

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

Date of Meeting: 4:00 PM, Thursday, June 24, 2010
Meeting Location: Danville Courthouse
29 Mill Street, Danville, PA
Meeting #: **Public Kickoff Meeting #1 – Montour County**
Attendees: See Attached Sign In Sheet

Kevin McJunkin started the meeting. Solicitors, haulers, stakeholders, 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.

We will have numerous meetings and communication is key in this plan. We are interested in the input of the public, stakeholders, businesses and industry, etc. We want seamless communication. We've assigned at least one Consultant member to each Stakeholder group.

Commissioner Ward asked about the next Public Meeting, and asked if it has to be a meeting like this or can it be where people come in to ask questions and then they can

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leave. Also, does the Consulting Team do the advertising? Do the Commissioners have to have a formal meeting? He expressed that they prefer to have it as informal as possible.

Dave advised that he believes the DEP rules state that we just have to announce it but it does not have to be formal or a specific setup of a meeting. Dave expressed that we have time to discuss it since the next public meeting will take place in December.

Commissioner Ward stated that the County would like to enhance recycling to get more people involved; however, they don't want to demand townships have anti-burning ordinances, etc. He stated that they prefer to "steer them in the right direction" rather than force the issue. Dave responded that we prefer to consider them recommendations and not demands.

Joyce commented regarding the burn ordinance by giving an example that DEP will not award recycling grant money unless they have an ordinance that says the municipality won't burn plastic, etc. If you had a county program and you wanted a grant you would have to follow those guidelines. Joyce said she will check to see, for example, if there are ten (10) municipalities in a county and if 6 of them follow guidelines, does that mean the County can or can't get grant money to do recycling? The Commissioner stated that they want to know how it works. Joyce advised she would get back to the Commissioner and Solicitor in a week or so. The Commissioner wants the decision left up to each township, but will review it once Joyce provides him the information. Dave commented that DEP is concerned about air quality non-attainment areas the most.

The Commissioner asked if anyone remembers if this kind of thing went on for the 2000 Montour County Solid Waste Plan. Some of the haulers commented that Allenwood was the place to take their waste. They said the biggest thing was the pricing back then. The haulers had to bid for pricing and it became contractual. They also had to have a backup listed in their plan. The Commissioner stated the he will do whatever is necessary to make things work, but is interested in making it easier and not harder. The Commissioner asked if all information could be gathered and presented. The Solicitor said less meetings and more focus on things happening is preferred. Dave commented that that was exactly what this process entailed.

One of the Haulers asked if they could use different landfills if they wanted to. Dave commented that the plan is currently at step one. He said there is no intention of telling you where you have to bring the waste. Dave pointed to the map and stated that this shows the many different locations we currently have in this five-county region. Dave said that it's imperative that we have the capacity to accommodate the region and all the different areas.

Kevin commented that the goal is to guarantee capacity. One Hauler commented that it's important to keep competitiveness for disposal. The Hauler said he believes in free enterprise. Dave responded that some landfills are not cooperative in terms of haulers

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picking their locations (gave examples) and some counties may say they don't want to deal with those specific landfills. Other landfills say they only have 2 years of capacity. There may be logistical reasons why, but typically when it comes down to it, we are not interested in changing a whole lot. From what little information we have so far, the vast majority of waste generated goes to Lycoming. It's hard to predict what will happen in that 10-year period, but we have a plan to gather information in order to get the projections. We want input on how the current system is working. Dave advised that one question was asked and that was 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.

Kevin advised that this plan has to be completed by January 2012. Dave advised that we would like to have the Draft Regional Plan released for comment in early 2011. It has a review and approval process to get through. Dave showed everyone the website link.

The Solicitor (Mike Denneley) asked: Did they have basis of making that 35% goal? Is our (Danville) recycler authorized to request grant money for a recycling plan?

Dave responded 35% makes a lot of sense for certain areas. Joyce responded that the grant money request has to come from a County or municipality request only.

The Commissioner asked if there was a postcard or something that could list the website address on it for this plan. They would like to give it to their individual townships as handouts so they could get the word out. The Commissioner advised that they have workshops at the townships at night. Kevin commented that this would be a good thing to have. Dave said he would come up with something to give to everyone.

The Solicitor (Mike Denneley) stated that Danville schools, Geisinger and hospitals generate enormous amounts of waste, and they would like to make sure that we know that this is a subject of interest for them when preparing this plan. The Commissioner commented that he wants to have school districts more accountable. School districts do very little office paper recycling. Someone commented that Geisinger does 500 tons of office paper per year. The School district bid it out, and the hauler is required to take corrugated and office paper. Mike commented that we need to find a way to get the school district to participate in recycling. The Commissioner added that we need to come up with funds within the system already, not pass the costs on to taxpayers. That's not the purpose of recycling. Joyce asked what population of Danville is and the solicitor responded 4600. It is a mandated community. (Danville was at 5000 when it started). The school district fits minimum requirements when it comes to recycling.

The Solicitor (Mike Denneley) commented that there is no interest in moving away from the free enterprise of hauling in their county. The public has communication with

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their haulers and that system will continue. Danville likes the way the system works now.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Date for the next Public Meeting is Thursday, June 24, 2010 at 7:00 PM in Columbia County at the Ag and Human Service Center in Bloomsburg, PA. 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