

**DEP NORTHCENTRAL REGIONAL CITIZENS' ROUNDTALE
FIELD TRIP MEETING OF JULY 15, 2013
SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES**

Members of the DEP Northcentral Regional Citizens Roundtable and two guests from Lycoming County government gathered at the Lycoming County Landfill office on July 15 at 3:30 p.m. for a tour of the Lycoming County Resource Management Services (LCRMS) landfill gas to energy facility, regional recycling facility and landfill as provided by LCRMS Professional Engineer, Michael Hnatin.

The first stop was the energy facility. Hnatin explained that PPL Renewable Energy designed, constructed, owns and operates two co-located 3-megawatt landfill gas-to-energy-plants at the landfill. The project supports the government's plan to reduce its environmental impact, improve its energy efficiency, create jobs and control costs.

Hnatin said PPL uses methane gas from the landfill to power four Caterpillar engine generators. The engines are expected to produce about 50 million kilowatt-hours per year, enough electricity to power about 4,000 homes.

Hnatin explained that landfill gas-to-energy systems have a dual benefit to the environment—they generate electricity from renewable fuel while also eliminating methane emissions. In addition, Hnatin said the county uses heat produced by the generators to heat county facilities.

Hnatin noted that these plants produce the equivalent of 34,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year. According to the EPA, the reduction of emissions is equivalent to any one of these annual environmental benefits—removing 6,700 cars from the road; planting 7,300 acres of pine forest; or reducing the import of 80,000 barrels of oil.

There was a question-and-answer session with roundtable members and guests during and after Hnatin's presentation.

The next stop was the regional recycling facility, which Hnatin said opened in October 2003 and is 60,000 square feet to handle the 45 to 50 tons per day of materials received for processing.

Hnatin said the facility will soon be converted to a single stream facility, which means that people will no longer need to source separate their recyclables. All can be placed in the same container. Paper recyclables will include newspaper, magazines and catalogs, junk mail, office paper, corrugated cardboard boxes, cereal and gift boxes, paper bags, phone books and books. Containers will include aluminum cans, aluminum foil and plates, glass bottles and jars, metal food cans and lids, metal pots and pans, empty aerosol cans, and No. 1-No. 7 plastics.

Hnatin said the county currently does curbside collection bi-weekly in 13 municipalities and has 25 drop-off locations throughout Lycoming County.

There was a question-and-answer session with roundtable members and guests during and after Hnatin's presentation.

The final part of the tour was the landfill itself. Hnatin said the landfill accepts about 1,200 tons per day of waste with the average annual tonnage being 320,000 tons. He noted that it is the only county operated landfill in Pennsylvania, and serves five other nearby counties besides Lycoming.

Hnatin said the landfill produces 60,000 gallons per day of leachate on average, the cost of liner construction is about \$800,000 per acre, the average in-place density is 1,800 pounds per cubic yard, and the maximum depth of the waste is 120 feet. Hnatin explained that LCRMS also owns and operates a 100 ton per day transfer station in Williamsport.

Hnatin said that 54% of the waste is municipal; 22% is residual or non-hazardous industrial; 10% is sewage sludge; 11% is construction/demolition; and 2% is ash/asbestos.

Hnatin showed the members a piece of the landfill liner material and explained how the landfill is double lined with a leachate detection zone in between. He also explained the leachate collection system, the odor control system, the litter fences and the stormwater collection ponds.

There was a question-and-answer session with roundtable members and guests during and after Hnatin's presentation.

The group then drove to Montgomery for dinner at the Station House restaurant.

Following dinner, the group drove to the nearby White Deer Golf Course for a tour of the Black Hole Creek stream and floodplain restoration project as provided by tour guide Ben Ehrhart, water resources engineer and director of design for Landstudies, the company that designed the project.

The group traveled by golf carts to the project location. Ehrhart explained that Lycoming County initiated its Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy in 2008 and received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant in 2009. This grant was to support implementation of the Lycoming County nutrient and sediment reduction strategy, and support Best Management Practices (BMPs) implementation to jumpstart the county's participation in the Nutrient Trading Program. This included agricultural BMPs and a stream and floodplain restoration project.

Ehrhart said the objectives of the Black Hole Creek project included to generate nutrient credits, improve channel stability, improve water quality, improve aquatic and riparian habitat, reduce golf course maintenance, and compliment golf course play.

Ehrhart explained the benefits of the floodplain restoration included sediment and nutrient reduction, wetland creation, reduced golf course maintenance, aesthetic

enhancement, improved wildlife habitat, storm water management, and floodplain management.

Ehrhart said the project design recommendations included excavating the floodplain to the bankfull elevation to stabilize banks and reduce sediment loading; creating 0.43 acres of riparian wetland to reduce nutrient loading; removing existing stone walls and grade the banks at a 3:1 slope as site constraints (mature trees) allow; correcting the tight meander on Black Hole Creek with a minor realignment; and establishing a robust native plant community.

Ehrhart concluded by noting the \$220,000 project's load reductions included about 309 pounds of nitrogen per year; 128 pounds of phosphorus per year and 42 tons of sediment per year.

There was a question-and-answer session with roundtable members and guests during and after Ehrhart's presentation.

The group also saw a mink swimming in the creek before they returned to the pro shop at about 8 p.m. to conclude the tour.

The next roundtable meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, October 21, in the DEP's Williamsport office. Members can email agenda topic suggestions to Dan Spadoni at any time at dspadoni@pa.gov.

