

**State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection**

**State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee
Summary of the April 24, 2007 Meeting**



Changing the Balance

The second meeting of the CTDEP State Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee was held on April 24, 2007 at the CTDEP headquarters. The purpose of the meeting was to: impart information relating to HRRRA's work towards increasing MSW recycling rates; provide updates re/regulatory and legislative activities; outline CTDEP's approach to undertaking a waste characterization study; and present subcommittee topics and then, subsequent breakout of subcommittees.

Guest Lecturer

Cheryl Reedy, Director HRRRA presented to the Committee a lecture/Power Point presentation entitled *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink...on a shoestring*.

(http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste_management_plan/reedy_presentation.pdf).

The presentation included:

- background on the regional solid waste and recycling management authority;
- identifying the problem of the decline in IPC recycling tonnage in the last three years;
- identifying the many social, economic, legal and organizational challenges;
- identifying initial, current and future strategies;
- defining measurable goals; and
- outlining future opportunities and challenges.

Ms. Reedy indicated that in order to address the decline in recycling tonnages, the Authority focused its initial strategies on improving its relationship with the IPC, becoming partners with haulers, and changing the public image of the Authority. Ms. Reedy highlighted HRRRA's outreach using their website and their most recent and future advertising efforts.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

Legislative: Robert LaFrance, Environmental Analyst 3/Legislative Affairs, provided an update on four legislative proposals currently under consideration by the Connecticut General Assembly. These included the following: the Bottle Bill; CTDEP's minor revisions bill that contains a provision for waste demonstration innovative projects; electronic waste recycling; and an environmental justice bill. Comments from the Advisory Committee included: the expanded Bottle Bill will result in a decrease in revenue for waste authorities and recyclers because plastics will be diverted; the expanded Bottle Bill is not expected to capture the escheats; the Environmental Justice Bill may make permitting more burdensome; the state has not secured a funding source to implement the Plan; and the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee should be lobbying for the resources needed to implement the Plan. DEP response to comments included: the Bottle Bill is being redrafted and the final outcome is still subject to much debate; it can be anticipated that the Environmental Justice Bill will require more work on the part of the applicant; funding is an issue and the CTDEP will continue to work towards getting the necessary funding for implementation; and the purpose of the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee is to assist the Department in implementing the Plan and not serve as a lobbying group.

Regulatory: Robert Isner, Director Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance, reported that the DEP: has reissued the Grass Recycling General Permit; has completed drafting the Municipal Transfer Station General Permit and will be getting it out to the municipalities; will be considering drafting commercial Transfer Station General Permits; and continues to work on the soil reuse General Permit.

Waste Characterization Study

Tessa Gutowski reported on the CTDEP's intent to conduct a waste characterization study to begin later this year. Gutowski indicated that she has conducted research on this topic and has contacted a number of states

that have recently undertaken such a study. Gutowski indicated that the State's waste authorities and other stakeholders are to be contacted to discuss approaches the state may want to pursue.

Presentations of the Subcommittee Topics and break out of Subcommittees

Diane Duva, Assistant Director with the Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance Assurance reported that in response to comments received at the March Advisory Committee meeting an additional subcommittee addressing C&D debris has been established. This brings the total number of subcommittees to five:

- Solid Waste Database Management Systems
<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=379326>
- Increasing Source Reduction and Recycling rates of the MSW Stream
<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=379324>
- Solid Waste Statutes and Regulations Reform
<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=379322>
- Organics Recycling and Composting <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=379318>
- Construction and Demolition Debris Management
<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=379320>

Using a Power point presentation entitled *State Solid Waste Management Plan Subcommittees April 24, 2007*, (http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/waste_management_and_disposal/solid_waste_management_plan/042407subcommittees.pdf) Duva gave some background information regarding each of the subcommittees and presented a work outline that each of the subcommittees could use to address their topic. The work outline suggested includes the following:

- Define the goals of the subcommittee;
- Provide a summary of existing conditions;
- Identify opportunities;
- Identify the Stakeholders that are connected and/or may have interest in serving on the Subcommittee;
- Prepare a plan to address the issues/goals identified;
- Provide a timeframe (12 to 18 months);
- Identify funding/resources needed to implement the plan.

Duva identified each of the CTDEP Subcommittee Leads and asked members of the Advisory Committee to join a subcommittee that was of interest. Each of the Subcommittees met for approximately 45 minutes and then subsequently reconvened as a full Committee. Each of the Subcommittees took minutes and will be made available through the CTDEP website through a link under the Solid Waste Management Advisory Committee <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2718&q=332500>.

Some of the general discussion from the Subcommittees included:

- Setting aside time during the full Advisory Committee meetings to allow subcommittees to meet;
- Solicit and encourage other stakeholders to participate on these subcommittees. The Database Management Systems Subcommittee identified the importance of getting representation from the waste haulers sector and municipal officials responsible for data reporting to the CTDEP; and
- General discussion on the respective topic and a request to review background material provided and be prepared to discuss the issues further for the purpose of identifying priorities to be addressed by the subcommittee(s).

Suggested Agenda Items for the May 22nd Advisory Committee Meeting

There was discussion and agreement with the full Committee that future meetings should be partitioned into two main segments: (1) a 45-minute session of the full Advisory Committee and (2) a 60-minute session for the breakout of Subcommittee work. The Subcommittees would not reconvene to close the session but rather rely on the posting the subcommittee minutes on the website for the purpose of getting information out to the full Advisory Committee. Future guest lecture topics included Pay as you Throw (PAYT) and speakers from the private sector, such as the solid waste hauling industry.

The next meeting is scheduled for: May 22, 2007 – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; CTDEP Headquarters, 79 Elm Street/5th Floor Phoenix Auditorium, Hartford, CT 06106.

Adjourned

Summary of minutes dated May 2, 2007.