



# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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Website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/about/boards-and-committees/new-hampshire-solid-waste-working-group>

### Minutes of March 25, 2022 Solid Waste Working Group Room 208C 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302

**Members Present:** Chair Karen Ebel, Reagan Bissonnette, Brian Patnoe, Adam Clark, Jim Malley, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Sen. James Gray, Matt Hughes, Steve Poggi, Marc Morgan, Duncan Watson, Michael Wimsatt, Benjamin Piche (alternate for S. Smith), Rep. Howard Pearl (late arrival)

**Members Present Remotely:** Eric Steinhauser, Lynn Rubinstein

**Members Not Present:** Colin Kelly, Marc Morgan

#### **Call to Order:**

Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Due to inclement weather, the previous meeting on February 25, 2022 was held virtually, and the group was unable to approve meeting minutes from the December 10, 2021 meeting. Chair Ebel asked for a single motion to accept both the December 10, 2021 and February 25, 2022 minutes. Adam Clark made a motion to approve both sets of minutes, Brian Patnoe seconded, all were in favor.

#### **Presentation of Towns and Trash**

Reagan Bissonnette of NRRA presented about their cooperative efforts to help towns manage their municipal waste and recycling programs. NRRA provides hands-on technical assistance to connect municipalities with vendors that purchase material. Ms. Bissonnette discussed HB 1122, HB 1406, transportation costs, and fluctuations in recyclable commodity pricing.

Following Ms. Bissonnette's presentation, there were comments from the working group regarding the benefits of Pay As You Throw (PAYT), challenges with high curbside collection costs, and the need to develop additional infrastructure so municipalities have outlets for meaningful diversion to reduce the need for disposal.

Chair Ebel brought up the question about regional hauling, originally discussed in the HB 617 Study Committee. Ms. Bissonnette shared some options. NRRA can coordinate a "milk run" to collect baled recyclables from several communities. Some vendors will accommodate mixed

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commodity or split loads, but they generally tend to prefer larger communities that generate full truckloads of a single commodity (the additional stops necessary for “milk runs” or split loads can be logistically complex).

Chair Ebel requested more discussion about glass recycling. Ms. Bissonnette reviewed the process of segregating glass for different recycling systems and Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs). There are challenges with Pyrex and ceramic contamination. States with bottle deposit systems ensure a cleaner glass supply – vendors pay for bottle deposit material due to the higher quality of the material. Many NRRRA member communities crush glass to produce processed glass aggregate (PGA), which can be used in transportation and construction projects, and possibly also as landfill cover.

Following Ms. Bissonnette’s presentation, Steve Poggi of Waste Management presented about municipal solid waste disposal and contracting with the private sector. Mr. Poggi reviewed the disposal capacity for New England landfills and waste-to-energy sites, stating that current disposal capacity across the New England region is virtually maxed out. Municipalities issue RFPs to seek collection and disposal services from the private sector. Massachusetts companies are transitioning to using railroads to move MSW and C&D to disposal facilities outside of the region.

Following Mr. Poggi’s presentation, there were comments from the working group about hauling material by railroad out of the Northeast, economic drivers, and consumer choices. Chair Ebel questioned the fluctuation of single stream/MRF contract fees (tipping, processing, hauling) after the China National Sword Policy. Mr. Poggi noted that they have updated their single stream contracts to build in more pricing variability (based on fluctuations to commodity market pricing).

Matt Hughes of Win Waste Innovations shared that waste-to-energy facilities mostly receive waste from communities that have recycling programs. They also recover leftover materials post-combustion (mostly metals). Energy produced goes into the grid and the residual ash gets landfilled. Win Waste is involved in shipping waste via rail, mostly C&D right now. Mr. Hughes discussed some of the barriers with finding outlets for recovered C&D material and the need for more infrastructure.

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

#### **New Business:**

Chair Ebel shared that NHDES’ newly-revised composting regulations are in effect. She also reiterated that municipal transfer stations already have authority to separate food scraps and contract with haulers or composting facilities (the subject of HB 1406).

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#### **SWWG Subcommittees:**

Michael Wimsatt led a discussion to make an official decision about the subcommittees that will assist in updating NH's Solid Waste Plan. Subcommittees are public bodies that will meet separately (in person) and are subject to Right to Know procedures. NHDES will provide administrative support to the extent feasible.

#### **Proposed Subcommittees:**

1. **Waste Reduction & Management of "Difficult" Wastes** – Steve Poggi, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Marc Morgan
2. **Recycling & Composting** – Reagan Bissonnette, Susannah Smith, Adam Clark, Brian Patnoe, Lynn Rubinstein
3. **Alternate Waste Management Technologies** – Matt Hughes, Duncan Watson, Eric Steinhauser, Jim Malley, Rep. Howard Pearl, Colin Kelly

Chair Ebel noted that the group may identify additional subcommittees related to, for example, funding, legislative/regulatory topics, addressing waste management capacity issues, etc.

Each subcommittee will need to identify the best way to report their research findings and recommendations to support development of the New Hampshire Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). All should incorporate case studies and legislative approaches from other states. Each subcommittee may recommend specific legislative approaches, regulatory changes, outreach activities, and incentive frameworks to help achieve objectives of the plan.

Chair Ebel inquired about the status of the NHDES 2022 Biennial Report. Mr. Wimsatt was unsure of when it will be published.

The group decided that subcommittees will meet on regular SWWG meeting days from 9:00am – 10:30am and the entire SWWG will reconvene to discuss from 10:30am – 12:00pm.

Chair Ebel called the next meeting for April 22, 2022.

#### **SWWG Member Updates:**

Mr. Wimsatt announced the hiring of Paige Wilson as the NHDES Waste Reduction & Diversion Planner, whose position was funded by the legislature.

Rep. Howard Pearl provided a brief update on solid waste-related bills including HB 1049, HB 1454, SB 396, SB 380. Mr. Wimsatt discussed SB 367 relating to the regulation of advanced recycling/manufacturing facilities that process plastics. Chair Ebel mentioned HB 1420 which would pause new landfill permitting until the SWMP is updated. Unclear whether this would impact pending applications currently being reviewed by NHDES.

Chair Ebel mentioned that SB 380 passed out of the Senate and would add responsibilities to the SWWG. She also noted that SB379 which was amended to remove the disposal surcharge and

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appropriate \$500,000 for a solid waste management fund. The Senate Finance Committee removed the appropriation. The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law allocates grant funds for states to develop recycling and diversion initiatives. NHDES will have to follow the grant guidelines set by EPA, but a fund established by SB 379 could be a repository for such grant monies.

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 11:55 AM on March 25, 2022

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4828187976460926992>