



# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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### Minutes of February 25, 2022 Solid Waste Working Group Virtual Meeting – GoTo Webinar

**Members Present:** Chair Karen Ebel, Adam Clark, Brian Patnoe, Colin Kelly, Duncan Watson, Eric Steinhauser, Freda Paris, Jim Malley, Lynn Rubinstein, Michael Wimsatt, Reagan Bissonnette, Susannah Smith, Sen. James Gray, Bill Howard (alternate for Steve Poggi), Rep. Howard Pearl.

**Members Not Present:** Greg Leahey, Marc Morgan, Matt Hughes

#### Call to Order:

Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. Due to inclement weather, the meeting was held virtually. Chair Ebel noted that under NH State Law, public bodies may not conduct business in a fully remote setting, meaning that official decisions or votes to approve minutes would have to wait until the next meeting. She explained that this meeting would be an informational session to hear about solid waste plans and programs in neighboring New England states.

#### Presentation of Solid Waste Plans in Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont & New Hampshire

Paula Clark of Maine DEP provided an overview of Maine's 2019 Materials Management Plan and associated program areas administered by Maine DEP.

John Fischer of Massachusetts DEP provided an overview of Massachusetts' 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, existing solid waste management infrastructure, waste composition information, as well as DEP's regulations banning or otherwise restricting the disposal of certain waste types (e.g., commercial food waste disposal ban, minimum performance standards for recycling of C&D, etc.).

Josh Kelly of Vermont DEC provided an overview of Vermont's 2019 Materials Management Plan, including aspects of Solid Waste Implementation Plans that local jurisdictions (districts, towns, etc.) are required to draft and implement. Mr. Kelly also touched upon Vermont's solid waste program funding mechanisms, as well as most recent waste composition information.

Leah McKenna of New Hampshire DES provided a brief overview of the principles and goals outlined in New Hampshire's 2003 Solid Waste Plan. Ms. McKenna also reviewed recent changes to New Hampshire's solid waste statute (RSA 149-M) that are relevant to development of an updated plan.

# **Solid Waste Working Group**

## **Minutes**

**February 25, 2022 – Page 2 of 2**

Documents related to the above-noted presentations are available on the SWWG website

### **SWWG Subcommittees**

Ms. McKenna closed her presentation by introducing potential subcommittee topics that may inform the strategies and actions required to be outlined in New Hampshire's forthcoming Solid Waste Management Plan. The suggested subcommittee topics were:

- Waste Reduction & Management of "Difficult" Wastes – this subcommittee would explore opportunities to advance source reduction, i.e., 'waste prevention,' and would also investigate alternative outlets for difficult-to-manage wastes (wastes that currently have limited outlets besides disposal, like contaminated soils, bulky wastes, certain components of C&D, wastewater treatment sludge, etc.)
- Recycling & Composting – this subcommittee would focus on opportunities to support the more traditional forms of diversion: recycling and composting. What does New Hampshire need to advance in these areas? What are the gaps?
- Alternate Waste Management Technologies – this subcommittee would explore opportunities to advance alternate technologies and methods for diversion, waste conversion, waste-to-energy, etc. This could include things like anaerobic digestion, pyrolysis, gasification, etc.

Further discussion of these subcommittees was postponed until the next meeting of the SWWG. Chair Ebel called the next meeting for March 25, 2022.

### **Legislative Update**

Rep. Howard Pearl provided a brief update on solid waste-related bills reviewed by the House Environment & Agriculture Committee. Chair Ebel also mentioned some bills reviewed by other committees. Bills mentioned included HB 1049, HB 1111, HB 1119, HB 1121, HB 1122, HB 1134, HB 1172, HB 1274, HB 1420, HB 1454, HB 1406, HB 1544, HB 1652. Chair Ebel also mentioned SB 379, which would establish a disposal surcharge as a funding source for a dedicated solid waste management fund that would be used to support recycling and waste reduction efforts in New Hampshire.

Information on specific bills can be obtained by searching by bill number and session year on the General Court's Website: [http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/legacy/bs2016/](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/legacy/bs2016/)

### **Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 PM on February 25, 2022.

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2731140025720265231>