

MEETING NOTES - Final
Blair County Municipal Solid Waste Plan Revision

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting #4

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2012, 4:00 PM
Meeting Location: Altoona Heritage Discovery Center
1421 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA
Meeting #: Blair County SWAC Meeting #4
Attendees: See Attached Sign-in Sheet

Terry Keene from Barton & Loguidice opened the meeting, handed out meeting agendas, and the attendees introduced themselves. Terry then asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the previous SWAC Meeting, Meeting #3. John Frederick moved to approve the minutes, Jim Steiner seconded the motion, and they were accepted as final.

A question came up related to the current County service contract for electronics receipt/processing that is over at the end of October. John Frederick informed the group that an electronics collection event is planned for October 27, 2012, at the Ballpark.

Ashley Duncan from Barton & Loguidice reviewed the survey responses from the infectious/ chemotherapeutic (ICW) waste haulers and generators, the MSW waste haulers, the municipalities and the WWTPs. These survey summaries are located on the Blair County website. The SWAC informed B&L that Altoona Regional has made an effort to get normal MSW out of their red bag waste. The SWAC committee requested that information on the amount of ICW generated from Altoona Regional be obtained. B&L will collect this information for the survey. On the municipal survey, it was noted that that Antis Township municipal crews collect yard waste only. Also on this survey, many municipalities noted support for the recyclables dropoff program (which was further discussed (after this survey) at a municipality meeting on September 5 of this year) and which has since been discontinued in some areas of the County, due to lack of funding support).

John Frederick stated that he would like to see the current IRC recycling functions and materials specified in the Plan Update and provided as a Sample Ordinance in the Plan for other municipalities in the County to adopt. Also, sample voluntary recycling ordinances are available for Blair Township, Antis Township and Snyder Township, that can be placed in the Plan. B&L would like copies of these sample ordinances for inclusion in the Plan Update. Martinsburg Borough's non-licensing based ordinance was discussed. B&L would like a copy of this ordinance if available.

John Frederick stated he would provide a sample anti-burn ordinance to B&L for the Plan Update. John said he personally would like to include and require a County-wide anti-burn ordinance in the Plan Update. This idea was discussed among members of the SWAC. Anti-burning ordinances elicit strong emotions on both sides of the issue; this is

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a politically charged topic. It was determined by the SWAC to recommend in the Plan Update that municipalities consider enacting an anti-burn ordinance by including information on open burning and its detrimental effects to the environment, as well as providing sample anti-burn ordinances in the Plan Update, but that the Plan should not require municipalities to adopt an anti-burn ordinance, nor recommend a County-wide anti-burn ordinance.

John Frederick handed out a copy of meeting minutes from a November 13, 2001 meeting of the SWAC from the previous plan update process, that included 72 brainstorming ideas, developed by members of that SWAC, with a goal of helping Blair County reach the Commonwealth's recycling goal of 35%. A copy of the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2001 SWAC meeting are attached to these minutes. John Frederick proposed to have this list of 72 ideas evaluated again and combined (due to redundancy of many of those ideas), to produce a list of ideas that this SWAC could consider for the current planning period. The revised list of brainstorming items, which will list actions that have been accomplished and those recommended for the future, will be reviewed with the SWAC committee members at the next SWAC committee meeting.

B&L will notify SWAC members of a change in the date of the next SWAC meeting and will send this out to all SWAC committee members and B&L will change the date of the next SWAC meeting on the website. The next SWAC meeting was rescheduled for December 17th at 4:00 PM at the Altoona Heritage Discovery Center.

John Frederick discussed with the members of the SWAC his ideas on food waste composting. Food waste composting can be a potential revenue generator for Blair County. Currently the WM – Altoona Transfer Station property is owned by the City of Altoona; this lease expires next year. Terry Keene suggested the City of Altoona, in conjunction with Blair County, investigate the possibility of using this land as an organics transfer station when the lease runs out next year, with food waste composting at the County's Buckhorn site (now the IRC compost site). Terry Keene recommended that Waste Management's future plans be polled, also (possible transfer station site manager/operator?).

Terry Keene advised that John Frederick should contact John Lundsted regarding the possibility of qualifying for a new 901 grant application for a food waste composting feasibility study for Blair County. Terry Stacey noted that in the past, a previous grant application (an Act 101, Section 902 implementation grant request) for food waste composting equipment "didn't fly". At one time, the consultant Blazosky Associates also did some analysis of food waste composting (this may have been a long time ago). John Frederick will provide this study to B&L, and B&L staff will evaluate the findings of that study for utilization in the Plan Update.

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Terry Keene next reviewed the responses to the Solicitation of Interest (SOI) from the waste transfer and disposal facilities. A draft memorandum on the SOI submissions, and B&L's reviews and draft recommendations was distributed to SWAC members at the meeting and discussed in detail. The lack of ICW disposal capabilities by major facilities that serve the majority of Blair County's MSW disposal needs highlighted the need for Blair County to contract with multiple disposal sites. Mike Union noted that WM offers free roll-offs to PA Cleanways, and that this should be considered in selecting sites. Donna Gority posed the question, what is the benefit to contract with a limited number (minimal) of disposal facilities as opposed to all of the waste disposal facilities (menu plan)? These concepts were discussed in detail by members of the SWAC committee and Terry Keene, and Terry explained his interaction with the County Commissioners' office regarding the structuring of this solicitation. After much discussion, it became clear that the SWAC believes that contracting with a limited number of disposal sites for the upcoming 10-year planning period, taking multiple factors into considerations, would best serve Blair County's needs.

The need to include a procedure to add facilities to the Plan Update (after its adoption) was discussed among the SWAC and Terry Keene. Terry Keene recommended that the current section in B&L's draft Plan Update on the procedure to add facilities to the Plan remain in the Plan Update, as certain unforeseen situations may arise in the future that may require Blair County to evaluate other waste disposal facilities prior to the end of the 10-year planning period. Terry Keene recommends that it be Blair County's responsibility to decide whether or not an application for inclusion in the Blair County Plan Update should even be entertained by the County, based on the needs of the County at that time.

After this important and detailed discussion, Terry Keene summarized the SWAC's position and summarized the same, thereby recommending that the SWAC committee members recommend that Blair County contract with four (4) waste disposal facilities in the new Plan Update. These facilities include:

- Mostoller Landfill (IWS facility offering free space for open dump cleanups; this site currently accepts a majority of the waste from Blair County, including waste from the Burgmeier Transfer Station, but does not accept ICW) – IWS's Sandy Run Landfill is the backup site for this facility.
- Sandy Run Landfill (IWS facility offering free space for open dump cleanups; does not accept ICW) – Mostoller is the backup site for this facility.
- Laurel Highlands Landfill (WM facility accepting ICW waste; the WM facility that currently accepts the most MSW from Blair County) - Southern Alleghenies landfill is the backup site for this facility
- Veolia Greentree Landfill (offers relatively low ceiling tipping fees; the most distant site from Blair County of the recommended sites) – Veolia ES Chestnut Valley Landfill is the backup site for this facility.

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Contracts with these four facilities should be in place no later than July 1, 2013, when the current disposal contracts expire.

Terry also recommended that the submissions from all three transfer stations be accepted for inclusion in the Plan Update, as further detailed and recommended in Terry's draft recommendations report. The transfer station sites that responded to the SOI are the Altoona Transfer Station (WM), the Blair County Resource Recovery Facility (Burgmeier), and the Weaver Sanitation Transfer Station (Breezewood).

Donna Gority made a motion that the SWAC recommend the Blair County Commissioners enter waste disposal contracts with the four (4) above-mentioned facilities so as to provide disposal capacity to satisfy Blair County's needs for the next ten (10) years (planning period), as well as the three transfer stations that responded to the SOI. The reason for recommending contracting with the four disposal facilities is their expressed interest in offering integrated waste and recyclables services, their offer of free disposal capacity for open dump cleanups, their ability to accept ICW waste, their current acceptance of 90% of the solid waste generated in Blair County, and/ or their attractive ceiling tipping fees for the 10-year planning period. Donna Fisher seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Terry stated that he will finalize his memorandum to incorporate the discussions and this action of the SWAC.

The next SWAC meeting will be held at 4:00 pm on December 17 at the same location as this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Keene and Ashley Duncan, B&L