

# THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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**Minutes of September 22, 2023**

**Solid Waste Working Group**

**Room 208C**

**29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302**

**Members Present:** Chair Karen Ebel, Reagan Bissonnette, Adam Clark, Duncan Watson, Mark Laliberte, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Ben Piche, Steve Poggi

**Members Present Remotely<sup>1</sup>:** Rep. Judy Aron, Eric Steinhauser, Matt Hughes

**Members Not Present:** Sen. Howard Pearl, Colin Kelly, Jim Malley, Josh Whipple, Megan Fontes, Michael Wimsatt

### Call to Order

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

**Introduction of New Member:** Erica Douglas (City of Lebanon, NH) representing public landfills

### Approval of Minutes

Freda Paris made a motion to accept the August 3, 2023, minutes. Adam Clark seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote. Erica Douglas abstained from the vote.

### Discussion of 2022 SWMP partners and tracking strategies

Leah McKenna, NHDES, distributed a spreadsheet put together by Solid Waste Management Bureau (SWMB) staff. The spreadsheet identifies some external partners that can help accomplish tasks in the 2022 SWMP.

- Looking to the group to identify more partners to add. SWWG members can continue to send ideas after the meeting.
- There is a new central email address for external partners to send project updates to the SWMB.

The group reviewed the spreadsheet and discussed SWMP activities related to the state surplus program, EPR, disposal bans, C&D reuse options, second-hand stores, food waste generators, and HHW costs/NHDES HHW grant funding.

SWWG ideas for partners to add to the spreadsheet:

- Schools - Amherst & Hollis schools are diverting food waste to anaerobic digestion
- Stonyfield Farm

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<sup>1</sup> Remote attendance necessary due to logistical considerations.

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- Colleges & Universities – UNH uses landfill gas from Turnkey WM to power facilities
- Second-hand (thrift) stores, Habitat for Humanity retail locations, IRN: Reuse Network
- Legislative committees – [HB 253](#) and [SB 159](#) study committee reports are due Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>
- Nursing homes
- Trade associations for different industries (grocers, retail/restaurants, farmers, hospitals, etc.)
  - The group discussed the idea of expanding the SWWG to include more “Industry Association” members.

Paige Wilson, NHDES, started a list of second-hand stores to promote reuse and help people find outlets for their surplus items. She will email it to the SWWG so members can add to it.

### Legislative Updates/2024 LSRs

Chair Ebel reviewed legislation that she introduced based on the discussions and consensus SWWG recommendations at previous meetings, all of which are intended to further specific SWMP goals and action items. Chair Ebel introduced the following bills, as the prime sponsor, for the 2024 legislative session:

- LSR #2441 – adding a section on waste reduction to municipal land use master plans.
- LSR #2494 – prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in landfills and incinerators. Add to existing statute banning disposal of wet cell batteries. Expand list of electronic devices banned from disposal. The current list is not in line with modern technology.
  - Call2Recycle provides an outlet for recycling batteries.
  - Need to educate residents about where to bring different batteries.
  - Adam Clark noted that most solid waste facilities already accept electronics, but municipalities will need to modify their fee structure for recycling the devices.
- LSR #2702 – clarifies definitions in RSA 149-M (per NHDES request)
- LSR #2805 – expands on [HB465](#) to ban the sale of certain products with intentionally added PFAS. New bill includes carpet, fabric treatments, upholstered furniture, food packaging, dental floss, juvenile products (mattresses, highchairs, etc.). NEWMOA is drafting model legislation for sale ban on PFAS packaging.
  - Chair Ebel distributed an article about a recent [study on the unaffordable costs of PFAS cleanup from wastewater](#). The study showed that *PFAS can be bought for \$50 - \$1,000 per pound (according to MPCA estimates), but costs between \$2.7 million and \$18 million per pound to remove and destroy from municipal wastewater, depending on facility size.*
  - Source reduction on the front end is critical to reducing impacts on cost, public health, and the environment.
  - The group is in support of the bill’s purpose and Chair Ebel’s efforts to move forward with it.
  - Steve Poggi expressed that issues would arise if PFAS is classified as a hazardous waste by the EPA, then facilities that will not be able to take items in the bill.

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The group agreed that these bills represent recommendations of SWWG. Sarah Yuhas-Kern stated that NHDES cannot take a stance on any bills until the department receives guidance from the Commissioner.

Rep. Aron shared input remotely through GoToWebinar chat:

- To date, 6 LSRs for the 2024 legislative session focus on landfills – #2131, #2490, #2494, #2546, #2555, #2698
- LSR #2793 – Rep. Sherry Dutzy is the prime sponsor to create a container deposit, refund, recycle, and reuse system.

#### NHDES & member updates

Sarah provided an update on NHDES work related to the 2022 SWMP:

- RFP for statewide waste characterization study was posted on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Two potential contractors have expressed interest. Staff will be responding to their questions. RFP submission deadline is October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Website updates with resident recycling and disposal info will be published in Fall 2023.
- Environmental justice (EJ) resources have been identified to help with equitable access to NHDES website. SWMB staff have attended several trainings and webinars that connect EJ with the solid waste industry.
  - EJ activities support SWMP, NHDES Civil Rights Plan, and EPA SWIFR Grant Awardee grant awardee requirements

#### Future meeting dates

- October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting cancelled.
- Next meeting: December 1<sup>st</sup> (to accommodate holidays)
  - Review 2021-2022 Biennial Report and legislative updates from LSRs.
- Future presenters:
  - Leah suggested Amy Farnum from NHDAS State Surplus Program (“White Farm”)
  - Chair Ebel will work with Duncan Watson to schedule a guest speaker in January/February 2024 to talk about advanced sorting facilities for recyclables.

#### Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4962762714219189592>