

Summary Minutes as Approved on 2/17/2021
Ohio Materials Management Advisory Council (MMAC)
June 17, 2020
Microsoft Teams

The following members were present:

Michael Dinneen, Private Sector
Kathy Trent, Private Sector
Kimberly McConville, Private Sector
John Bayliss (Counties)
Jennifer Fenderbosch, Municipalities
Chuck DeJonckheere, Health Departments
Paul Wise, Townships
Kelly Bensman, General Public
Alex Boehnke, Private Sector
John Daly, Private Sector
Robert Schmidt, Solid Waste Management Districts

Absent: Frank Szollosi (Environmental Advocacy Organizations) and Brian Winter (Private Sector).

Also in attendance were 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), Evelyn Kennedy (Byers, Minton and Associates), Vlad Cica (Ohio EPA-DMWM), Jerry Rouch (Ohio EPA-DEFA), Michael Guastella (Ohio EPA-Director's Office), and Beth Biggins (Medina County SWMD).

Approval of February 19, 2020 Minutes

Robert Schmidt moved to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2020 meeting. Chuck DeJonckheere seconded the motion. Motion was passed on voice vote.

Election of Officers

John Bayliss moved to reappoint the current slate of officers (Kathy Trent – Vice Chair, Jennifer Fenderbosch - Secretary). Alex Boehnke seconded the motion. Officers were unanimously elected for another one-year term.

Reappointments

It was indicated that there are five positions that will expire on June 30. A link to the Boards and Commissions website was sent to those members with terms expiring. They should complete an application in order to be considered for reappointment. It was also indicated that Frank Szollosi was not seeking reappointment leaving six positions open.

Legislative Report

The legislative report is being reviewed by the Director's Office. No significant changes are expected. John Bayliss made a motion to allow the chair and vice-chair to a final review before it is sent to the legislature once those changes are made. Jennifer Fenderbosch seconded the motion. Motion was approved on voice vote.

Ohio EPA Updates

Michael Guastella, a Legislative Liaison in the Director's Office, provided a legislative update. House Bill 242, the "plastic bag ban", it is awaiting a concurrence vote on a senate amended version, in which case it would go to committee. The Senate amendment version included a sunset provision. It would expire after 12 months.

He was also asked about Senate Bill 50, which proposed to increase the solid waste fee to provide additional funding for soil and water conservation districts. He has not heard anything regarding this bill since March 10.

R&LP Grant Updates

Jerry Rouch, with Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, discussed the Recycling and Litter Prevention (R&LP) Grant Program. He related how the economic impacts of Covid required state agencies to implement budget reductions. As a result, the R&LP grants were suspended for fiscal year 2020. He indicated since it is a suspension, there is potential for those grant applicants to be funded in fiscal year 2021. The Division did take other actions including extending the deadlines for the 2019 community and litter grants and the 2018 market development and tire grants. Grantees will have an additional year to expend their grant funds.

There were concerns that the monies, which are collected as part of the C&DD disposal fees, could be used for purposes other than what they were collected for. It was asked that if the general assembly were to alter how the monies could be spent, MMAC should be made aware. The group also indicated that they would support increasing the spending authority for the next fiscal year to make up for the unfunded projects. It was requested for a budget update at the next meeting.

Division of Materials and Waste Management (DMWM) Budget Update

Vlad Cica (Ohio EPA-DMWM) provided a summary of DMWM's budget situation. Ohio EPA gets very little funding from the General Revenue Fund, with DMWM receiving none. He provided a summary of the various fees that fund DMWM. Since March, when people starting quarantining, the revenue streams associated with industrial and commercial waste have seen a significant reduction. However, there has been an increase in the residential waste stream that has mostly offset it. He also provided examples of other ways the state is implementing cost savings measures.

Rule Updates

Ernie Stall provided a quick update on related rule packages. The rule that incorporates the goals of the 2020 State Solid Waste Management Plan is currently with the Director and will be filed with JCARR after that. Ohio EPA is also starting the process of drafting and updating the fee rules.

Contamination Reduction Campaign

Jill Martin, with The Recycling Partnership (TRP), gave an overview of her organization and the Contamination Reduction Campaign that was recently performed in Ohio. TRP is driving the national recycling system change from coast to coast. They do this by increasing access to recycling, increasing capture of recyclables and improving the quality of recyclables.

Specific to the Ohio project, a 2018 Special Assistance Grant from Ohio EPA's Recycling and Litter Prevention program was awarded to TRP to implement a two-year project. The project planned to cover 155,000 households in four MRF-sheds with their "feet on the street". They ended up covering 86,500 households in 3 MRF-sheds. Also to be provided as part of the grant is a video and a customized toolkit. The goal is to reduce contamination in the participating households by 25-35 percent.

The project was implemented in five steps. The first was to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders. The second was to obtain baseline data at each MRF by doing sorts of actual recycling carts. The third step was to implement the "feet on the street" by messaging and engaging residents where they recycle with the goal to change behavior. This included an annual information card, curbside feedback, and mailers and signage addressing the top issue (top contaminant). The fourth step involved measuring the impact. This was done by measuring the progress (reduction) of tagging at the curbside and performing post-sorts at the MRFs. The final step is to build the anti-contamination toolkit, which still needs to be completed.

There were five communities included in the first phase of the project and three that will be in the second phase which is expected to start in spring 2021. The first phase included Cincinnati, Fairfield, Columbus, Centerville, and Akron. Four of the communities showed over forty percent reduction in the contamination. The fifth used varying methodologies and showed over 10 percent reduction. The second phase will include communities in Cincinnati, Gahanna, and Akron. For comparison, the blended values of the recycling streams were shown to have increased from \$29 to \$53. Also for reference, TRP's research shows that pulling 500 egregious carts in Akron resulted in \$15,000 in cost savings a year.

Jill finished her presentation by providing a summary of behavior profiles and an overview of what's planned for phase two of the project. The behavior profiles were part of SWACO's analysis. It categorized their recycling into groups including good recyclers, learners, non-learners and quitters based on their response to the tagging efforts.

Phase two will be done at an additional 74,000 households in Akron, Gahanna, and Cincinnati. Some of this phase won't be performed until spring of 2021. She also indicated that Michigan is starting the process of doing a similar study based on what was done in Ohio, but with additional components including drop-off recycling sites.

Update from the Waste Industry

Kathy Trent gave an update from the perspective of the waste industry during a pandemic. Since the industry is an essential business, several efforts have been implemented to ensure that workers weren't exposed. For Waste Management, this involved having 20,000 employees starting to work from home. For those that could not work from home, increased hygiene and social distancing measures were implemented. The waste industry has been having bi-weekly calls with Ohio EPA to work through any issues that have come up. Also included in the presentation was a summary of how the prevalence of different commodities has changed since 1990. Overall, operators have shown that employees can be kept safe.

Next Steps and Wrap-up

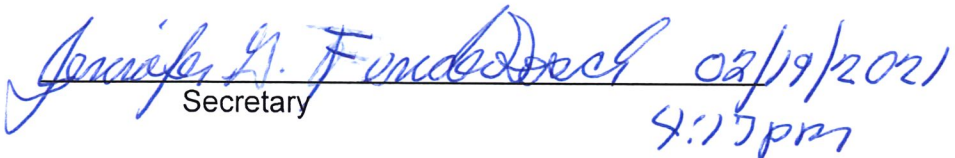
MMAC's next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020. Some potential topics for discussion/presentation were discussed. Updates from TRP and the R&LP program would be appreciated. Information on technological changes was another topic suggested. There was also discussion of how to support recycling, including the R&LP grant program. TRP will draft a template letter of support. It was suggested that members could contact their legislature as well.

Kathy Trent moved to adjourn the meeting. Kimberly McConville seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: Digitally signed by Michael Dinneen
Date: 2021.02.18 15:24:12 -05'00'

Chair

Minutes approved on: February 17, 2021

Certified by: 
Secretary 02/19/2021
4:15pm