

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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Minutes of June 23, 2023
Solid Waste Working Group
Room 208C
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302

Members Present: Chair Karen Ebel, Reagan Bissonnette, Matt Hughes, Mark Laliberte, Greg Leahey, Ben Piche, Steve Poggi, Eric Steinhauser, Duncan Watson, Mike Wimsatt

Members Not Present: Rep. Judy Aron, Adam Clark, Colin Kelly, Megan Fontes, Jim Malley, Freda Paris, Sen. Howard Pearl

Call to Order:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Steve Poggi made a motion to accept the April 28, 2023 minutes. Greg Leahy seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. Eric Steinhauser abstained because he was absent from the April meeting.

Presentation on Landfill leachate, Wastewater and Sludge

Anthony Drouin of NHDES' Residuals Management Section presented on the presence of PFAS in leachate, wastewater and sludge.

Anthony discussed the following:

- Efforts by the NHDES to educate industry and the public about PFAS.
- Efforts to sample for PFAS to help understand existing concentrations in wastewater, leachate and sludge.
- NHDES' biosolids program and work being done to establish PFAS soil remediation standards by Nov 2023 (required by HB 1547). Once these standards are established, they will impact PFAS loading requirements for biosolids (biosolids are treated sludge certified for land application).
- PFAS investigation data for samples collected over the past few years at wastewater treatment plants (influent, effluent and sludge), leachate from operating lined landfills, as well as treated biosolids.
- Future options for management of impacted media (i.e., liquid effluent and sludge).

Discussion of Future Meeting Topics

The following subjects were discussed as potential areas of focus for future meetings of the group:

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- Develop recommendations regarding food waste reduction/management.
- How to best structure a grant program under the SW Management Fund for food waste diversion.
- Providing guidance to NHDES on needed educational resources.
- Develop more frequent periodic reports summarizing the group's findings/recommendations.
- How to help NHDES with implementation of the SWMP.
- Helping NHDES track progress made on implementing the SWMP by entities outside of NHDES.
- Waste disposal bans, extended producer responsibility.
- Explore options for increasing regionalization of solid waste management.
- Make recommendations for updating statutory requirements for local/district solid waste planning.

Group discussed possibility of canceling August meeting, or perhaps combining the July and August meetings to occur in early August. NHDES will send out a poll to the group to determine a date sometime in the first weeks of August.

Legislative & Other Updates

Rep Ebel noted the state budget was passed and signed by the Governor. The budget bill included the commercial food waste disposal ban (HB 300) as well as a \$1M appropriation to the state's Solid Waste Management Fund for recycling/diversion grants (HB462). SB 61 (landfill siting requirements) has passed out of House and Senate, awaiting action by the Governor. Also HB 253 (EPR study committee) is awaiting action by the Governor. And so is SB 159 (committee to study out of state waste and unlimited service area landfill permits).

Mike Wimsatt updated the group on:

- NHDES will be receiving EPA SWIFR grant. \$572,000 with three year implementation period. Planning to use funds for:
 - Waste Characterization Study to understand composition of waste streams in NH.
 - A food waste generator study – identify entities in NH generating food waste, how much generated, what management infrastructure necessary to comply with new food waste disposal ban.
 - Develop educational materials for recycling/composting/diversion.
- Efforts by NHDES to:
 - Develop a technical assistance program for food waste diversion at colleges/universities.
 - Update website with information on waste management and recycling.
 - Work with NEWMOA to develop educational fact sheets on PFAS in common consumer products.

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Rep. Ebel reminded the group that if they want to recommend legislation, she would have to submit proposals (or at least legislative placeholders) by in mid-September (week of September 11th), although if legislation is recommended by a statutory committee, such as the SWWG, there can be some relaxing of the deadlines.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 AM.

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/5296837225678268503>