

## Solid Waste Funding Workgroup October 21, 2011, Meeting Notes

The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in the Rachel Carson Conference Room, Atrium North, Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan.

The workgroup was welcomed. The members introduced themselves and identified which organization they are representing.

Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association
Michael Csapo	RRRASOC representing waste authorities
Geoffrey Donaldson (By Phone)	St. Clair County representing Michigan Association of Counties
William Hinz	Allegan County Health Department representing Health Departments (MALPH)
Bill Lobenherz	Michigan Soft Drink Association Service Corporation representing the Michigan Recycling Partnership
Jason Geer	Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Patty O'Donnell	Northwest Michigan Council of Governments representing Councils of Governments
Tonia Olson	Granger representing Michigan Waste Industries Association
Roger Simon	Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Company representing Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Randall Slikkers	Goodwill Association of America representing reuse stores
Doug Wood	Kent County Department of Public Works representing Waste to Energy facilities and County Public Works Departments
Gary Dawson	Consumers Energy Company representing Type III landfill interests
Andy Such	Michigan Manufacturers Association representing MMA
Jim Sygo	Department of Environmental Quality, Executive Division
Liz Browne	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Steve Sliver	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Matt Flechter	Department of Environmental Quality, Resource Management Division
Also invited but unable to be present were...	
James Clift	Michigan Environmental Council
Sandy Rosen	Michigan Recycling Coalition
Jason Mancini	Michigan Municipal League representing MML

The notes for the September 30, 2011, meeting were distributed via the Solid Waste Funding Workgroup Web site [http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312\\_4123-261534--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4123-261534--,00.html). There were not any changes or revisions. **The DRAFT label will be removed from the notes on the Web.**

Contracting Landfill Inspections Sub-committee Report – Options for inspections of facilities, including landfills. Cost will be a factor in assessing the feasibility of contracting out inspections including third party contractual agreements. All options proposed by workgroup members will be evaluated. **William Hinz, Jason Geer, Gary Dawson and Tonia Olsen (chair) will serve on the workgroup.**

The Solid Waste Policy tracking table that was used by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee was discussed with the primary goal of identifying what activities are currently being performed by various stakeholders.  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvW4kjdje0adDg2YXF4WG5pRHVPMnctbkNSdGRCUWc&hl=en\\_US](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AvW4kjdje0adDg2YXF4WG5pRHVPMnctbkNSdGRCUWc&hl=en_US). It was recognized that there are Solid Waste Program activities that will be the primary responsibility of the DEQ Solid Waste Program and there are some activities that will be the primary responsibility of various stakeholders.

A workgroup member asked about items that are required in the Solid Waste Policy statute but are not being accomplished by the DEQ. There are some items that are not being accomplished (e.g. Solid Waste Planning updates) but more common are the DEQ challenges to fully implement the programs that are required.

Outreach and guidance activities were discussed as an example of activities that are not being implemented at an adequate level because of limited staffing resources. Outreach activities are currently seen to be more reactive than proactive.

Workgroup members agreed that the DEQ should identify statutory obligations and other activities that should be accomplished to implement the Solid Waste Management Program. It is viewed that the Program is running at its leanest level. Workgroup members **requested that the DEQ make recommendations to the workgroup of the activities that should be performed by the Solid Waste Management Program.** Detail will be added to the list of Program activities that was discussed at the September 30, 2011, meeting.

It was recognized by the workgroup that considerable thought and discussion will be necessary to determine what level of leadership Michigan will play in advancing sustainable waste management. There may be items that will not be able to be accomplished in the immediate future. The Solid Waste Policy does not just look at current statutory requirements but looks at other issues that could be accomplished if funding is identified for the activity. For example, “convenient access to curbside or drop-off” is an item that could be funded through this funding evaluation.

It was suggested by a workgroup member that this effort be clear what is meant by “recycling” and “utilization”. It was recognized that recycling and utilization efforts include more than just residential recycling but also include commercial, institutional, and industrial waste utilization.

The report requires the DEQ to: “develop a report that addresses implementation of the state’s Solid Waste Policy. At a minimum, the report shall do both of the following: (a) Identify options for long-term funding for the Solid Waste Management Program. For each option, the report shall take into account the extent to which additional activities or materials, or both, such as recycling, composting, and beneficial reuse would impact the long-term funding of the Solid Waste Management Program. (b) Assess the feasibility of contracting out landfill inspections. (2) The department shall provide the report prepared under subsection (1) to the State Budget

Director, the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Environmental Quality, and the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies by June 30, 2012.”

The workgroup reviewed the Solid Waste Policy to identify which activities should be accomplished first. The workgroup will not necessarily identify funding to fund every aspect of the Policy but will work to fund the DEQ Solid Waste Program and work toward funding the Policy. When reviewing the Policy statements the Solid Waste Policy was looked at as a complete document and as a guide to inform Solid Waste Management Program decisions.

Measurement and data collection was highlighted as an important Policy activity to be funded.

Funding of convenient access to curbside or drop-off recycling was discussed. The estimate of the total cost of funding convenient access to recycling opportunities will be kept in the list of items that could be funded. It is estimated that it would cost \$69 million, including the amount that is currently spent by residents, to fully fund convenient residential recycling.

Solid Waste Planning was discussed. It was recognized that the Solid Waste Management Planning Program will likely need revisions; however, a cost for the projected Program will need to be included in this funding process. To implement the current statutorily required planning Program it is estimated the annual cost would be \$3.4 million. The workgroup would propose a planning framework, identify the cost, and identify roles.

It was recognized that some of the recommendations of the Solid Waste Funding Workgroup will require statutory changes.

At the next meeting the workgroup will continue reviewing the Solid Waste Policy and identify activities that are important to move the Policy forward. Additionally, the workgroup will look at who should be the primary responsible party to move that Policy item forward, whether it is the DEQ or other stakeholders.

**The workgroup was asked to review the rest of the Policy and identify which activities should be accomplished, and therefore should be funded.**

**Next Meeting** is November 18, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Con Con A & B Conference Room, Atrium South, Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan.