



## From the President...

PROP has always defined success in terms of results that provide a real benefit to you, the members. By that definition, this past year has been very successful.

Thanks to the commitment of truly excellent volunteer leaders, a professional staff focused on providing effective advocacy and value, and members who are willing to get directly engaged in programs and services for the good of the organization, we have accomplished a great deal.

However, we have also reached a critical point with recycling in Pennsylvania. DEP funding, constrained budgets, ever increasing fuel costs, administrative fees, and licensing programs are just a few of the major issues facing PROP and all of its members. In essence, we stand at a crossroads. What is in store for us next? Which path do we choose?

The future, while at times appearing grim, holds boundless opportunities. With expanding markets, a clear sense of direction (Strategic Plan) and a cooperative spirit among our members and other organizations, our mission will carry us forward. They say the strength of an organization can only be measured by the strength of its' members. With your participation, continued support and leadership in various ways, we will keep PROP at the forefront of recycling!

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to lead this organization over the past year. It has been a real honor. I invite you to review this annual report to re-affirm the value of your PROP membership.

Kurt Fenstermacher  
PROP Board President



## From the Executive Director...

I was recently asked to reflect upon the state of recycling in Pennsylvania and the oft quoted opening line from Charles Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*, (written 130 years before the Commonwealth mandated curbside recycling) came to mind. *"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, ... it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us."*

While something as mundane as recycling may not seem worthy of Dickens' profound contemplations, many would argue that the manner in which we consume, waste and reuse resources is among our most crucial social and environmental issues. Amidst extraordinary recycling programs and the most vibrant recycling markets that we have ever experienced, recycling continues to struggle in many communities and program funding prospects have become even more bleak.

It is clear, then, that our job is not done. But too many decision makers, in the legislature, local government and within our businesses and institutions simply don't sense the urgency of the situation or the ultimate value of recycling. Beyond the day to day effort to make recycling work, we collectively must demonstrate the value of recycling to everyone that will listen.

And the message is still a good one. Many neophyte recycling professionals began their work in the late eighties and early nineties because it made environmental sense. But in 2006, we have realized that it makes economic sense, too.

Whenever we discuss the importance of recycling in Pennsylvania, we stress that it's good for the environment and the economy. PROP has continued to convey that message in 2006 and our membership must be part of a unified voice that will help reignite those fires of enthusiasm. We really are both an industry and a cause, and one that wields tremendous influence and economic power. Our ability to run efficient programs, successful business ventures and mutually beneficial partnerships will dictate whether the future will bring the "best" or the "worst of times." It really is up to us and it is PROP's intention to do everything possible to help.

John Frederick  
Executive Director

# Committee Accomplishments 2005-06

## 2005 Conference Committee

Chair: Joanne Shafer (814) 238-7005

The tireless efforts of Joanne Shafer and her conference committee were evident to hundreds of attendees at the 15th Annual PROP Conference. The 2005 conference, held at The Penn State Conference Center in State College, boasted an extensive menu of area tours, a record number of exhibitors as well as innovative workshops and roundtable discussions. All who attended gained professional knowledge while having a good time. From a financial aspect, the conference was a bottom line success. The Conference Committee deserves accolades for their tremendous effort in hosting a successful conference.



## By-Laws Committee

Chair: Chuck Raudenbush (215) 428-3207

With no pressing issues on the horizon, the committee was inactive in 2005. But the reinvigorated By-Laws Committee has been given a vital task for 2006 - to review and possibly make recommendations for changing the composition of the Board of Directors. It is the goal of the committee to consider the merits of changing the criteria for board members to allow more flexibility for board membership and to attract more diverse representation.

## College and University Committee

Chair: Richard Laudenslager (610) 519-4466

The Pennsylvania College and University Recycling Committee (PACURC) has had a successful year. Our main goal is to attract more schools to PROP and the committee and we feel that we accomplished that this past year. In the past year we helped to host a class at the last conference focusing on institutional recycling programs. We also organized our first committee meetings which were hosted by Temple University and Bloomsburg University respectively. All of these events attracted over 70 people, which is exceptional growth for the committee. We look forward to even more growth next year with more focus on the website and a statewide recycling contest.”

## Data Management/Waste Audit Committee

Ellen Keefe (412) 279-3001

The Data Management Committee strives each year to make their workshops relevant and timely to best serve Pennsylvania’s recycling professionals. The committee held another successful workshop in October with the theme, “Playing Your Cards Right to Win at Data Management.” The objective of this year’s workshop was to acknowledge that each recycling professional, whether on the municipal, county, or private sector level, has his own set of challenges (the hand they were dealt) to contend with in order to collect the best and most complete recycling data available. Representatives from the private sector discussed their ability to accurately track and report the material recycled at their facilities. Representatives from the DEP were on hand to explain the rules we all have to play by. The 2006 Data Management Workshop is planned for October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Days Inn – State College.



*Brenda Schmidt has been instrumental in finalizing committee plans to reflect the goals established during the Strategic Planning Process.*

## Education Committee

Chair: Brenda Schmidt (814) 333-7366

The PROP Education Committee has provided additional training to the PROP membership through the Focus On Legislation Seminar and by providing programs for the 101 Certification class. The committee has continued its work on the Education Kits. They hope to release the kits in the Fall of 2006. Work has been done on a statewide education program and lesson plans will be provided for fellow recyclers on the PROP website. The committee assisted with the first-ever Committee Chair Summit. The committee welcomes new members, comments and suggestions for new programs.

## Fundraising Committee

Chair: Walt Davenport (301) 607-6428

The Finance and Fundraising committee has been reorganized, forming a separate Fundraising committee under the chairmanship of Walt Davenport. It is the committee's goal to continue diversification of the organization's funding. The committee also intends to work more closely with several other committees, particularly the Conference Committee and Membership Committee since both of them are significant sources of income to the organization.



*Tanya McCoy-Caretti represents L. Robert Kimball Associates as a private sector member of PROP's Board of Directors.*

## Government Liaison Committee

Chair: Tanya McCoy-Caretti (814) 472-7700

Recycling Fee reauthorization and concerns over county Administrative Fees have been particularly important issues confronting the Government Liaison Committee. Beyond the ongoing legislative outreach and coalition building on these items, the committee has also offered input on composting regulatory issues and pending legislation on electronics recycling. The organization began its second year with Lobbyist Pugliese Associates and is enjoying the benefits of enhanced access and improved communication on developments at the Capitol.

## Household Hazardous Waste

Chair: Art Feltes (610) 278-3045

Electronics recycling and related legislation has been a hot topic for the Household Hazardous Waste Committee. Members of this animated group have offered input on proposed legislation in both the Pennsylvania House and Senate. The committee, with members all across the state who have vastly different approaches to the problems, also hopes to address concerns over decreased local and county funding for HHW collection programs in light of challenges to the legality of County Administrative Fees.

## Markets Committee

Chair: John Yingling (570) 547-2470

The organization's strategic planning process has prompted adoption of a new Mission Statement by the Markets Committee to help focus their efforts. The Committee has discussed plastics markets and will continue each meeting to review/discuss a specific commodity. A review of the PROP Markets web page is also planned for the near future.



*Markets Committee Chair John Yingling brings the enthusiasm to PROP that exemplifies the strength of our organization—when we work together toward a common goal.*

## Membership Committee

Chair: Bruce Brady (570) 524-3848

Under the purpose-driven direction of Bruce Brady (how many committee chairs before Bruce have assigned homework and then followed up to be sure it is done?), PROP's Membership Committee has established written purpose and mission statements based on the Strategic Plan initiative. The committee developed seven major goals as part of their strategic planning efforts. In an effort to improve communication among related committees, each committee member has been assigned as liaison to each of the PROP committees. The liaison is responsible for achieving an effective communication flow of pertinent committee efforts. Current committee projects include formulating plans for how to meet the needs of present and new members and formalizing relationships with other organizations. Committee members are also gathering municipal contact information for every municipality across the state. This data will be useful in new member initiatives. The committee also has designs on streamlining the membership process to improve data compilation for a more reliable information flow, to animate members and to improve results from membership drive efforts.

## Municipal Committee

Chair: Julie Burt (717) 291-4714

The Municipal Committee held an Enforcement class in October at Penn State Harrisburg that was well attended. Two articles were sponsored through the committee for the Winter 2006 Recycler Magazine. Future plans include assisting the Certification Committee



## Media Committee

Chair: Michael Crist (570) 769-7802

The Media Committee plays an active role in the production of PROP's publications. The sixth edition of PROP's magazine, The Pennsylvania Recycler, is hot off the press. It is distributed to the entire PROP membership, all of the Pennsylvania state legislature and other national recycling professionals. The Summer 2006 edition features articles that explore the future of recycling in Pennsylvania. Issue five, distributed in January of 2006, featured information on how to take the next step in recycling.

*Despite crunching deadlines and coordinating a myriad of details for PROP publications, Mike Crist still smiles. As Vice-President of the PROP Board of Directors, Mike is an integral member.*

The PROPonent newsletter focuses on current news and is distributed twice yearly. For our organics professionals, we publish two editions of Rottin News each year.

The Media Committee also plays a role in developing the Annual Report and the PROP website. As always, the Media Committee has an open invitation to those that enjoy writing and have an interest in educational outreach.



## NRC Recycling Organization Council (ROC)

Chair: Joanne Shafer (814) 238-7005

Joanne Shafer attended the annual mid-year Recycling Organizations Council (ROC) meeting in Dallas, Texas which was held in conjunction with the America Recycles state leaders meeting. ROC recognizes funding for recycling and electronics recycling as notable issues in most states represented. As a member of the ROC subcommittee that reviewed existing affiliation agreements, Shafer reported that changes have been suggested to reflect the current relationship between NRC and state organizations. The committee continues to work on these changes. For further details on ROC, please refer to the Spring 2006 PROPonent newsletter.

*This is a rare photo of Joanne Shafer standing still! As PROP's representative to ROC, Board Treasurer, chair of several committees, all while trying to meet Centre County's recycling needs, she is usually on the go.*

## Organics Committee

Chair: Tim Bollinger (610) 799-4177

The PROP "Organics Council" has undergone a few changes during the past year. We've restructured the "Council" and have now become the "Organics Committee". We thought that by eliminating our subcommittees while retaining a representative liaison to work closer with their respective PROP committees, we could better serve not only the organics community, but the organization as a whole.

We also enjoyed a successful Fourth Annual Manufactured Soils Conference in February. Our future plans for this conference include a multi-state equipment and demonstration expo. This would hopefully serve to increase PROP membership along with promoting organics recycling. An exciting future lies ahead for the Organics Committee to be sure.

## Planning Committee

Chair: Art Feltes (610) 278-3045

The Strategic Planning Committee has played a key role in the development of the organization's short and long term strategic plan.

The committee was challenged to condense a number of long lists of priorities and initiatives gathered during a number of board planning sessions over the last two years. The finished document will provide a road map for the future of PROP, establishing priorities and planning for the future growth of the organization, its membership and programs. This process has resulted in the recently ratified Strategic Plan. *(You can review the Strategic Plan on PROP's website under "Board of Directors.")*



*Art Feltes has made important contributions to PROP's mission this past year. In addition to managing the strategic planning process, he also is an active Board member, certification class presenter and has taken the Chair post for the Household Hazardous Waste Committee.*

# Major Projects & Programs

## Professional Certification

Chair: Joanne Shafer (814) 238-7005

The Recycling Professional Certification Program has become more popular than anyone could have ever imagined. Not only has it been nationally recognized and available to anyone in the world, the program has also seen over 900 different faces attend the classes since the very first course debuted on March 28, 2000. Who would have thought that a small idea discussed between a few recycling professionals over 10 years ago would blossom into the successful and thriving program it has become today.



The certification program has grown far beyond offering courses just based on recycling and solid waste issues. With over 60 courses to choose from, there is certainly something for anyone and everyone interested in preserving our environment. There are courses on composting, illegal dumping, marketing, economics, business planning, education, contracting, public policy, communications and electronics; just to name a few. And with courses now available on-line, travel costs no longer pose a problem.

In the past four years, the program has seen 118 graduates, or Certified Recycling Professionals, take the stage at PROP's annual conferences to be awarded for their achievement. In addition, 25 dedicated professionals have received the esteemed honor to become Senior Certified Recycling Professionals. With more and more participants interested in the program daily, these numbers will continue to grow, thereby increasing the professionalism of the industry.

PROP is very proud of the success of the program and is incredibly appreciative for all of the volunteers who have spent countless hours to ensure the program's sustainability. We couldn't do it with out you.



*Waste Watcher Award for 2005 is presented by Art Feltes (from left) to: Geri Rush, Waste Management, LeeAnn coleman, NIE Department of the Bucks County Courier Times Newspaper and Nicole Gustafson, Neshaminy Mall at our community Eart Day Celebration on April 22, 2006.*

## Waste Watcher Program

The Waste Watchers Program continued in 2005, managed by Marissa Carney of PROP. The partnership between PROP, the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA) and the Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) continued in 2005. The award program recognized and honored 25 outstanding recycling and composting organizations across the state. Each award winner was provided with a news release for their local television and radio news stations, a framed award and access to the official Waste Watchers logo. Local individual award ceremonies were held for award winners.



## Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

PROP continued its work with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the Commonwealth's affiliate of keep America Beautiful. PROP representatives attended a training session on establishing regional offices and providing community outreach to Elm Street neighborhoods. As the chair of the Laws and Enforcements Committee, PROP has begun some in-depth work on the possibility of starting up environmental courts in the state. PROP is also working on beefing up environmental crimes training for police.

## Manufactured Soils Conference

PROP welcomed over 85 attendees and 10 exhibitors from across the country to the fourth annual Manufactured Soils Conference. This year's conference was held on February 22-23, at the Ramada Conference Center in State College, PA. The theme of this year's conference was *Building Soils for Water Quality Enhancement* and focused on a vast array of topics such as Policy & Regulations, Watersheds, Soil Science, Marketing & Economics and Integrated Water Management. All of the presentations from the conference are located on PROP's website. Members of the Organics Committee are already hard at work planning next year's conference which is scheduled for September 2007. Additional conference details will be announced soon.



*John Frederick and Amy Cicchillo of PROP and Rick Stehouwer of Penn State get together in the exhibit hall at the 2006 Manufactured Soils Conference in State College.*

## NRC Affiliation



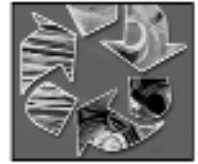
The National Recycling Coalition represents PROP on the national level. One of the many PROP member benefits is membership in the NRC. As recycling becomes a noteworthy cause for Fortune 500 companies like Microsoft, the NRC's positive influence on the national scene will become more beneficial on the local level. Your small voice to the NRC can make a visible difference in the future.

In May, Michael Alexander, NRC's Director of Policy and Research, spoke on National Developments in Recycling at the PROP Recycling & Public Policy certification class in Harrisburg. Thirty eight attendees heard about exciting national trends for recycling. You can read more in the Summer 2006 edition of *The Pennsylvania Recycler*. The NRC will hold their Congress & Expo in October.

## Recycling Market Center

The Recycling Markets Center, under the direction of Warren Weaver, is now fully staffed. From their base at Penn State Harrisburg, and through a partnership with PennTAP, the RMC continues to work at expanding and developing viable markets. The center recognized the need to introduce organics producers with those who need organic material for their business since organics represents the single largest contributor to the waste stream. The RMC is also working on a partnership with PROP's Organics Committee.

Pennsylvania  
Recycling  
Markets  
Center



## Legislative Outreach

Funding concerns and long-term program sustainability continue to dominate the agenda of PROP's legislative outreach efforts. A big part of those efforts center around raising awareness of the intricacies of local program funding. Legal challenges to county fees and licensing have been of great concern and has prompted a dialogue among many of the affected players in both the public and private sector. These discussions have further demonstrated that many legislators are unaware of how many programs operate and fund themselves, even those within their own districts. This further demonstrates the importance of local officials and businesses keeping their own legislators informed. Beyond the funding concerns, PROP also continues to advocate integrated and comprehensive solid waste management. Among other things this includes support for mandatory waste collection, the prohibition of open burning and the encouragement of contracted or municipal collection rather than private subscription collection systems.

## Communication Tools

PROP has always placed education as top priority, and efforts by the expanded PROP staff focus on increasing the educational value of a PROP membership. The membership database is being completely revamped to reflect to changing needs of our members while utilizing the latest technology. Doug Orner, Information Technology Manager, introduced the newest online class to the world in June. Recycling 100 - Introduction to Recycling, is a scaled down version of the Core Course - Recycling 101. The Pennsylvania Recycling Manual has been updated with a copy of each of PROP's Fact Sheets. Municipal officials from the entire state are being encouraged to possess this manual. The manual and Fact Sheets have been well received at several sites, including the PSATS Conference held in April. PROP's magazine and our periodic specialty newsletters continue to grow in popularity. our e-newsletter, often focusing on legislative issues, goes out to membes about fifteen times a year. *The PROPonent* printed newsletter focuses on recent recycling and organizational news, the *RAP Sheet* looks at municipal issues and the *Rottin' News* features composting and organics recycling news.

# Financial Statements

## Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania FY 04/05 Audited Financial Statements As of June 30, 2005

### Current Assets:

Cash	\$160,665
Accounts Receivable	124,213
Inventory	9,278
Prepaid Expenses	10,864
Office Equipment	<u>35,934</u>

**Total Assets** **\$340,954**

### Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,750
Payroll Taxes Payable	1,223
Deferred Revenue	89,887
Note Payable	<u>5,226</u>

**Total Liabilities** **\$98,086**

**Unrestricted Net Assets** **\$232,570**

**Total Liabilities and Net Assets** **\$340,954**

### Revenue:

Conference Registrations	\$102,507
Projects/Certification	493,298
Memberships	42,890
Other Revenue	8,361
Interest	<u>1603</u>

**Total Revenue** **\$648,659**

### Expenses:

Conference	\$79,435
Projects/Certification	193,196
Office Expenses	81,425
Wages/Benefits	241,736
Other Expenses	<u>29,102</u>

**Total Expenses** **\$624,894**

**NET ASSETS** **\$232,570**

# Board of Directors

## Officers:

Name	Affiliation	Office (Term)
Kurt Fenstermacher	Lehigh County	President (2006)
Michael L. Crist	Clinton County	Vice-President (2006)
Amy Mazzella di Bosco	Greater Lebanon RA	Secretary (2006)
Joanne Shafer	Centre County SWA	Treasurer (2006)
Charles Raudenbush	Waste Management	Executive Committee (2007)

## Board Members:

Name	Affiliation	Region (Term)
Jan Arnold	Blair County	Southcentral (2007)
Bruce Brady	Union County	Northcentral (2007)
Sandi Brown	West Chester University	Southeast (2006)
Julie Burt	City of Lancaster	At-Large (2006)
Walt Davenport	MSW Consultants	Private Sector (2006)
Dean DeLong	Monroe County MWMA	Northeast (2007)
Art Feltes	Montgomery County	Southeast (2007)
Kris Howdyshell	Cambria County SWA	Southwest (2007)
Joseph Nardone	AMANDI Services, Inc.	Private Sector (2007)
Peter M. Previte	PENNTAP/PA Recycling Markets Center	Southwest (2006)
Tanya McCoy-Caretti	L. Robert Kimball & Associates	Private Sector (2006)
Brenda Schmidt	Crawford County SWA	Northwest (2007)



## PROP 2005-06 Board of Directors

**Front Row:** Bruce Brady, Chuck Raudenbush, Kurt Fenstermacher, Mike Crist, Dan Grow

**Second Row:** Jan Arnold, Joe Nardone, Brenda Schmidt, Julie Burt, Tanya McCoy-Caretti, Joanne Shafer, Michelle Nestor

**Back Row:** Kris Howdyshell, Art Feltes, John Yingling, James Garthe, Beth DeNardi

(Absent from photo: Amy Mazzella di Bosco, Walt Davenport, Sandi Brown, Dean DeLong and Peter Previte)

# Sponsors and Corporate Members

PROP wishes to thank our major sponsors and corporate members:



**The Department of  
Environmental Protection**  
Harrisburg, PA



**Cleveland Brothers  
Equipment Company**  
Harrisburg, PA



**R.W. Beck**  
Camp Hill, PA



**Waste Management**  
Morrisville, PA



**VQuip USA**  
Camp Hill, PA



**AAA Environmental**  
Morton Grove, IL



**Abitibi Paper Retrievers**  
Pittsburgh, PA



**AMANDI Services, Inc.**  
Hallstead, PA



**American Plastics  
Council**  
Arlington, VA



**Bruce Mooney Associates**  
Marlton, NJ



**Bucks Fabricating**  
Hadley, PA



**Casella Waste Systems, Inc.**  
Rutland, VT



**The Charles Chrin  
Companies**  
Easton, PA



**Gannett Fleming**  
Harrisburg, PA



**G-S Products**  
Somerset, PA



**Haul All**  
Alberta, Canada



**Hy-Tech Mushroom  
Compost, Inc.**  
West Grove, PA



**Just Born Inc.**  
Bethlehem, PA



**L. Robert Kimball &  
Associates**  
Ebensburg, PA



**Marcal Paper Mills**  
Elmwood, NJ



**Nature's  
Choice Corp.**  
Union, NJ



**Norseman Plastics**  
Toronto, Canada



**PSEG**  
Gibbstown, NJ



**RecycleNet Corp.**  
Salt Lake City, UT



**Stancills Inc.**  
Maryland



**Steel Recycling Institute**  
Pittsburgh, PA

# Organizational Information

## Our Staff:

**John Frederick** - Executive Director  
**Amy Cicchillo** - Education Director  
**Douglas Orner** - Information Technology Manager  
**Marissa Carney** - Program Manager  
**Jill Reigh** - Communications Manager  
**Becky Miller** - Fiscal Manager  
**Christine Brown** - Administrative Assistant

## Our Location:

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 25, Bellwood, PA 16617  
**Physical Address:** Old Route 220 and Stadium Drive, Bellwood, PA 16617  
**Phone:** (814) 742-7777 or (800) 769-7767  
**Fax:** (814) 742-8838  
**Email:** prop@proprecycles.org  
**Website:** www.proprecycles.org

## Our Mission:

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania mission and statement is to operate a nonprofit nonpartisan statewide association of recycling professionals dedicated to promoting and enhancing the interests of municipal and county recycling programs in Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the Corporation is to develop the skills and resources of its members by enhancing recycling, to promote the common interests of those engaged in recycling in Pennsylvania, to educate the public and private sectors, institutions, and media about the appropriate role of recycling, to facilitate communication and informative exchange among recycling professionals in the public and private sectors and among various levels and branches of government, to establish and promote standards within the profession of recycling, to consider and express opinion on solid waste and recycling issues and, to provide comment on proposed rules, regulations and legislation.

## Our Structure:

Policy is set by a 19 member Board of Directors from both the public and the private sector. The public sector representatives consist of three at-large members and two from each of the Department of Environmental Protection's six regions. The private sector board members are all elected on an at-large basis.

## Our History:

PROP was incorporated in 1991 as a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation. Public sector recycling coordinators saw a need for a professional organization following the passage of Act 101 and secured funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to hire our first executive director. Their first conference was held in July 1991 at Millersville State University.

Private sector recycling professionals were welcomed into the organization as full-fledged members in



### *PROP Staff*

#### *In the car:*

*John, Marissa and Amy*

#### *Behind the car:*

*Jill, Becky, Doug and Christine*

# P\**R*\*O\**P*



# 2006

# ANNUAL REPORT

