disposal, and to increase recycling, composting, and other alternative management methods.

The reporting requirements for SWMDs were provided. SWMDs are required to submit solid waste management plans (Plans) every three or five years, annual district reports, and quarterly fee reports. If deadlines are not met, Ohio EPA sends a notice of violation (NOV). If a SWMD Plan is not approved by the deadline, statute specifies that Ohio EPA “shall” write the plan. Ohio EPA has written six plans in recent years and because of recent efforts, there are no SWMDs that are past deadline. Ohio EPA primarily offers technical assistance regarding the SWMD fee expenditures, although fees must be spent in accordance with the ten “allowable uses” of fee revenues.

Concerning implementation of a SWMD plan, the statute states that once approved, the SWMD’s board “shall implement the Plan”. Statute also states that if the Director of Ohio EPA finds that a SWMD has “materially failed to implement plan”, then the Director shall issue an enforcement order. Plan implementation is determined by reviewing the SWMDs’ annual reports, site visits, and by communicating through phone calls, emails, etc. Meeting State Plan goals is required to get a Plan approved. The Plan must demonstrate meeting State Plan Goals and once the Plan is approved, the requirement is to implement the Plan. NOVs are not issued for failing to meet a goal, but a SWMD might receive a NOV for failing to implement programs critical to meeting the goal. If a SWMD is implementing the programs outlined in the Plan, but still not meeting the goals, then the next Plan approval would be impacted.

The direct relationship between the goals outlined in the State Plan and the SWMD plans was shown. The programs laid out in a SWMD Plan, when implemented should work directly to achieve the goals. It is an important part of the planning process to evaluate whether the programs effectively achieve the goals.

**Agenda items for the August 21, 2008 meeting**

Only the updates regarding the State Plan were recommended.

Kathy Trent MOVED to adjourn the meeting.

Larry Johns SECONDED the motion.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Erv Ball, Vice Chair

Minutes approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Trent, Secretary