

Governor's Recycling Council (GRC) Meeting Notes

March 12, 2015

Meeting: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Lunch: 12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Facility tour: 12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Kent County Department of Public Works, 977 Wealthy SW, Grand Rapids 49504

Attendance: All members of the GRC were present. A number of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) staff attended along with representatives from Kent County Department of Public Works.

- 1. Welcome:** MDEQ Director Dan Wyant and GRC Chair Jim Frey welcomed the GRC members and special guests. Jim Frey reviewed the agenda.
- 2. Status Report:** Director Wyant and staff reviewed and summarized the *DEQ Status Report on Residential Recycling Initiative 3-12-2015* (attached).
- 3. Public Comments from January 14, 2015 GRC Meeting:** The previous GRC meeting was intentionally designed to receive comments from the public. Bryce Feighner reviewed and summarized those comments (attached).
- 4. Governor's Recycling Summit:** Kerrin O'Brien presented a completed version of the Governor's Recycling Summit and 33rd Annual MRC Conference brochure. The MRC started to deliver the digital brochure on Monday, March 9, 2015. MRC is working with its Conference Committee, DEQ and other stakeholders to continue its marketing effort using different aspects of the events to attract new audiences.
- 5. Community Pollution Prevention grants:** Chad Rogers reviewed the Community P2 Grant program proposal and grant applications received to date. There is \$600,000 available for recycling infrastructure, program start-up and enhancement, market development, and education and outreach. There may be additional monies available if grant proposals include improvements to other related programs such as electronic waste. Applications are due April 1, 2015. There was support at a previous GRC meeting for maximizing the number of grants to local communities.
- 6. Recycling Measurement Legislation:** Sarah Howes reported that the waste haulers and scrap industry have not yet reached an agreement on the content of measurement legislation but are continuing to have discussions. She also reported that there is a placeholder bill request that has been submitted so once there is an agreed upon draft, the Legislative Service Bureau will start the drafting process. Tonia Olson reported that her recent meetings with the scrap industry have been very positive. Bryce Feighner shared the attached *DEQ Draft Recommendations for Recycling Measurement Legislation* and discussed it in detail.
- 7. Recycling Excellence Awards:** Rhonda Oyer that the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection has received 121 nominations for the FY15 Excellence in Recycling Awards. These awards will be presented at the Governor's Recycling Summit on May 5, 2015. DEQ is proceeding with review of these nominations and will provide recommendations to the Director and the GRC. The Award nominations fall into 4 broad categories: Recycling Rate/Measurement; Increasing Access; Outreach and Education; and Closing the Loop. DEQ staff will be meeting on March 31 to put together the recommendations. The intent is to

highlight the programs of the Awardees and their best practices in recycling on the DEQ's Recycling or GRC web pages.

8. **City of Marquette's Recycling Experience:** Bryce Feighner shared some of the unique aspects of the Marquette area recycling program that have enabled them to dramatically increase their recycling rate in the last year to the current rate of about 27%. They conduct a dual stream collection program (rigids and fibers) and allow residents to place their recyclables for pickup in virtually any rigid container. An aggressive public education program is employed to promote the program. See attached slides.
9. **Strategic Recycling Priorities/Policies:** Jim Frey discussed the "Support Services" and "Funding" sections of the attached *Adopted GRC Policy Statements 1-14-2015*. Steve Sliver shared the following regarding the new Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP):

While the GRC considers improvements to our county solid waste planning process, a broader effort will begin. The twelve-member Solid Waste and Sustainability Advisory Panel (SWSAP) was recently appointed by Director Dan Wyant to undertake a comprehensive review of our solid waste laws for how they help us pursue our solid waste and sustainability goals today. It will be complemented by the GRC and other committees; it does not replace them.

The panel includes representatives of local governments, industry, environmental groups, consultants, and recyclers. Two of our GRC members, Tonia Olson and Kerrin O'Brien, are appointed to the panel and will be important links to this new effort.

The initial goals of the SWSAP over the next 12 months include establishing a vision and framework for Part 115; not a rewritten law but rather something we can use as a guide as we both evaluate legislation proposed by others and ultimately pursue amendments on our own.

Our solid waste law was enacted in 1978 and has been amended at least 60 times since then, often to promote just a single agenda or benefit a single constituency. Our emphasis has shifted over that time as well from disposal to sustainability. The SWSAP will reconcile these and other issues or concerns in its very ambitious effort.

Attachments: DEQ Status Report on Residential Recycling Initiative 3-12-2015
Comments Received at January 14, 2015 GRC Meeting
DEQ Draft Recommendations for Recycling Measurement Legislation
Marquette Recycling Presentation
Adopted GRC Policy Statements 1-14-2015