

**Summary Minutes as Approved on 8/18/2021
Ohio Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC)
June 16, 2021
Microsoft Teams**

The following members were present:

Michael Dinneen, Private Sector
Steve Sargent, Private Sector
Kimberly McConville, Private Sector
Chuck DeJonckheere, Health Departments
Paul Wise, Townships
Alex Boehnke, Private Sector
John Daly, Private Sector
Marcie Kress, Environmental Advocacy Organizations
Kelly Bensman, Private Sector
Brian Winter, Private Sector
Beth Biggins-Ramer, Solid Waste Management Districts

Absent: Jennifer Fenderbosch Municipalities and Matthew Old, Counties

Also in attendance were Director Laurie Stevenson (Ohio EPA), Vlad Cica (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Chet Chaney (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Jeff Montavon (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Matthew Hittle (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Kevin Zacharyasz (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Ernie Stall (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Marie Barnett (Ohio EPA-DEFA), Dave Foulkes (Ohio EPA-DEFA), April Stevens (Ohio EPA-DEFA), Jerry Rouch (Ohio EPA-DEFA), Leanne Greenlee (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Kelsey Heyob (Ohio EPA-DEFA), Julie Riley (Lucas County SWMD), Michelle Balz (Hamilton County SWMD), Elissa Yoder-Man (Ohio Sierra Club), Jamie Zawila (RRS), Steve White (Republic Waste), Rachel Massoud-Reedy (CCAO), Kathy Trent (Waste Management), Rosana Marchese (Republic Waste) and Josie Montoney.

New Members

The group welcomed its newest member, Beth Biggins-Ramer. Beth is Executive Director of the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District and takes Richard Schmidt's position as the representative for solid waste management districts.

Approval of April 21, 2021 Minutes

Paul Wise moved to approve the minutes for the April 21, 2021. Brian Winter seconded the motion. Motion was passed on voice vote, with Kelly Bensman and Beth Biggins-Ramer abstaining.

Ohio EPA Director Laurie Stevenson

Director Stevenson addressed the group and provided some updates for the agency. Her personal philosophies include the importance of education as well as promotion of new technologies. The Agency is looking forward to meeting in person again soon.

Ohio EPA has partnered with ODOT and ODNR on a statewide litter campaign, which will include a summit to be held in August. The group provided some accolades for the Agency. Members expressed their appreciation to Director Stevenson for Ohio EPA's efforts to battle recycling contamination (with The Recycling Partnership) and provide trainings for sanitarians.

Ohio EPA Updates

Ernie provided a few updates for Ohio EPA. A New Coordinator Training is being planned by the end of year because there are several new coordinators. Also, the Ohio hopes to implement a contamination intervention project for drop-offs like what was done for curbside programs over the past couple of years.

2021 R&LP Grant Update

April Stevens, Supervisor of the Recycling and Litter Prevention Grant program, provided an update regarding the 2021 grant round. She shared a summary of the applications that were approved for funding. Ohio EPA has not yet issued a public announcement as the governor's office must approve the announcement. The grant program was given an additional \$2 million in spending authority for money not awarded during the FY20 grant round. A total of 103 grants were awarded. Seventy-seven awards were community and litter grants, twelve were market development category, five were scrap tire projects and nine in the new Academic category. A total of \$6,221,879 was awarded.

MMAC Grant Subcommittee

Kimberly McConville summarized the discussions from recent grant subcommittee meetings. The subcommittee met three times to review Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention Grants, primarily market development grants. One focus of the discussions related to awareness of the grant program. Marketing of the program to businesses needs to be ramped up. Ideas to do this include marketing to users of the Ohio Materials Marketplace and businesses that are funded through Jobs Ohio. This would include looking at the byproducts from those industries as feedstocks for Ohio companies. The other focus is to look at the responsiveness of the market development grants, ensuring that the program allows for flexibility. Analyses of grants and the materials that are targeted should be done to evaluate what the impact was. Also, specific materials should be looked at for the focus of the program.

Waste Industry Challenges and Opportunities

Steve White, with Republic Waste, and Steve Sargent, with Rumpke Waste and Recycling, provided a general discussion on the challenges the waste industry has been experiencing. Waste collection and recycling were deemed essential services during the pandemic. During the pandemic, tonnages at residences, both waste and recycling, increased significantly. The labor shortage, which is pervasive nationwide, is affecting the waste industry significantly. Requirements to qualify for a commercial driver's license (CDL) license are set through the federal government which makes finding qualifying people difficult. Retention of employees continues to be an issue as well. Several tactics are being used to attract and retain employees. Signing bonuses and no cost education programs for employees are some.


Rosana Marchese, with Republic Waste, continued the discussion. She mentioned that the volume of residential recyclables has increased significantly in the last year. She also mentioned that another issue concerns driver safety laws: Department of Transportation requirements limit how long a driver can be on the road. An option for recruiting more workers is through school recruitment programs and providing internal CDL training rather than hiring them with qualifications.

There was further discussion related to education efforts around the missed collections by the haulers as well as the education efforts related to recycling. There is a lot of opportunity to improve the messaging around the state to help with the contamination in recycling.

Next Steps and Wrap-up

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th. The Grant subcommittee will likely provide another update.

Kimberly McConville moved to adjourn the meeting. Marcie Kress seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: 
Chair

Minutes approved on: August 18, 2021

Certified by: 
Secretary

