

Solid Waste Funding Workgroup September 9, 2011, Meeting Notes

The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Con Con A&B, Atrium South, Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan.

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

James Clift	Michigan Environmental Council
Michael Csapo	RRASOC representing waste authorities
Gary Dawson	Consumers Energy Company representing Type III landfill interests
Geoffrey Donaldson	Metropolitan Planning Commission representing
William Hinz	Allegan County Health Department representing Health Departments
William Lobenherz	Michigan Soft Drink Association Service Corp. Representing the Michigan Recycling Partnership
Jason Mancini	Michigan Municipal League representing MML
Sue Pigg	with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission filling in for Patty O'Donnell with Northwest Michigan Council of Governments representing Councils of Governments
Tonia Olson	Granger representing Michigan Waste Industries Association
Sandy Rosen	Great Lakes Recycling representing Michigan Recycling Coalition
Roger Simon	Louis Padnos Iron & Metal Company Representing Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Andy Such	Michigan Manufacturers Association Representing MMA
Randall Slikkers	Goodwill Association of America representing reuse stores
Bill Allen	Filling in for Doug Wood with Kent County Department of Public Works representing incinerators and County Public Works Departments
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...	
Jason Geer	Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association
Observing	
Tiffany Watrous	Representative Kowall's staff person

The Group Charge and the Bill language that requires the creation of the report was shared with the workgroup.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Sec. 601. (1) The department shall 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.

Charge

The Solid Waste Funding Workgroup can assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with completing a report to address implementation of Michigan's Solid Waste Policy. As indicated above, the report is required under the DEQ's fiscal year 2011-2012 appropriations act (Public Act 63 of 2011), and is due to the Legislature by June 30, 2012. The report will identify options for long-term funding for the Solid Waste Management Program and will assess the feasibility of contracting out landfill inspections.

The Workgroup was asked if there are other groups that should be represented on the Workgroup. A Workgroup member suggested that the **Michigan Economic Development Corporation be approached to see if they have a person who would be interested in participating.**

Additional individuals with specific knowledge, including DEQ staff, will occasionally be invited to participate in the Workgroup meetings.

The Workgroup agreed that meeting at three week intervals will be appropriate. Friday morning meetings are preferable. Sub-groups will likely be formed to work on specific issues (e.g. contracting out landfill inspections). Outlook appointments will be sent.

A workgroup member suggested creating an opportunity for the public to provide comments. **A link to the Web site to provide comments will be created.**

A workgroup member asked whether there are any other committees or workgroups that will need to be involved as the SWFW works to complete its assignment and whether the Solid Waste Policy will be amended by another committee during the SWFW process. It was explained that there will not be any changes to the Policy and the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meetings have been temporarily put on hold while the SWFW meets.

It was suggested by a Workgroup member that the SWFW keep an eye on the Office of Regulatory Reform recommendations to the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and consider how their recommendations will affect the funding discussion.

The Web site http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3312_4123-261534--,00.html set up for the SWFW was discussed. The Workgroup was asked whether there are any other documents to add to the Web site to assist the Workgroup. It was suggested that the Michigan Recycling Coalition document "2011 State of Recycling in Michigan: A Way Forward" <http://www.michiganrecycles.org/images/pdf/stateofrecycling2011mrc.pdf> **be added to the Web site.**

It was requested that **Workgroup members identify best practices for funding Solid Waste activities in other states.** Workgroup members agreed to contact their counterpart associations in other states to see what is working.

A presentation on Michigan's Solid Waste Policy that will be **posted on the SWFW Web site** was presented. The presentation described why the Policy was updated, explained the process used to update the Policy, summarized the main points of the Policy, and identified the activities that are currently being undertaken to further the Policy. The Policy is a forward-looking document that guides solid waste management decisions. It was created with a broad set of stakeholders and is a consensus document.

The proposed goals for the Workgroup were discussed.

- 1) Determine which Solid Waste Program activities identified in the 2007 Solid Waste Policy it makes sense to implement next.
- 2) Identify the level of funding necessary to complete the identified activities.
- 3) Identify a funding mechanism for the identified activities.
- 4) Determine the feasibility of contracting out landfill inspections.
- 5) Complete a consensus report that will be submitted to the Legislature by June 30, 2012.

The Workgroup concurred that these goals are a good starting point. It was recognized that sub-committees will likely need to be formed to efficiently accomplish the goals.

The Workgroup **requested that the DEQ put together a presentation** that identifies what Solid Waste Policy activities the DEQ is doing now and what is not being accomplished because of the funding shortfall. This discussion will inform the discussion as the workgroup works on what Solid Waste Policy activities should be accomplished and identifies options for long-term funding of the Solid Waste Management Program.