

Notes

RI Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Advisory Committee

May 21, 2013 @ RI RRC – Johnston, RI - 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The group began with a bus tour of the RRC facilities and landfill.

I. Introductions

The meeting began promptly after the bus tour, at approximately 10:20am. Each person was asked to introduce him or herself and explain why they were interested in serving on the Advisory Committee.

II. Roles & Responsibilities

The three members of the Working Group, RI Resource Recovery Corporation (RRC), Department of Environmental Management, Office of Waste Management (DEM-OW) and the RI Statewide Planning Program (SPP) each introduced themselves and explained their role in the planning process. All three offices have signed a Memorandum of Understanding laying out their roles and responsibilities (posted to the Division of Planning website). In brief, RRC is the project lead and primary author of the SWMP, with assistance and support from DEM-OW and SPP. DEM-OW's major function in the area of solid waste is regulatory and consists of the following: Licensing and compliance monitoring of solid waste facilities; Developing, promulgating and administering the Regulations for solid waste management facilities, composting facilities and recycling; Cooperatively working with RIRRC and Statewide Planning to prepare the RI Comprehensive Plan. It is important to note that many times the public believes the DEM has authority to determine where a facility should be sited and whether or not a facility and its capacity is needed within the State of Rhode Island. Neither is under the purview of the DEM. Furthermore, we do not have the authority to regulate solid waste haulers. Finally, SPP is the keeper of the State Guide Plan, under which the SWMP will be an element. SPP will help ensure the SWMP meets the standards for a State Guide Plan Element and is prepared to go through the State approval process. SPP will also ensure that the plan contains clear guidance for municipalities to address solid waste in their Comprehensive Community Plans.

The role of the Advisory Committee is threefold: 1) to review and comment on draft outlines and draft plans to ensure their various perspectives are considered, 2) to help identify and reach out to other stakeholders in their networks who ought to be engaged in

the planning process, and 3) to help promote participation from other stakeholders and the general public.

Each Advisory Committee member received a handout explaining the roles and responsibilities of the Working Group, Advisory Committee, and other stakeholders.

III. SWMP State Approval Process

SPP explained the process of approving a State Guide Plan Element, from ensuring the document meets all necessary requirements, to review and approval from the RRC Board, the Technical Committee to the State Planning Council, and the State Planning Council itself.

IV. RRC Presentation: “State of the Waste Review”

RRC gave a presentation on the history, market trends, and future goals for solid waste management in Rhode Island and the region. A copy of this presentation will be posted on the Division of Planning website).

V. Community Engagement Strategy

A draft time line was shared with the Advisory Committee, laying out the expectations for the next 18 months. It is expected that members will review a draft outline of the SWMP this summer, and help make sure we are covering all of the topics necessary and gathering the most useful data. Also over the summer, Working Group members will be reaching out to other stakeholders identified by the Advisory Committee and others with presentations, interviews and other meetings to lay the groundwork for a series of public forums. The public forums will be an opportunity to get broader input from the public on the plan topics and strategies, as well as to educate the public about current efforts and resources related to recycling, composting, etc. In between forums and Advisory Committee meetings, we will schedule a series of topical discussions on specific areas of interest, such as the future of the landfill, waste to energy, producer responsibility, etc. so that everyone interested has an opportunity to delve deeper into these topics.

VI. Advisory Committee Survey

Each committee members was asked to fill out a survey answering the following questions: 1) What do you hope this plan will accomplish? What will be different/better once the plan is implemented?, 2) What data/information do you feel is missing?, 3) Beyond the advisory committee, who else needs to be involved (groups and individuals)? The results of this survey will be shared with the Advisory Committee.

VII. Schedule meeting dates/times for the Advisory Committee

The committee agreed that Tuesdays at 9am are generally good for them. SPP will find specific Tuesday mornings to schedule Advisory Committee meetings and will share with the group. Suggested meeting dates are: September 10, March 11, July 8, November 18.

The Solid Waste Management Plan web page on the Division of Planning website can be found at:

<http://www.planning.ri.gov/statewideplanning/land/solidwaste.php>