

MEETING NOTES
Regional Solid Waste Plan Advisory Committee
***Public Kickoff Meeting - Columbia**

Date of Meeting: 7:00 PM, Thursday, June 24, 2010
Meeting Location: Columbia County Ag & Human Service Center
702 Sawmill Road, Bloomsburg, PA
Meeting #: **Public Kickoff Meeting #1 – Columbia County**
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Kevin McJunkin started the meeting. Stakeholders, haulers, township employees, county planners, etc., attended meeting. Kevin announced that DEP is paying 80% of the funding for this project, and Lycoming County is paying the remaining 20%. We're very glad that they are all participating. Kevin turned the meeting over to Dave Minnear of Kimball.

See PowerPoint presentation.

Dave introduced himself and explained the 5-county plan. This Regional Plan is larger in geographic extent and includes 5 counties. Lycoming County is the lead county for administrative organization. As we go along, each county will have similar capacity regarding decision-making, etc. The Steering Committee ultimately directs the Consultants' work. Dave discussed who is on the Stakeholder Committees and briefly reviewed the roles of each Consultant.

Dave reviewed the plan goals and explained that he gathered the historic plans and summarized them, mentioned that this plan needs to work for ten (10) years for all five (5) counties, so we need to come up with a plan that fits the criteria and meets the needs of everyone involved. We are interested in everyone's feedback in order to understand and implement this process.

The goal of DEP is to increase recycling. Each plan had a 35% goal in their previous plan, and we will be looking to see if any of the counties met that goal. It's just a goal – not a requirement, however, DEP would like to see 35%. That percentage makes a lot of sense for certain areas; and DEP would like to see more in other areas. We want to improve the quality of life to the service areas. We want to secure the waste streams. We have to make sure that we have adequate capacity to handle the amount of waste and recycling and it has to extend out 10 years. Joyce Hatala commented that grant requests have to come from the county or from municipalities.

Dave advised that a question arose on how do you deal with urban versus rural solid waste issues. The good thing is that the 5-counties involved here are similar (both urban and rural areas) so the trends should have some of the same patterns. We don't expect to see the patterns changing dramatically. We want to improve the quality of life to the service areas. We want to secure the waste streams. We have to make sure we have

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adequate capacity to handle the amount of waste and recycling and it has to serve the area's needs for 10 years.

We will have numerous meetings, and communication is key in this plan. We want the input of the public, stakeholders, businesses and industry, etc. We want seamless communication. We've assigned at least one Consultant Team member to each Stakeholder group. This is key to communication throughout the project. Dave showed everyone the website link. Dave opened the room up for questions:

Bob Aungst of the Columbia County Planning Commission asked what stakeholders should expect when they attend their meetings. Bob also thanked everyone who agreed to serve on committees; he encouraged everyone to attend the meetings, and said these meetings should be interesting to be a part of. He appreciates the participation.

Dave advised there are 5 Stakeholders Committees. Each is a very focused group. Those meetings will be talking about specific issues to those groups. There will be a separate agenda for each group; meeting notes will be distributed to committee members: the first set of meetings will be more of a get to know you, etc. The first set of meetings he imagines will bring people up to speed in case they didn't attend the public meetings. Things on the agenda may include: why are we here, what are our goals, request feedback (what are you worried about, what don't you want changed, etc).

Kevin advised that each committee would need to select one person to attend the Steering Committee meetings also.

Terry Hoover of the Columbia County Planning Commission asked if the PowerPoint presentation will be on the website. Terry also asked if there is going to be a target or focus for people to come together to reach the goals. Is there an objective we're trying to funnel all of this towards to reach that goal?

Cathy Johnson responded yes, regarding having the PowerPoint uploaded to the website. Dave responded that 35% is a reasonable recycling goal in some areas. Dave continued that we have to ask the Stakeholders in order to get an idea if that is reasonable for their area, and if we can meet that final goal. Each stakeholder group is going to tell us what's important to them.

Terry asked, when does the clock start ticking on the next 10-year plan?

Dave responded in that theoretically, the next plan needs to be in place before the current one expires. Kevin advised that this plan has to be completed by January 2012. Dave announced that we would like to have Draft Regional Plan released for public comment by early 2011.

Brian DuMond of Stillwater Borough stated that he is confused. He is wondering who employed the Consultant Team (who made the choice), and where did the whole thing start.

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Kevin responded that Act 101 started it. The Consultant Team was selected by Lycoming County. He continued that the five (5) counties worked together to agree on the proposal. Kevin extended that he's very happy with the selection of this Consultant Team. Kevin advised that in this instance, Lycoming County has invested over \$20 million in the expansion of their facility. Dave commented that Act 101 requires a plan to be implemented every 10 years and that DEP monitors that to make sure each county is in compliance. Once the Regional Plan is developed, it will help them (landfills) plan for their waste and future.

Bob Aungst stated that he feels the region has adequate disposal capacity. He also believes that that is the whole reason this process is happening.

Tina Vogan from Bloomsburg Walmart asked about tying in various groups. She stated that Walmart has started composting and does a lot of recycling. She said she has a lot of residents call her to ask if Walmart will take their recycling. She asked if there would be opportunity to coordinate the needs and services of various groups.

Dave expressed to Tina that she should feel free to sit in on a Stakeholders meeting and bring this issue up. This plan is very interested in getting industry feedback like this. Some industries have the concern on the chain of custody issues at times, so feedback from industry is great to have for our planning use. We would like to build it into our plan to accommodate as many needs as feasible. Walmart has been good at recycling in the past. Dave asked her to maybe start thinking-do they want to do recycling on their own, etc?

Brian DuMond asked about composting. What is it? He also asked if we get involved in scrap metal.

Dave responded that typically, scrap has high value and generally, citizens want that. Private industry takes care of scrap metal. Dave asked Charles Fritz of Bloomsburg if he wanted to answer Brian's question on composting. Charlie responded that composting is leaf turnover, mulch, etc. Those are the two areas of waste that he handles with composting now. Currently they are looking at food waste as part of composting, but there are permit issues right now. Dave responded that in more urban areas, a composting facility makes a lot of sense. In rural areas, farmers often take care of composting themselves.

Roy Bower from Millville Borough asked if the counties would be singled out to use only one landfill. Roy asked if the haulers would have the option to go wherever they choose. Dave responded that there is no intent to use one particular landfill. The Plan is required to have an agreement based on capacity. We will look at who takes on the most, historically. Dave advised that it's up to the haulers to make that decision based on the Stakeholders meetings. We are looking forward to the feedback we get from these groups about these issues. Dave commented that some counties have price issues, etc. DEP does not want to control the whole issue but they would like some control of the

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delivery of waste, and are interested in having specific agreements with landfills, but it does not mean haulers have to be tied to one landfill. DEP does want to know things like...did it go to an approved facility? Is there illegal dumping? Etc. The Stakeholders groups will allow us to collect the right information to make this plan work for everyone.

Kevin advised that assuming there is adequate capacity, he's confident the plan will work with haulers, landfills, and everyone involved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Date for the first Stakeholder Meeting (Municipal) is: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 4:00 PM in Union County at the Union County Government Center – at the Union County Café.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Johnson
EfficientC