

**Solid Waste Policy Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
February 1, 2006**

Attendees

Name	Organization	E-mail Address
Rhonda Oyer Zimmerman	Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) – Waste and Hazardous Materials Division (WHMD)	oyerr@michigan.gov
Lucy Doroshko	DEQ-Environmental Sciences and Services Division (ESSD)	doroshkl@michigan.gov
Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association	tom@michigantownships.org
Cara Clore	Michigan Recycling Coalition and Clinton County	clorec@clinton-county.org
Jim Frey	Resource Recycling Systems, Inc. (RRS)	frey@recycle.com
Loanna Ammerman	Legislative Services Bureau	LAmmerman@legislature.mi.gov
Marcia Horan	DEQ-ESSD	horanm@michigan.gov
Liane Shekter Smith	DEQ-WHMD	shekterl@michigan.gov
Frank Ruswick	DEQ-Executive Division	ruswickf@michigan.gov
Noelle Hartner	DEQ-WHMD	hartnern@michigan.gov
George Bruchmann	DEQ-WHMD	bruchmag@michigan.gov
Michael Csapo	Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County (RRRASOC)	RRRASOC@aol.com
Dan Batts	Michigan Waste Industry Association (MWIA)	djbatohlf@aol.com
Steve Essling	MWIA	sessling@wm.com
Terry Guerin	MWIA	tguerin@hrtc.net
Jim Sygo	DEQ Deputy Director	sygoj@michigan.gov
Matt Flechter	DEQ-WHMD	flechtem@michigan.gov
Steve Sliver	DEQ-WHMD	slivers@michigan.gov

Handouts

- Agenda
- Power point presentation
- Recycling in Michigan brochure

Introductions and Welcoming Remarks

- Thank you for participating in this group and this organizational meeting.
- Last Solid Waste Policy update was completed in 1988 and is in need of update for various reasons.
- Seeking advice for broad perspective/input.
- Objective is to obtain consensus document from group.

Purpose of Committee

- Identify issues the policy should address: policy statements, implementation strategies, and goals.
- Idea is to reach consensus and move product forward through administration for adoption.

Adequate Representation

- Intent for this group is to have broad representation.
- For those invited that are not here today, the DEQ will be following up with a letter to see if a representative will be involved.
- Other suggestions for representation in this group: Upper Peninsula (UPRC), designated planning agencies (DPAs), regional planning committees (i.e. NEMCOG, NWMCOG), Small Business Association of Michigan, Home Builders Association, regional sustainable business groups (Bill Stough), incinerators in Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Jackson, composting committee through Michigan Recycling Coalition (MRC).
- Travel may be difficult for some, information will be posted on a web page from all meetings; may also look into teleconferencing future meetings for those who want to participate.

Overview of Current Program

- 43 full-time equated (FTE) staff in DEQ solid waste program.
- Revenue approximately \$4.1 million from 7-cent fee plus additional licensing fees.
- Municipal recycling rate at 20% in Michigan.
- Subscription recycling programs in Michigan have low participation just as non-subscription recycling programs do.
- Industrial recycling has been tracked by the DEQ for past ten years but is a small snapshot of industrial recycling (segregated wastes such as foundry sand, sludge). This rate far exceeds the municipal recycling rate.
- Solid waste planning process developed in late 1980's and 1990's in response to "landfill crisis" where capacity and "not in my back yard" were issues.
- Plans supposed to be updated every five years.
- Currently one FTE position in the DEQ for plan updates.
- 2005 Annual Waste Receipt Report to be released early this month but do not foresee a change in import situation. A link to the Annual Report is available on the committee web page.
- Various bills introduced in 2005 regarding solid waste importation but none have made it very far.

Reports

- Four reports released in 2005 and early 2006 - Solid Waste Planning Work Group report, Recycling Work Group report, Green Glass Task Force report, and Scrap Tire Work Group report due out soon.

- Reports reflect the DEQ's recommended changes and do not always represent the consensus of members of the work groups.
- Legislation has not yet been taken up following release of any reports. However, as recommended in by Green Glass Task Force, green glass was prohibited from disposal in Michigan landfills via the bioreactor legislation.
- Now that recommendations have been made from these groups, implementation plans are being created as well as draft legislation.
- Common thread among groups was to update the Solid Waste Policy at the same time that legislation may be moving. The plan is to look at how things are progressing legislatively by late summer 2006 or early Fall 2006, and decide if the next round of Plan Updates should be started or wait until the legislation is close.

Why update Policy?

- Policy is being updated because it is old. Regulatory schemes, as well as industry and technology are different than they were in 1980's.
- May no longer agree with the current policy (i.e. waste-to-energy facilities) and would like the policy to serve as guidance for developing Solid Waste Management Plans, where updates are long overdue.

DEQ vision for Solid Waste Policy

- Policy would help address issues such as reliable data, alternative technologies, and best practices for environmental well-being. Would also address balance between available capacity and needs and how to secure funding and limit imports.
- Guidance needed from those around the table to choose which issues are most important for policy to address.

Discussion: Committee Members Major Issue

- Discussion question: What issues need to be addressed in updated policy?
- See list of Major Issues generated by committee. Each committee member was able to list only one item to start. It is expected that additional items will be added to the list at the next meeting. The list is available on the committee web page.
- Goal is to develop a long-term policy that will last another 20 years.

Member Concerns

- Ensure that policy and implementation pieces are connected, and possibly include recommendations for implementation activities even if consensus is not reached on a particular issue.
- Biggest struggle will be in the details.
- Make sure that all members are up-to-date for the meetings, especially if an organization sends a different representative, this way the committee will not have to backtrack.
- Concern about how effective the policy will be if no implementation plans are mentioned. The Committee should include tools or suggestions for next steps within the policy.

- What interest is there at the Administrative or Legislative levels? At administrative level (Executive Office), there is a desire to have a state policy for solid waste. It is more difficult to predict interest at the legislative level. If it doesn't go through legislative process, it will go through administrative process.
- Have not seen anything specific in response to reports that came out of work groups. The DEQ is currently trying to divide packages up to move portions of the legislation forward. Since it is an election year, it is unlikely that any changes that require funding or fees will move forward.
- Michigan Manufacturing Association (MMA) needs to be represented on this Committee. The policy needs to address manufacturers. Mike Johnson was invited, but we have not heard back from him on his interest in participating. The DEQ will follow up with MMA and others mentioned previously.
- The policy should address recycling as an economic benefit to manufacturers.
- Address how to get Legislature's interest in the policy. Should also be looking at long-term ramifications of recommendations.
- No link between this policy and budget cycles or staffing 1 FTE, although the Strategic Plan identifies these ideas and may be a vehicle to the Legislature.

Next Steps

- Reach other groups who have not yet responded to invitation to participate and follow up with those groups who were suggested today and others interested in joining.
- Be mindful of space limitations of the room.
- Committee envisions having a draft policy to present to the DEQ Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in April or May.
- Ensure that the DEQ does not put things into the Policy that did not come out of this group.
- Most beneficial to meet on Mondays or Fridays to ensure the best possible participation rate since Legislature meets Tuesday through Thursday.
- Group prefers Friday mornings for meetings.
- Meetings will be the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month through April in order to meet ambitious goal of having a draft document by April or May. Dates are: February 10, February 24, March 10, March 24, April 7, and April 21.
- Preparation for next meeting: Determine what issues you believe the updated policy needs to address. This is what we will start with for the next meeting.

Policy Recommendations*
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- Funding
- Measurement of landfill capacity
- Gridlock that prevents progress from happening
- Revisit siting issues-citizen input
- Emphasis on source reduction
- Innovative alternatives
- Education
- Schedule for planning updates
- Ability to translate policy into implementable steps
- Recycling as economic development activity
- Strong consideration to private and municipal investments already existing
- Long-term ramifications of policy and implementation stages
- Role of county solid waste management plan-implementation stage and legal stage
- Consistent policy to deal with measurement of recyclables-no double counting-measuring right recyclables
- Focuses on hard to manage wastes—e-wastes, household hazardous wastes, organic wastes, etc.
- Wasteful packaging

*Committee Members were asked for only one policy recommendation each to begin with, in order to identify the most pressing issues. It is expected that others will be identified at upcoming meetings.