

## **Governor's Recycling Council (GRC) Meeting Notes**

**March 10, 2016**

**Meeting: 10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Great Lakes Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, South Tower, Constitution Hall, Lansing**

**Welcome:** GRC Chair Jim Frey welcomed Angela Ayers, Environmental Policy Advisor, Governor's Office, and DEQ Director Keith Creagh.

**Present:** The GRC members present were Jim Frey, Kerrin O'Brien, Tonia Olson, Jim Kulp, Linda Gobler and Elisa Seltzer

### **1. Welcome:**

DEQ director, Keith Creagh, welcomed the GRC. He updated the members on key department initiatives including the Flint response. He called on the GRC to view recycling issues through the lens of Michigan's infrastructure needs. With the creation of Governor Snyder's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Infrastructure Commission, significant focus is being placed on identifying Michigan's infrastructure needs.

### **2. Status Reports:**

#### **a. Recycling Measurement Legislation – Sarah Howes**

Sarah Howes provided an update on Senate Bill (SB) 507, the recycling measurement legislation. She reported that SB 507 would be formally voted on by the House of Representatives on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and would then be sent to the Governor for his signature. The bill has a 90 day effective date and requires that recycling establishments begin collecting data on October 1, 2016. She relayed that the DEQ will begin discussions on how best to alert and educate those required to report of these new requirements.

#### **b. Leading By Example – Matt Flechter**

The DEQ is working with the Department of Technology Management and Budget (DTMB), Department of Transportation, and Department of Natural Resources to identify ways the state can better "lead by example". DTMB continues to evaluate the best way to increase recycling access in state office buildings. MDOT is working to evaluate ways to incorporate the use of recycled materials in road projects and is working to track progress on existing recycling related activities. Matt Flechter reported that MDOT is putting out 6 recycling bins at the rest areas within the next 4 weeks. They will be purchasing another 10 to be placed at rest areas around mid May. The 45 rest area janitorial and grounds maintenance contracts that were expiring May 1<sup>st</sup> have been extended one year. The new contracts will include language that incorporates maintenance of the recycling bins.

#### **c. Recycle By Design – Bryce Feighner**

The team challenge first introduced at the 2015 Governor's Recycling Summit to develop innovative strategies to increase the state's residential recycling rate has been put on hold. Intended to formally kick off mid-February, it has been one of the key initiatives of the Governor's plan to double residential recycling in Michigan. A couple of significant obstacles are making it difficult to move forward. The needs in Flint have diverted critical funding and human resources not only from the DEQ but from other potential Recycle by Design partners. All parties involved remain committed to the public-private partnership principles of Recycle by Design. The Governor's Recycling Council will explore how this particular program and other options for catalyzing investment in Michigan's resource recovery infrastructure can most effectively be implemented.

### **3. Flint Recycling Activities – Matt Flechter**

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Roger Cargill with Schupan Recycling and Matt Flechter updated the GRC on progress to establish recycling opportunities in the City of Flint. The GRC discussed the current challenges to recycling growth and gained a better understanding of the important work accomplished to date. The GRC thanked Roger for his efforts thus far.

### **4. Public Comments from January 12, 2016 Meeting –**

The GRC discussed the public comments received and chose to respond to the comments individually, rather than in a formal response document.

### **5. Electronic Waste Updates – Steve Noble**

Steve Noble provided a summary of activities within the electronics recycling program. He discussed the impacts of one of the major electronics recycler no longer doing business in the state. He provided a summary of the impacts on our residential electronics collection program of the slow world economy. He also gave an update on the intent and the status of the proposed amendments to the Part 173 and asked that given the opportunity, the member of GRC voice support of the changes.

### **6. Governor's Recycling Summit – Kerrin O'Brien**

The Governor's Recycling Summit will again be held in conjunction with the Michigan Recycling Coalition's Annual Conference, May 3-5 at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth. Lt. Governor Calley is scheduled to address attendees at the start of the half-day event. Nina Goodrich, Executive Director of GreenBlue, will keynote the Summit with a message about sustainable materials management and the circular economy. Various presentations and a panel discussion will fill out the day that will end with a DEQ sponsored reception in the exhibition hall. Details can be found at <http://www.michiganrecycles.org/index.php/events/2016-annual-conference>

### **7. GRC Working Group Recommendation – GRC Chair Jim Frey**

Jim Frey led a discussion regarding the outcomes of the GRC working group recommendations.

### **8. GRC Membership and Charge Beyond May 2016 – Bryce Feighner**

Bryce announced that his role is shifting at DEQ as he begins the process to head up a Flint Field Office. His GRC responsibilities will wane. Angela Ayers and Matt Flechter will fill his coordination role. GRC members were asked if they would like to continue to serve on the Council. GRC members discussed the vacancy created by the departure of Doug Wood and identified professionals that could potentially fill the vacancy.

### **Attachments:**

**DEQ Status Report on Residential Recycling Initiative 3-10-16**