

District Managers Meeting #4  
Stanley Hall  
December 8, 2008

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Jim O’Gorman, John Malter, Teri Kuczynski, Mike Morrow, Fred Moody, Jeff Fehrs, Cathy Jamieson, Julie Hackbarth, Ham Driscoll, George Murray, Paul Tomasi, Tom Moreau, Skip Flanders

Facilitators: Ted Siegler, Natalie Starr

Natalie explained the agenda for the meeting.

Ted – Many topics are in the “needs more analysis” category. Who is going to do the analysis?

This sparked a conversation about ANR’s role and the possible role of a new statewide authority. Natalie brings the group back to the agenda and asks for the previous meeting minutes to be approved.

**Minutes are approved.**

The group looks over the list of issues which need legislative action and what the short-term versus long-term issues are.

**Reporting requirements are a short-term activity.**

George Murray- Reporting requirements must be required of everyone including private business entities.

Mandatory reporting requirements for all recyclers in the state. Model on Delaware.

Oregon has legislation on this topic.

Ted- Oregon has detailed reporting requirement legislation. Ted will forward a link to the Oregon legislation for the group.

There must be teeth in the legislation or entities will not comply. Carrots and/or sticks.

This is an important issue to know how much diversion is being done. The only way to get reliable data is for entities to be compelled to report it.

**Vote in favor.**

**Next topic was parallel collection** – Needs to be mandated – must co-collect recycling with refuse.

Teri- Does everyone have access to recycling facilities?

The answer was that the mandate may push infrastructure to grow to fit the need. This would be a good thing.

Teri- The Addison County SWMD mandates co-collection, but it has a District-wide single stream collection system in place. Would requiring recycling hurt the smaller haulers in districts that require greater sorting, i.e., small haulers would have to purchase separate vehicles to collect recyclables?

This would become a compliance/enforcement issue as many small haulers “fly under the radar” as it is now. Less than a 1-ton truck does not need a hauler permit so it may be tough to enforce on these people.

Should parallel collection be mandated for both commercial as well as residential accounts? Could push consistent services statewide.

Need for exemptions for those that backhaul if commercial. Commercial backhaulers (i.e. supermarket cardboard) would need to apply for exemption; the exemption may have some reporting requirements attached.

Terri- States that in the short-term, she would support the mandate just on commercial accounts, with a mandate for all collection as a long-term goal.

**The group voted 6 to 2 that parallel collection be mandated in the short term.**

**Next topic Statewide Authority;** This was tabled for the time being.

**Product Stewardship (“PS”)**– Who does the analysis and monitoring? Who takes the lead? Who funds the program? Who implements?

Tom M- This is an economic issue more than an environmental one. Minnesota has legislation on PS.

ANR- Framework Legislation must be inclusive of all the players, reaching out to the commercial sector must happen. The state is conflicted with concern that PS will be a burden to the business community, and is very concerned that any proposals be vetted with the commercial sector.

Paul- The VT PS Council can lead the charge along with the districts.

John- PS should be at arms length from ANR. A board/council makes sense.

Mike M- a board with real power, staff, etc. A board with analytical capabilities.

Tom M – Recommends the California model of the Integrated Waste Management Board- which is made up of business and government.

Does VT need another entity besides the ANR and the District Managers similar to California?

Ted- ANR regulates and manages; PS board would drive ANR to more of a regulation role.

Teri – Has supported a state authority for diverting organics, HHW and high hazards, but district boards don't want to give up the day-to-day management of waste. An integrated board like California's could provide leadership, analyze data, drive the waste prevention agenda, and leave the implementation to the districts.

Tom M - If this board could do one thing, the development of a statewide contract for HHW collection would be a great start. HHW is a small % of the waste stream but it is very expensive; for example, 25% of the Chittenden SWMD budget is spent on HHW, CLFs, etc.

The group proposed that a Statewide Board or Authority similar to the California model be considered to take on solid waste management functions including product stewardship.

**General consensus in support of a Product Stewardship/Solid Waste Board idea.**

**Funding discussion** (much discussion on the PowerPoint presentation)

Funding strategies:

Slide 1- All money is essential. Natalie showed the total estimated cost of solid waste management in the state and a percentage breakdown of all waste revenues: state

franchise tax revenue and permit fees; district surcharges; district per capita assessments; and other revenues such as the sale of recyclables. The allocation of state waste revenues was summarized. The districts currently receive only 17% of the state franchise tax revenues.

Packaging tax- Should be high enough to change consumer behavior (needs more analysis).

Is there a lot of leakage, i.e. franchise tax and district surcharges not being collected?

The tax is not being collected on all disposal.

Teri- Doubts that there would be support for a new tax without showing better service or efficiencies. As more waste is diverted, programs expand and user fees decline. The districts will need another revenue source beyond the user fees.

Tom- PS can release money for other uses (away from HHW) - Manufacturer Responsibility.

Paul- Consolidate services, become more efficient by being able to go across (district) borders.

John- What is the most important infrastructure component that we need?

Fred- Infrastructure needs more analysis.

All solid waste going to the landfill should be subject to surcharge – close the “alternative daily cover” loophole.

The Bottle Bill deposit could be increased by one cent. Escheats could be captured to pay for programs.

Natalie will forward a copy of the PowerPoint presentation to the district managers.

Ted- What are the three ideas that have been discussed?

- Increase the franchise tax. It has been at \$6/ton since it took effect.
- Implement a packaging tax
- Promote product stewardship

**Ted- List funding strategies and key recommendations to the Solid Waste Working Group.**

- **Hard to manage products need a PS fee to reduce collection cost.**
- **Packaging tax to generate revenue on the front end.**
- **There is support for a franchise tax increase.**
- **All waste going into a landfill should be subject to the franchise tax.**
- **Have a statewide HHW contract, for economies of scale.**
- **Franchise collection to generate revenue.**