

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

**Date:** 5/19/09  
**Loc:** Berne Fire Dept.

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

**Steering Committee:**

Bob Griffin-Allied Waste	Michael Kernan-CANA
Michael Hammond—Town of Knox	Gregg Sagendorph-Bethlehem
Bill Bruce-City of Albany	Jim Sano- Councilman 9 <sup>th</sup> Ward Albany
Kevin Crosier—Town of Berne	Robert Conway- Village of Voorheesville
Frank Zeoli-City of Albany	David Phaff-CANA
Resa A. Dimino-- NYSDEC	

**Consultants and Others in Attendance:**

Frank LaVardera—CHA	Howard Traite--Citizen
Ken Gallagher—CHA	Tom Ellis-CEC
Suzanne Christopher—CHA	Theresa Grafflin-Citizen
Tim Reilly-University at Albany	Tim Truscott-Citizen
Michael Franchini-Albany County	Shawn Morris-Albany Common Council
Sheree Cammer--Citizen	Brian Nearing-Times Union
Jim Travers-Citizen	Timothy Reilly-University of Albany

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Bill Bruce thanked Kevin Crosier for having our meeting in Berne. Some committee members met at 3:30pm today at the Berne Transfer Station, to see their process.

Correction from the meeting minutes dated 4/23/09—The Committee voted on giving handouts to the public during the meetings. The date on those meeting minutes was also corrected.

Bill Bruce gave some highlights of the New York Solid Waste Conference held in Bolton Landing recently. Resa Dimino gave a summary of the Product Stewardship initiatives that are underway statewide. The New York State Association for Solid Waste Management has recently formed a New York State Product Stewardship Council. There are also two bills related to product stewardship of electronic waste that have been introduced in the State Legislature and the State Senate. In 6-8 weeks, there could be a decision.

Bill Bruce then presented some conference highlights on the topic of Zero Waste programs and passed out a handout (attached) discussing what it means, and is it achievable. Bill noted that many state and local governments are moving policy in this direction, and that our SWMP should be also. This way the new SWMP will be among the first plans under this new policy rather than one of the last plans under the old policy. Resa Dimino added that adapting a zero

waste recycle goal, while maybe not totally achievable, is a continuous process where improvement is always sought.

Ken Gallagher indicated that the proceedings of the New York Solid Waste Conference will be posted on the web site of the Federation of New York Solid Waste Associations at : [www.nyfederation.org](http://www.nyfederation.org).

Ken Gallagher gave a power point presentation (attached) on the results of the RFI (Request for Information) process. Gathering this information gives us insight on the different technologies that might serve our needs. Ken went through each technology. Aerobic Digestion-Composting was discussed first. Frank LaVardera indicated that we did not get a RFI on Anaerobic Digestion Technology, which creates methane gases; the benefit is it can create energy. Mike Kernan asked if either of these technologies bring zero waste. Ken Gallagher answered that composting of source separated organic waste can result in a very low percentage of residue, but this will ultimately depend on the quality of the incoming waste stream. . Regarding Single Stream Recycling, Bill asked Resa if the DEC is more comfortable with a Single Stream system. Resa noted that they were never uncomfortable, but wanted to see the technology develop further. Frank L. indicated that CHA has a Single Stream recycling system and it goes to single stream facility in the Syracuse area operated by Waste Management. He also indicated that watching this technology is amazing, how everything is separated, etc. He suggested visiting this type of facility. Bob Griffin said that there are some NY facilities as well as his own that will be going to a Single Stream system by the end of the year, it makes more sense.

Mass Burn Waste-to-Energy was the next technology discussed. If the committee would like to visit one of these facilities, Onondaga County has one. Frank L indicated that Onondaga County also has one of the best recycling programs in the state. He also indicated that this type of technology might be more cost effective if the energy generated were classified as renewable. Sheree from the public asked about the toxic ash that this technology cause. Ken Gallagher responded that these facilities routinely test their ash for toxicity and that none of the ash from any of the 10 existing NY facilities has ever been characterized as hazardous. Resa concurred that this was her understanding also. Bill Bruce indicated that in Germany, fly ash goes into the salt mines and the bottom ash is reused.

Mechanical Processing was discussed next. Frank L. indicated that the front end processing is passed on to someone else. The last RFI technology discussed was Thermal Gasification. Frank L. told the committee that this is a new technology but unproven. Resa said that she has two pilot applications arrive from the private sector, she knows of a private sector facility in use but they have operational problems.

CHA was asked to select one responder from each, 4 different technologies to give a 20 minute presentation over the next two SWMP meetings. Bill and Dave asked that the presenters be restricted to this time so it does not turn into a marketing competition. Frank LaVardera noted that by the end of the summer the committee will be able to narrow down which technologies would work best for the Planning Unit.

After some discussion it was agreed to target June 18 as the date for the committee to will conduct site visits to the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Authority and the Onieda Herkimer Solid Waste Authority. CHA will finalize the arrangement and will be coordinating the transportation. Delaware County has also been contacted for a potential site visit but has not responded yet.

Under old business—Michael Franchini told the committee he has no grant application information yet, maybe by the end of the month.

There was no new business.

Under public comment—Shawn Morris gave a presentation/handout on Chittenden County Solid Waste District, in Vermont. Bill Bruce asked what was their diversion rate; Shawn believed it is 38%. He also asked there tipping fee. Tom said it was from \$110---\$120. Mike Franchini asked if they are landfilling the rest. Shawn said they are shipping the rest out. Tom Ellis asked about the approval process of this project. Frank LaVardera answered that CHA will put together the draft SWMP and then the SEQR process will follow. While the draft SWMP will be subject to review and approval by each municipality in the planning unit, it is assumed that the City of Albany Common Council will be the lead agency for SEQR. After the SWMP is approved by the member municipalities, it will then go to NYSDEC for final approval. Howard Traite thanked the committee for taking the Solid Waste Management crises seriously. Sheree Cammer asked about anaerobic technology being mobile. Ken G. indicated it is not. Resa from DEC indicated that compost needs to sit for months then be sold at an economically value.

Our next meeting will possibly be June 23 at 4PM, the place to be determined.