



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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Minutes of April 28, 2023 Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG) Room 208C 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302

Members Present: Chair Karen Ebel, Adam Clark, Matt Hughes, Jim Malley, Benjamin Piche, Duncan Watson

Members Present Remotely¹: Mark Laliberte, Michael Wimsatt

Members Not Present: Rep. Judy Aron, Reagan Bissonnette, Megan Fontes, Ben Hoy, Colin Kelly, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Sen. Howard Pearl, Steve Poggi, Eric Steinhauser

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes

Jim Malley made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2023, meeting; Duncan Watson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. Director Wimsatt abstained because he was unable to attend the entire meeting.

Presentation on Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban

Greg Cooper, with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), provided an update on the state's commercial food waste ban. The initial 2014 ban applied to businesses generating >1 ton/week but has been expanded to include businesses that generate > ½ ton/week. Since its implementation, state data shows an increase in:

- 1) the number of participating businesses.
- 2) tonnage of food waste diverted through donation, animal feed, anerobic digestion, and composting.
- 3) tonnage of food waste prevented annually.
- 4) rescue of fresh and perishable foods (up >50%).

Overall, Massachusetts total capacity for food waste exceeds their current goals and food disposal is down from 26% in 2016 to 22% in 2022.

MassDEP waste ban approach/implementation:

- Develop and implement over several years to allow for an adjustment period.
- Provide technical assistance and outreach using grants and state programs/workgroups.

¹ Remote attendance necessary due to logistical considerations

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- Focus compliance on large generators (businesses and institutions).
- Inspect solid waste facilities and incoming loads from generators.
- Issue enforcement as needed.

Permitted disposal sites, mainly waste-to-energy facilities, complete frequent waste characterization studies. The data is shared with MassDEP, along with inspection reports, as a way of monitoring waste ban compliance.

Greg shared a link to the [Massachusetts Commercial Food Waste Ban Economic Impact Analysis](#) report.

Discussion of Future Meeting Topics

Prior to the meeting, NHDES staff provided ideas to Chair Ebel about future meeting topics:

- 1) Identify specific education and outreach needs that NHDES can focus on.
- 2) Explore ways to develop local material markets.
- 3) Research EPR, waste disposal bans, and mandatory recycling ordinances in effect throughout the Northeast.
- 4) Conduct field trips (e.g., a landfill, WM CORE facility) to educate SWWG members.
- 5) Discuss ways that NHDES can gather/measure external progress of the SWMP.

Additional ideas from the group:

- 6) Bring in a presenter from [Upload Road](#) to talk about the technology potential of advanced material recovery facilities.
- 7) Dive into the mechanisms of implementing a waste characterization study.

Director Wimsatt noted that the EPA State SWIFR funding will be used to conduct a statewide waste characterization study. NHDES will contract with a company to assess the waste arriving at key disposal sites across NH. The results will help inform conversations in the legislature and SWMP actions.

Chair Ebel will compile the ideas into a document and share them with the group to gather input at the next meeting.

Legislative Updates

Chair Ebel discussed the following 2023 legislative bills:

- [HB 56](#) – passed the House but was indefinitely postponed (killed) in the Senate.
- [HB 253](#) – referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee.
- [HB 300](#) & [HB 462](#) – added into the proposed state budget by the Finance Committee, currently in the Senate.
- [SB 61](#) – had an extensive hearing on April 25th in the House; would appropriate \$150,000 to hire a consultant to look at surface water setbacks for landfills.

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- [SB 159](#) – establishing a committee to study unlimited service area permits for landfills and out of state waste coming into NH.
 - Chair Ebel and Director Wimsatt were both asked if the SWWG would want to address the topic. The group decided it would be best to have a legislative study committee complete the objective.
- [SB 211](#) – clarifies NHDES' authority to conduct background investigations of solid waste and hazardous waste facility permit applicants.

If the group wants to focus on proposing new legislation for next year, Chair Ebel must submit it between September 11-15th.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM. A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3664564934006176426>