

MEETING NOTES

Blair County Municipal Solid Waste Plan Revision

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) Meeting

Date of Meeting: December 17, 2012, 4:00 PM
Meeting Location: Altoona Heritage Discovery Center
1421 12th Avenue, Altoona, PA
Meeting #: Blair County SWAC Meeting #5
Attendees: Committee: Larry Carter John Frederick
Donna Gority Sue Rhoades
Terry Stacey Jim Steiner
Mike Union
Consultants: Terry Keene Ashley Duncan

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Two corrections were made, correcting the date of the electronics recycling event and clarifying that the past food waste composting grant application was a section 902 grant for equipment.

Meeting Schedule

The meeting schedule was discussed and it was explained that the Heritage Center was not always available on Mondays after they had weekend events there. This is why Tuesdays had been proposed. As Tuesdays raised conflicts with a few people, we discussed moving to another venue and going back to Mondays, either at the Logan Township Building or at Altoona City Hall. The dates for the 2013 meetings would be:

- January 14, 2013
- February 11, 2013
- March 11, 2013
- April 15, 2013
- May 20, 2013
- June 17, 2013
- July 15, 2013

Status Report

IRC staff has continued work done by the county department to explore the feasibility of food waste composting. DEP regional staff, Sharon Svitek and Brad Cunningham will visit the county composting and recycling facility in the village of Buckhorn on January 8, 2013 to inspect the facility and discuss the next steps to pursue permitting for food waste composting. Among the questions that are still unanswered is whether or not public facilities require the bonding that privately sponsored facilities require.

John Frederick also reported that some progress had been made to fill the void created when the county's drop-off recycling depots had to be closed. Martinsburg had joined with neighboring North Woodbury and Huston Townships to build a new facility that would utilize a key card system for paying members to use to access the site. It was also reported that Paul Kane disposal had sponsored drop-off containers in Williamsburg and Woodbury Township and Ken Wertz Hauling had sponsored one at the Frankstown

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Township municipal building. John also reported that the IRC was exploring the possibility of hosting a drop-off at the Duncansville composting facility on Tuesdays when it is open for yard waste drop-off.

Mike Union asked about the Haul-All drop-off equipment and where that would be going. John explained that a final decision had not been made on all the containers but that Dauphin and Cambria Counties had both voiced an interest in the equipment. John also noted that it was likely that, at a minimum, the IRC would be keeping one truck and the four Haul-All trailers. About of a third of the old containers are beyond help and cannot be repaired.

Plan Update Discussions

A list of potential plan recommendations was distributed. The list had been derived from a similar discussion list that was compiled by committee member Larry carter during the plan update ten years ago. John Frederick suggested that some points could be recommended and some might be considered to be required. Two items were discussed in some detail.

- **Requiring waste haulers to recycle** (at least in the more suburban parts of the county) whenever a household or business wishes to recycle. This provision already exists in Blair, Snyder and Antis Townships but it is not rigorously enforced. Donna Gority raised a concern about enforcement and also wondered if the county commissioners would be inclined to force this upon municipalities.
- **A burning ban on recyclable materials.** In lieu of an outright ban on burning, it was suggested that a ban on burning recyclable materials would be a reasonable middle ground to reduce open burning and increase recycling. Mike Union believed that such a provision should have been a recommendation of the plan, but not a requirement.

Larry Carter suggested that some sort of ordinance that required best recycling practices might be a way to reach these sorts of goals. Donna Gority asked if the committee could rate the provisions that were on the list. Larry also asked if we could rate the feasibility of each. Terry Keene suggested that we prepare a list of the top five or ten with a brief narrative. John Frederick would prepare an on-line survey and solicit responses from the entire committee.