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## ***Materials Management Advisory Council***

### **Executive Summary**

The Ohio Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC or Council) was established in 2015 through House Bill 64 of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. The primary purpose of MMAC is to provide advice and guidance to the director of Ohio EPA on solid waste issues, including updates to the state solid waste management plan and Ohio EPA’s recycling and litter prevention grant programs. MMAC is also tasked with facilitating partnerships that expand markets for recycled commodities.

This document presents MMAC’s annual report to the Ohio General Assembly that the council is required by Ohio Revised Code 3734.49. This report provides members of the General Assembly with updates on MMAC’s activities and accomplishments in 2020.

Due to the pandemic, MMAC did not meet as often in 2020 as in previous years. MMAC’s primary foci in 2020 were contamination in material collected for recycling and Ohio EPA’s Recycling and Litter Prevention grants.

### **Membership**

MMAC is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor to serve terms of three years. The composition of MMAC is designed to include key stakeholders in Ohio’s comprehensive solid waste management system. Seven members represent interests of the public sector and six members represent interests of the private sector. The chart below presents the MMAC’s membership in 2020 and each member’s affiliation.

#### **Membership of the Materials Management Advisory Council in 2020**

- John F. Bayliss, Logan County Commissioners
- Kelly Bensman, Hull & Associates, Inc.
- Alex Boehnke, Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
- John Daly, Royal Document Destruction
- Chuck DeJonckheere, Hamilton County Public Health
- Michael Dinneen, AggRok
- Jennifer Fenderbosch, Councilwoman, City of Avon Lake
- Kimberly McConville, Ohio Beverage Association
- Robert Schmidt, Porter Wright
- Frank Szollosi, National Wildlife Federation (resigned May 2020)
- Paul F. Wise, Genoa Township
- Kathy Trent, Waste Management
- Brian W. Winter, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company

## Contamination of Materials Collected for Recycling

One of the most pressing issues facing the success of recycling programs is contaminants in recovered material, particularly material recovered from residential recycling services. Much of the material being collected for recycling is contaminated with materials that lower the value of the material. MMAC heard several presentations about efforts in Ohio to reduce that contamination. Of significance are ongoing outreach efforts to residents to educate them about acceptable and unacceptable materials to place in their recycling containers. The most direct of these efforts involve inspecting recycling containers and leaving educational materials at households with high amounts of unacceptable materials. These efforts can result in upwards of 35 percent reduction in contamination and increase the value of acceptable materials. MMAC continues to support these efforts and will provide advice regarding this issue as appropriate.

## Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants

Ohio EPA annually awards grants for recycling-related projects through the Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant Program. These grants support community recycling services and market development opportunities. There are many companies that have made significant investment in Ohio to recover and use recycled materials. Several of those companies have expressed that they are unable to obtain adequate feedstock to satisfy their needs. Reasons include lack of supply, contaminated supplies, and inadequate infrastructure to both clean and transport available supplies to those that need them.

One of MMAC's responsibilities is to advise Ohio EPA on priorities for the grants. Members expressed their desire to reach out to processors, converters, and manufacturers that handle and use recovered materials about how Ohio's grant program can help them and other companies in Ohio be successful. MMAC hopes to get their advice about what infrastructure is needed in Ohio to support growth and to supply needed feedstocks (both quantity and quality). That advice could help Ohio EPA target grants to market development opportunities. These companies could also be champions to support continuation of the grant program.

In 2021, Ohio EPA and MMAC will discuss how best to accomplish this task. It provides an opportunity for Ohio EPA to collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including companies that the Agency does not regularly engage with. It also provides an opportunity for Ohio EPA's grants to support economic growth.