

**Recycling Fund Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2018**

The following RFAC members were present:

Michele Nestor, Chair
Gordon Burgoyne
Tanya McCoy-Caretti
John Frederick
Joyce Hatala
Tim O'Donnell
Gregg Pearson
Joe Reinhart
Gary Roberts
James Sandoe
John Vataavuk
Ed Vogel
Jerry Zona
Leda (Lipton) Lacomba (Rep. Matt Gabler)
Nick Troutman (Sen. Gene Yaw)

The following RFAC members were absent:

Bob Watts, Vice-Chair
Eli Brill
Jim Close
Shannon Reiter
Randall York

The following guests and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff members were present:

David Buzzell	Land Air Water Legal Solutions
Bob Bylone	PA Recycling Markets Center (PARMC)
Tom Cunningham	Compliance Plus Services, Inc.
Amy Mazzella diBosco	Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority
Kristin Foldes	Clean Earth
Karen Hartley	Clean Earth
Brian Hilliard	Beneficial Use Association
Ryan Kiscaden	Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC)
Jim Lambert	Monroe County Solid Waste Authority
Teresa Irvin McCurdy	TD Connections
Danielle Myers	TRC
Tom Santanna	Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA)
Lisa Schaefer	County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
Lauren Strausser	Lycoming County Resource Management Service
Justin Stockdale	PA Resources Council (PRC)
Hoa Dao	DEP Bureau of Waste Management (BWM)
Laura Henry	DEP BWM

Larry Holley	DEP BWM
Alaina Krayski	DEP BWM
Thomas Mellott	DEP BWM
Ali Tarquino Morris	DEP BWM
Chris Noble	DEP BWM
Neil Bakshi	DEP Policy Office
George Fetrow	DEP Waste Management Program, SCRO

Call to Order; Old Business

The June 7, 2018, meeting of the Recycling Fund Advisory Committee (RFAC) was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Michele Nestor, Chair.

Ms. Nestor called for a motion to approve the January 30, 2018, meeting minutes. Gary Roberts requested an amendment clarifying who made a statement in the previous meeting. After some discussion, Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Ed Vogel. The motion carried unanimously.

Responsibilities of County Recycling Coordinators

Michele Nestor and Larry Holley, Chief, Waste Minimization and Planning, presented a final version of the expanded County Recycling Coordinator Responsibilities under the Act 101 Section 903 Grants. The expanded responsibilities were revised in response to comments received prior to and during the January 30, 2018, SWAC/RFAC meeting. Mr. Holley opened the floor to further discussion before asking the Committee for their endorsement of the updated responsibilities.

Members discussed the merits of streamlining education for the County Recycling Coordinators so that they have a broader knowledge of what is expected of them in their position. There was some concern among the members with the number of organizations currently providing the education. Mr. Holley explained that each organization has a good relationship with DEP, and that DEP will continue to foster these relationships. In addition, Mr. Holley committed to piggyback on DEP’s Regional Roundtable meetings to ensure consistent messaging about the expectations under the expanded County Recycling Coordinator Responsibilities.

John Frederick made a motion to approve the revised responsibilities, seconded by Tim O’Donnell. The motion carried with Gary Roberts opposed.

Recycling Market Developments

Michele Nestor and Larry Holley led a discussion of the impacts to the recycling industry resulting from China’s recently imposed trade restrictions. Ms. Nestor stated that with the restrictions placed by the Chinese government, approximately 70 percent of the material currently being collected has zero value. Mr. Holley indicated there are now smaller markets for the materials collected, and some smaller facilities are struggling to react to the change. He stressed that facilities should be collecting the materials for which they have viable markets; they should not be simply collecting material and disposing of it.

Mr. Holley indicated that a default residue rate of 15 percent will be proposed for the 2019 solicitation of the recycling performance grants. Conversation amongst the members touched on the effort for renewed education regarding recycling and, conversely, education regarding consumer habits. Michele Nestor touched on the topic of how some material manufacturers claim products are made with recyclable material or can be recycled, but in some cases it is extremely difficult at a local level for these items to be recycled, and attempting to recycle them doesn't make sense. She stressed that what is being recycled at a local level may help local economics as well as possibly reduce contamination rates.

Discussions were had regarding collection and processing of materials, the impact they can have on the marketplace economics, and how consistency across the spectrum of material collection will help avoid upheaval of the marketplaces. Education was also discussed for facilities both in accepting materials that cannot be properly recycled and taking material out of the stream that has value and how that can be detrimental to local economies.

Public Comment; New Business

Michele Nestor reiterated to the members that DEP is still accepting comments regarding Act 101 priorities and where Workgroup members want to focus their discussions. Joyce Hatala moved to adjourn the RFAC meeting, seconded by John Frederick. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.