

Solid Waste Management Advisory Subcommittee on Source Reduction & Recycling

Minutes

September 23, 2008

Present: Tom Scelfo, Mike Harder, Lisa Gibson, Brian Bartram, Charles Kelley, Edward Reagan, Nan Peckham, Judy Belaval, Peter Egan, and Sherill Baldwin

1. Introductions
2. Update on Municipal Recycling Handbook, Communication tools (listserve)
3. Additional agenda items
4. New SWAC format
 - a. Suggestions for future full committee topics/speakers
 - b. Need/thoughts about future work groups

Sherill explained that this will be the last subcommittee meeting due to the new SWAC format – but that there are other opportunities to work on certain issues/projects.

After introductions, the group reviewed the proposed agenda. Sherill asked if there were additions to be added to the agenda before beginning.

Edward suggested the group talk about education. He shared that the 4th graders in (Sharon/Salisbury) made a book called “It's Not a Dump!!! A Transfer Station in Action” (See attached). It's effective and others may learn from it.

Mike felt we should discuss the big picture – what are the department's priorities? What is the role of the subcommittee?

Nan shared that the subcommittee identified the need for the Municipal Recycling Handbook and templates for municipal websites so that recycling information was easier to find. Another promising result of working towards increasing the recycling rate is the PAYT/unit based pricing work being done by Kristen Brown in Bridgeport and some of the other Bridgeport RRF towns. She also added that one of the difficulties of using the subcommittee time as a working session is that different people attended each meeting.

Sherill shared that the Municipal Recycling Handbook, an idea that came from the subcommittee, will be more of an online ‘resource center’ or ‘toolkit’ than a formatted print document. Draft concepts were shared. The group asked that copies be emailed to them so they could provide additional feedback to Sherill.

Sherill also asked folks if they like the idea of a listserve for recycling coordinators in Connecticut and if it would be a helpful/effective communication tool. It would be open to all recycling

coordinators – municipalities, businesses, schools, universities etc. Overall, it was felt that a hub/exchange of ideas would be a positive thing. It was questioned whether it should be just for municipalities or open to everyone. Some thought opening to all would ‘water down’ the benefit of the information sharing. It was pointed out that a good subject line description could identify if the topic was pertinent to the participant (helpful for a business vs a municipality). Peter suggested talking to CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) – that there might be more excitement for the start of the listserv if it came through them.

Conversation continued to talk about the future of the SWAC meetings and if there was a need for a working group. No working group topic was identified at this time.

Possible future topics/issues for large group, focused group or working session:

- Interest in talking about k-12 education; sharing of resources and ideas
- Interest in talking about public education; sharing of resources and ideas
- Help municipalities develop/maintain volunteer programs, including resources for finding interns and other types of volunteers
- How do municipalities reach/record their recycling rates? It would be helpful to know what other towns are doing and how they’re getting there. Perhaps a chart/table could be created and placed online – that would list all the things that can be recycled and who’s collecting/recycling them. Judy said we might be able to create this from the data from the survey once the data has been computed.

Mike felt strongly the subcommittee should continue because municipalities continue to need support and guidance from DEP.

Sherill explained the subcommittee for Source Reduction and Recycling won’t meet again, but if a topic or working session is needed, we can come together/invite others to meet about that topic.

Thank you everyone who contributed to this subcommittee over the last two years!

Minutes submitted by Sherill Baldwin