

**Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC)
Meeting Summary
November 7, 2008**

Participants		
Bill Lobenherz	Michigan Recycling Partnership/ Michigan Soft Drink Association	msda@voyager.net
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Doug Wood	Kent County DPW	Doug.wood@kentcounty.mi.gov
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John Hawthorne	Great Lakes Recycling	John@GO-GLR.com
Michael Csapo	Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)	RRRASOC@aol.com
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Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association	tom@michigantownships.org
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DEQ Staff		
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1. Welcome and introductions.

Overview of agenda

Handouts:

- Agenda
- [Fee presentation from November 6, 2008 stakeholders meeting](#)

George Bruchmann welcomed the participants.

2. Approve draft meeting summary.

The September 12, 2008, meeting summary was approved. The DRAFT heading will be removed from the minutes on the Web site.

3. Solid Waste Fees/budget: Update from November 6, 2008 Stakeholders meeting:

George Bruchmann gave an overview of the current budget situation and updated the committee on the Department-wide stakeholder meeting which took place November 6, 2008. The stakeholder meeting included a break-out session which discussed solid waste fees.

The current proposal involves raising the solid waste fee from \$0.21/ton to \$0.30/ton in FY2010 and change the unit of measurement for reporting from cubic yards to tons. One of the concerns brought up at the stakeholder meeting was the Commercial Type III surcharge which may go up by 500 percent if the unit of measurement is changed from cubic yards to tons. This drastic increase is due to the conversion factor used to convert cubic yards to tons.

Steve Sliver provided an explanation of why the DEQ would like to change the unit of measurement. He explained that the unit of measurement change will bring parity with recycling data collection because recycling data is typically collected in tons. Also, he explained that many of the landfills in the state have operational scales and already measure waste and bill by tons. Currently these facilities convert tons to cubic yards for state reporting by using a conversion factor. It was asked what the DEQ is trying to measure and why, as many landfills measure available space (which would be cubic yards). Steve answered the DEQ is trying to measure what is happening with solid waste in the state- as there may be a disconnect between capacity and what is happening to solid waste in the state.

Members of the committee requested that incinerators be included in the solid waste fee in the new legislation.

The next steps in the solid waste fee proposal will be to address the industrial waste issue. Comments and feedback were requested electronically. The Department will be preparing a legislative package around the holidays.

4. Standing Agenda Items.

- a. Legislative Update: An overview of the e-waste legislation (SB 897 and SB 898) was provided. The initial version of these bills included 10 new staff positions including responsibilities for registration, fees, enforcement, etc. Subsequent versions of the bills brought the staff down to 2 or 3. The bills are somewhat similar to bills introduced in Indiana, but are more of a collaboration of many other states' programs or proposed programs.

It was also noted that the following legislation may move during the lame-duck session:

- The package of mercury bills (HBs 6485-6489) may move soon. These bills, among other things, prohibit disposal of mercury-containing products in landfills.
- Fraudulent redemption bills (HBs 6440-6444 and SBs 1391-1394) which provide higher penalties for fraudulent bottle redemptions, mandate marking systems to show out-of-state bottles, etc.)
- Plastic bag legislation

b. Report on Past Actions/Rulemaking

Compost and Inert Rules: A stakeholder meeting may be held in January 2009 to discuss the proposed compost and inert rules.

c. Other items:

A question was raised about which DEQ staff are going to the new Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth (DELEG) and it was stated that DEQ hasn't received any additional information at this point.

5. Solid Waste Policy Discussion Topic: Utilization/Measurement Subcommittee report

Chair of the Subcommittee, Jim Frey, gave a report on the subcommittee's activities since the last meeting. The group is continuing to work on the Guiding Principles document and Definition document presented at the September 12, 2008 SWAC meeting. The group is also continuing to work on the utilization matrix including finding data sources and defining the costs and benefits of gathering the data. The group is currently looking at ways to find funding for data collection, including making presentations to the Michigan Economic Development Coalition and other Foundations that might find this information beneficial in bringing jobs to the state. It was suggested that the Chamber and Michigan Manufacturing Association also be approached to discuss this process. The subcommittee will continue to meet to work on the documents and go create a presentation and proposal for these organizations.

6. Next Meeting Items:

- Reports back from subcommittee
- Ways SWAC can facilitate progress toward implementing the Solid Waste Policy statement, "Prohibit within an implementable time frame the on-site burning or burying of household refuse."

Next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2009. Future meeting dates for FY09 are: March 6, May 1, July 10, and September 11.