

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership**  
**SWMP Steering Committee**

**Date:** 3/17/09  
**Loc:** 200 Henry Johnson Blvd.  
 Albany, NY

**Time:** 4:00PM  
**CHA Project No.:** 19283

**Steering Committee:**

Sally Cummings--Environmentalist	David Phaff—CANA
Kurt Larson--NYSOGS	Bill Bruce—City of Albany
Gregg Sagendorph—Town of Bethlehem	Frank Zeoli—City of Albany
Bob Griffin—Allied Waste Services	Rosa Dimino--NYSDEC
Dick Forgea—NYSDEC Region 4	Mark Gleason—City of Watervliet
Michael Kernan--CANA	Jim Sano—Albany Common Council
Gregg Sagendorph—Town of Bethlehem	Mike O'Brien—Albany Common Council

**Consultants and Others in Attendance:**

Frank LaVardera—CHA	Tom Ellis—CEC
Ken Gallagher—CHA	Aimee Allaud—Citizen
Suzanne Christopher—CHA	Kevin Dailey—Citizen
Jim Travers—Citizen	Lynne Jackson—Citizen
Sharon Fisher—Town of Bethlehem	Tim Truscott—Citizen
Theresa Grafflin—Citizen	Brian Nearing—Times Union
Ruth Leistensnider, Esq.—Nixon Peabody	Michael Franchini— Albany County
Meghan Ruby—City of Albany	

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Ruth Leistensnider, Esq. from Nixon Peabody LLP attended our meeting to present Institutional and Implementation Alternatives covering Waste Flow Control and Special Purpose Authority or Agency. (A hand out was passed out) She covered a wide range of information and indicated successful examples like Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Management Authority in those 2 counties. Bill Bruce indicated that with the flow control often enables sufficient revenue to be generated to pay for a complete integrated solid waste management system including facilities, waste reduction and recycling programs and the staff employed to operate these programs. Ruth Leistensnider also indicated that if the formation of an Authority is considered, it will be important to structure it to ensure accountability. Frank LaVardera noted that using the Authority structure can provide the ability to set rates that can fully fund environmental and recycling needs and that the committee really needs to decide which way to go on these two very important issues.

A news release was also distributed which noted that Albany County has applied for a grant to study the feasibility of a regional solid waste management authority. The County received letters of support from Rensselaer County, the City of Albany and many of the municipalities which comprise the current Planning Unit. A question was raised if this potential action would have any impact on the existing Planning Unit and the preparation of the new SWMP. Frank LaVardera indicated that at this point in time, it was too early to determine what if any impact it would have. He suggested there could be several different scenarios but at this point, he recommended that the Committee continue with the new SWMP as planned.

Ken Gallagher discussed Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling including existing programs, enhancements that are underway as a result of the recent SWMP Modification, and considerations for the new SWMP. (A hand out was passed out). Frank Zeoli responded to some inquiries about the City's electronic waste collection program, which is provided 12 days a year. Resa Dimino noted that State Legislation on Product Stewardship would be forthcoming later this year for electronic waste. The Planning Unit could support this effort with a resolution of support. Sally Cummings asked why the City of Albany was not recycling 3—7 plastics and Frank Zeoli responded that the City requested quotations for expanded plastics recycling last fall and the pricing was not competitive. There are not good markets for these plastics now and these materials might be diverted by the recycler to a landfill, thus defeating the purpose of adding these items to the recycling program. Resa Dimino pointed out that she understood that there was only one current end-use market for the 3-7 plastics right now, and it is located in South Carolina.

Regarding backyard composting, Sally Cummings noted a list of household waste items that could be composted and there was agreement that better promotion of backyard composting could reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfill. Kurt Larson suggested that as backyard compost bins could be offered to residents at a discount as part of this promotion, and Resa Dimino noted that the purchase of these backyard compost bins would be eligible for funding through the DEC's waste reduction and recycling grant program.

In response to a point in the presentation about increased education and enforcement of existing mandatory recycling laws, especially among commercial, industrial and institutional generators, Michael Kernan noted that increased enforcement was equally important for residential generators. Frank Zeoli noted that City of Albany would be revisiting the use of color-coded stickers as an enforcement/education tool for the residential waste collection and recycling program operated by the DGS. He noted that they have recently added a green bin for the mixed paper stream, because they received feedback from residents that there was not enough room for all the recyclables in the blue bin. So far the response to the green by the residents has been very good.

Ken Gallagher noted that the SWMP Modification will also result in recycling program enhancements in parks and public spaces. Frank Zeoli explained how these enhancements are underway in the City of Albany at several special events that are planned for this spring.

The final item discussed under the topic of waste reduction and recycling was the establishment of future goals as part of the new SWMP. Ken Gallagher noted that the SWMP Modification has set a 47% recycling goal at the end of year 2011, and asked the committee to consider what these goals should be beyond that, through the end of our planning period in 2030. Sally Cummings thought we should have a Zero Waste goal, and others suggested that perhaps 60% or 70% would be more appropriate. Resa Dimino noted that the DEC is continuing to look at different ways to measure achievement of recycling and waste reduction. One method under consideration by the DEC is to measure of waste disposal per capita. One benefit of this metric is that it also incorporates waste reduction (back yard composting for example), which are not easily measured. The committee will need to revisit these goals at a future meeting.

There was no time for discussion of the agenda item regarding Criteria for Evaluating New Technologies, so Ken Gallagher distributed a listing of criteria that will be employed in the review of responses to the RFI. He noted that these were a re-iteration of the criteria embodied in the RFI itself, and which the committee had already reviewed. He asked that the committee review these again and advise of any comments within the next week.

Under Old business, Frank LaVardera reported that he sent a letter to Saratoga County, to see if their landfill could possibly be utilized and the answer was no. Saratoga County is growing and they will need the use of that landfill. Ken Gallagher reported that there are 6 privately owned and operated landfills in New York, accounting for 58% of waste disposal. There are 4 publicly owned/privately operated landfills accounting for 19% of waste disposal, 17 public owned and operated landfills accounting for 23% of waste disposal in New York.

Responding to another question from last month's meeting, Ken Gallagher presented some additional information about the Delaware County MSW Compost Facility. He noted that based on annual reports filed with the DEC, this facility processed over 22,000 tons of MSW, along with sludge and other biosolids in 2007, but interestingly had to landfill almost 13,000 tons of compost facility residue. This residue represents about 59% of the total MSW input, and the high residue number was confirmed during a presentation about this facility at a recent compost conference. He further noted that based on the amortized capital and annual operating costs presented at the last meeting, the average cost per ton for this compost operation is \$91/ton.

The next meeting is expected to be held in Watervliet. The announcement for the next meeting along with the Agenda and the Minutes of this meeting will be sent to the committee members in an e-mail. The agenda and minutes will also be posted on the [capitalregionlandfill.com](http://capitalregionlandfill.com) website

Chairman Bill Bruce opened the public comment period and Jim Travers indicated that the materials that the committee gets at the meetings should be given out to the public as well. This was also requested of Aimee Alland. Jim Travers also indicated a concern that if it is decided to go with Special Purpose Authority this will affect the taxpayers. Lynn Jackson noted her concern that in developing the new SWMP, the Planning Unit not be looking to make money from garbage rather than dealing with the waste issue. She thinks the committee should focus on reduction. Tom Ellis wants the meeting minutes to be available to them and wants to know how many members are on the committee. Chairman Bill Bruce noted that the Committee membership would be posted on the website. Tim Truscott asked about the amount of money it

cost to dispose of plastics, and how many tons? He also wants to know what parts of Albany are good at recycling, and do we have any demographics on other counties and their programs. Frank Zeoli responded to the plastics recycling question, but noted that we have no data on the demographic question, but that the City will be looking into this as part of the planned program improvements. In response to the question about demographics, Resa Dimino noted that the City of Utica was an example which she was aware of where demographics did not play a major role in recycling success.