



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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Minutes of May 27, 2022
Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG)
Room 208C
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302

Members Present: Chair Karen Ebel, Reagan Bissonnette, Brian Patnoe, Adam Clark, Jim Malley, Freda Paris, Sen. James Gray, Matt Hughes, Steve Poggi, Duncan Watson, Benjamin Piche, Rep. Howard Pearl

Members Present Remotely¹: Greg Leahey, Lynn Rubinstein, Michael Wimsatt

Members Not Present: Colin Kelly, Marc Morgan, Eric Steinhauser

Call to Order:

Chair Ebel called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the April 22, 2022 meeting were approved with a motion by Steve Poggi and a second by Brian Patnoe – all were in favor.

Reports from Subcommittees:

Following meetings of the three subcommittees, the full SWWG convened. Individuals from each of the subcommittees reported on what they discussed during their meetings.

Waste Reduction & Management of Difficult Wastes Subcommittee – Steve Poggi reported that the subcommittee discussed:

- (1) Source reduction – need efficient outreach and education methods,
- (2) Manufacturer waste – decrease unnecessary packaging and improve recyclability
- (3) Statewide procurement and “green” purchasing initiatives,
- (4) Managing problem wastes (e.g., textiles, mattresses, C&D, food waste) – what do organizations and waste management entities need to be successful?
- (5) NHDES needs to provide guidance to direct stakeholder activity,
- (6) Statewide bans that focus on large generators within a certain proximity to a processing facility,
- (7) Issues with source separation – requires space in homes and at transfer stations. Prioritize separation of certain wastes.

¹ Remote attendance necessary due to logistical considerations

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Chair Ebel shared that the subcommittee discussed SB 380, which was recently signed into law. The bill assigns some new responsibilities to the SWWG, including recommendations regarding municipal solid waste management plans as a prerequisite for disposal of waste in a New Hampshire landfill. This is similar to Vermont's requirement for all solid waste management entities to have Solid Waste Implementation Plans (SWIPs) – examples of VT SWIPs were shared during the February 25, 2022 SWWG meeting. The SWWG could recommend municipalities to have solid waste reduction committees, but this would likely require assistance from the state (e.g., guidance, education, funding). Focus on weight and toxicity simultaneously (e.g., disposal ban of bulk items that contain PFAS)

Recycling & Composting Subcommittee – Reagan Bissonnette reported that the subcommittee worked to prioritize materials for diversion based on relative weight in the waste stream. The group referred to the U.S EPA data from 2018, noting target materials such as C&D, food waste, plastics, paper, paperboard. The group discussed potential recommendations:

- (1) Develop funding mechanisms to support diversion programs. Funding will be a fundamental issue for implementing any future recommendations
- (2) Conduct a waste characterization study for NH. NHDES could potentially use federal Bipartisan Infrastructure funds.
- (3) Disposal bans for traditional recyclables (paper, cardboard, cans, bottles) and perhaps also food waste, C&D (based on generation, proximity to recycling infrastructure). Review existing New England state disposal bans/recycling mandates.
Resource referenced: [Disposal Bans & Mandatory Recycling in the U.S \(NERC\)](#)
- (4) Regionalization – encourage municipalities to work together. SWWG should identify any permitting/regulatory barriers and seek guidance from NHDES on what would be involved if towns wanted to form a solid waste district. Also need to educate municipal officials on best practices for collaborating with neighboring towns.
- (5) Pay-As-You-Throw – implementing variable rate pricing can help encourage diversion. Outreach/education from NHDES would be helpful
- (6) Revisit bottle redemption for NH
Resource referenced: [Reloop – Reimagining the Bottle Bill](#)
- (7) State procurement policies – purchasing of products that contain recycled content to drive demand for recycled materials
- (8) Help large generators with reuse, recycling, etc.

Mr. Poggi commented that Massachusetts does not allow the transfer of unprocessed C&D to NH. Mechanisms are in place to hold generators responsible to follow disposal bans in other states.

Alternate Waste Management Technologies Subcommittee – Jim Malley reported that the subcommittee identified that the focus of their group falls primarily under Goal 4 of the draft outline of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Mr. Malley acknowledged that other

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countries have existing laws and frameworks in place to support more innovative technologies, but those models may not fit NH. The group discussed:

- (1) Need to work on improving efficiency of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs)
- (2) Promote regenerative campuses to develop businesses and high paying jobs – recovery/processing co-located with end-users for the material on the same site
- (3) Education – remind the public that waste never stops
- (4) Technologies targeting C&D and food waste would likely have the biggest impact. (e.g., anaerobic digestors)
- (5) Odor from putrescible waste/costs to manage odor often shutdown an operation

Chair Ebel requested that the subcommittee review SB 367 related to “Advanced Recycling” and that all subcommittees should consider landfill capacity and public benefit in their work.

Michael Nork provided an update on the soon-to-be published 2021 Biennial Report. The report serves as a check-in on the achievement of the waste reduction goals established by RSA 149-M, highlights recent activity in the solid waste industry and legislature, and provides information on disposal capacity. NHDES now has most up-to-date disposal capacity information following recent approval of the Mt. Carberry landfill expansion.

Presentation – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Issues Facing Landfills

Stephen Zemba, a consultant with Sanborn Head & Associates, presented about PFAS issues in the waste stream and how it amasses in landfill leachate. PFAS is known as a “forever chemical” because the molecules are inert and highly stable, meaning they do not break down easily. Mr. Zemba reviewed sources of PFAS (e.g., food packaging, non-stick cookware, furniture, sewage sludge), case studies, and state sampling data.

During Mr. Zemba’s presentation, there were questions from the group regarding health effects from bioaccumulation, impacts from combustion of PFAS products, and air deposition of PFAS carried from the western U.S. Mr. Zemba stated that PFAS is widely found in groundwater, soil, and biosolids. He stated that most PFAS remains contained in landfills, but leachate treatment is necessary to control the amount of PFAS that outflows.

A copy of this presentation is available on the SWWG website.

Discussion – Draft Outline of NH Solid Waste Management Plan (2022 Update)

Due to limited time the group had a brief conversation about next steps with the draft outline of the SWMP. Michael Nork of NHDES summarized the goals and proposed strategies to accomplish them. The draft outline should be used to direct future SWWG conversations and subcommittee recommendations. The Bureau needs input from the SWWG and NHDES Waste Management Council before moving forward. SWWG members will bring comments to the next meeting.

A copy of the draft outline of the SWMP is available on the SWWG website.

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Legislative Updates

Chair Ebel noted the passage of HB 1454 which would establish site-specific siting requirements for landfills based on groundwater flow conditions. The bill is pending a decision from the Governor. NRRA compiled a summary of current solid waste bills:

<https://www.nrrarecycles.org/news/nh-solid-waste-legislation-updates-2022-session>. Information on specific bills can be found by searching by bill number and session year on the General Court's Website: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/legacy/bs2016/

Prior to adjourning, Chair Ebel reminded the group that the next meeting will be held June 24, 2022, starting with subcommittee meetings from 9:00AM –10:30AM, followed by a regular meeting of the full SWWG from 10:30AM – 12:00PM.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 PM

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/2558433139288590088>