

Meeting Minutes (Revised)
Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership
SWMP Steering Committee

Date: 4/23/09

Time: 4:00PM

Loc: Watervliet Senior Center

CHA Project No.: 19283

Steering Committee:

Mark Gleason-City of Watervliet	Michael Kernan- CANA
Gregg Sagendorph-Bethlehem	Sean Ward-Village of Green Island
Tom Reynolds--NYSDEC	Bill Bruce- City of Albany
Bob Griffin-Allied Waste	Sally Cummings- Environmentalist
Frank Zeoli-City of Albany	David Phaff

Consultants and Others in Attendance:

Frank LaVardera—CHA	Meghan Ruby-City of Albany
Ken Gallagher—CHA	Tim Truscott-Citizen
Suzanne Christopher—CHA	Nancy Lake-Citizen
Tim Reilly-University at Albany	Fred Lake- Citizen
Mary Ellen Mallia- University at Albany	Elise VanAllen-Citizen
Carl Johnson-Mgr of Consulting Firm	Tom Ellis- CEC
Dave Parker-MOSA Board of Director	Shawn Morris-Albany Common Council President
Gil Chichester-MOSA Exec. Director	Tom Casaegula-Citizen
	Peter Jellett-Citizen

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Bill Bruce asked if there were any comments in regards to the minutes of the last meeting minutes. There were none.

Ken Gallagher passed out a presentation summarizing the results of the Waste Characterization Field Study from earlier this year. The field study was undertaken to determine the percent composition of a variety of material components within the solid waste and recyclables stream within the Planning Unit. Each of the 36 representative solid waste samples was sorted into 39 categories, the summary showed the top 10 material categories compared to results from other studies. Frank LaVardera indicated that MSW samples came from the City as well as from other waste generators. Sally Cummings asked about OCRRA (Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency) and why the plastic bag category was marked “n/a” on the report. Ken indicated that they categorized their plastic materials differently in the OCRRA study. Frank L. said that food waste from a rural area maybe less than food waste from a suburban area due to the greater potential for home composting. Ken G. said that during this field study, a SUNY Albany truck was sampled as contained about 50% food waste. Tom Reynolds indicated that the percentages look very close to the USEPA and OCRRA percentages, but asked if CHA planned to do the

tests again in a couple of months, just to see if there are changes. Frank L. noted that there were no plans for additional study, and cited the significant cost factor involved in this type of field study.

Ken Gallagher also passed out a RFI Response Summary. It showed the names of the 15 responders and their primary treatment type and primary product. Sean Ward asks why some of the local large facilities did not respond. Frank L. indicated that most of the local waste companies are service providers to residents and commercial entities. These local firms may not have disposal facilities or, if they are part of large national companies, they may only have landfill facilities. If these firms are interested, they will have an opportunity to respond to the RFP if one is issued. We will not do an RFP until the committee has finalized all the factors. Also he said that if the committee members would like a presentation of any one of these companies' regarding their treatment type, the responders are more than willing to come in and do a presentation, so we can contact them and set that up. Frank let everyone know we are still in the process of analyzing these 15 RFI's. CHA will be submitting a full report with more information. It was also suggested that the committee could invite a representative from respondent companies representing each on the major technology types to attend a future committee meeting to make presentation and respond to questions.

Bill Bruce asked the committee to discuss the potential for subcommittee appointments. He would like to bring in people from large institutions like hospitals & universities. Tom Reynolds let the committee know that Dick Forgea would be willing to volunteer to chair the subcommittee, if one is created. Tom R. suggested we need to get some smaller groups together to get more information on important factors like compost. Dave Phaff said we really need to look at the whole picture to get a better ideal of how/ who should be on the subcommittees. Frank L indicated that OGS has found a compost facility for their organic waste and it would be good to get that information from them.

Bill Bruce suggested that some facility visits might be appropriate for the committee to see a how an SWM system works. Recommended facilities to visit included the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority and OCRRA in Syracuse. Committee members were invited to send their request to Ken Gallagher within the next week or so regarding their facility of preference and/or the type of technologies that you would like to see.

Under old business, Sally Cummings asked if Chris Burger could come for a visit and do a presentation. It was suggested that the public be invited as well. Sally was asked to inquire with Mr. Burger and forward the contact information to Ken Gallagher. Mike Kernan asks if the committee has funding for this and Bill indicated that the City has a contract with CHA. Frank LaVardera will also look into the how this cost could be handled.

Under new business, Dave Parker and Gil Chechester from MOSA spoke to the committee. MOSA operates a solid waste system that includes 4 transfer stations from which waste is exported for disposal. They have done studies and would like to assist our committee with any information they can provide. Frank LaVardera asked if they were looking for a merger together. Dave Parker indicated that would fine. Bill Bruce informed them that Albany County has applied for a grant to look into the feasibility of a multi-county authority to be responsible

for solid waste management in the Capital District and that this might be an opportunity to look at an even larger area, including MOSA.

During the public comments, Tom Ellis asked about getting the hand outs at the current meeting so that the public can follow along. Bill indicated that it was discussed that the handouts are drafts and when finalized are placed on the web site. Michael Kernan felt that the handouts should be made available to the public and made a motion that they be provided. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by the Committee members present. Going forward CHA will place the watermark “draft” on these documents and hand them out to the public, but they are subject to change once they appear on the web site. Peter Jellett is concerned that the waste-to-energy technologies that have come out of the RFI process are not good options.

Our next meeting will be May 19 at 4PM, the place to be determined.