

PROP ORGANICS COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2007
CONFERENCE ROOM - RECYCLING MARKETS CENTER
PENN STATE HARRISBURG

Those in attendance:

Bob Bylone, Tim Bollinger, Tim Breneisen, Doug Calzola, Craig Coker, John Frederick, Mike Giuranna, Bob Graves, Larry Holley, Carl Hursh, Georgia Kayle, Terry Keene, Patti Olenick, Doug Orner, Cary Oshins, Joseph Poppiti, Rhodes Yepsen, and Jan Arnold.

After Bob welcomed everyone and we introduced ourselves, Patti distributed a copy of a draft of the general permit. After a brief review of its contents, it was requested that they be returned to Patti. Patti then went on to explain that backyard compost bin programs will be handled by Penn State Extension offices since Counties are no longer able to purchase bins through 902 grants.

Bob gave an RMC update which included composting and manufactured soils initiatives.

Carl distributed copies of the news release regarding the awarding of \$366,000 via the Compost Infrastructure Development Grant:

- 1) Tait Farm Foods Inc. in Centre County received a grant to enable them to accept leaf and yard waste from Harris Township and food waste from food manufacturers, restaurants, and residences including those who participate in their CSA thereby closing the loop on recycling.
- 2) Dickinson College in Cumberland County received funds for equipment so that the campus farm can accept additional materials from campus cafeterias, coffee shops, and local businesses with the finished compost being used on the campus farm.
- 3) Quiet Creek Herb Farm & School of Country Living Inc in Jefferson County will start a vermicomposting operation at a local restaurant.
- 4) Two Particular Acres in Montgomery County will purchase equipment that will screen out plastics in their compost.
- 5) Red Earth Farm, a CSA in Schuylkill County, will purchase equipment to help them compost more organic material received from additional local businesses.
- 6) Keystone North Inc. of Tioga County will develop and build a vermicomposting system at Mansfield University that will be used to compost their food waste. Revenues will be realized from the sale of the material. Vermicomposting systems will be made and sold dependent upon the demand.

Carl also spoke about the value of DEP's technical assistance grants.

Other topics discussed:

- Larry recommended that the Chesapeake Bay initiatives be considered for future topics of this committee (pollution sources, compost operations and their effect, etc.).
- The need to educate contractors regarding the use of compost.
- A digester may be featured at the PA Farm Show.
- A suggestion was made to market the organics committee membership through the certification classes. Include information as to why they should be members of PROP and the committee. It was also mentioned to include equipment manufacturers as an ad hoc committee.
- Having a program may boost committee membership attendance.
- Have a flyer promoting the organics committee.
- Meeting locations. It was decided to try having the meetings at various locations.
- Jan should continue as secretary and send all of the previous meeting minutes to Doug.

SWAC recommendations of a 3-tiered approach to landfill bans. The first ban would include yard waste, land grubblings, and wood pallets, the second ban would include glass, and the third ban, in 2014, would include food waste.

Bob Graves then gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation on the latest European Organics Recycling Field Study.

Patti Olenick followed with a description of the upcoming composting certification classes and Doug Orner, PROP's Information Technology Manager, displayed PROP's website's Organics page and described the various information found there. Doug then demonstrated the upcoming composting online course that will be available mid-January 2008. The program will soon be available for beta testing by some members of this committee.

John Frederick led a discussion regarding the future of our composting and soils conferences and other events. It was determined that additional time needs to be allotted to this topic. John also emphasized the need of this committee's involvement in the planning of an organics conference/summit/or other event. John distributed copies of the PROP conference brochure that is entitled "Recycling & Composting Conference Brochure" (this committee suggested including the word "composting" into the title). He then pointed out the many and varied composting sessions of this two-and-a-half day event: "Innovations in Composting & Facility Tour" are scheduled for the first day (Wednesday, July 30, from 2 pm to 5 pm), "Organics Collection – Recycling 230" a certification class is set for the next day (Thursday, July 31, from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm), and "Compost Marketing – Recycling 235" another certification class on that day (1:45 pm to 5 pm). Friday morning, the last day of the conference, from 7 am to 9 am features an "Education Breakfast" and PROP members are invited to bring educational ideas and materials about recycling and composting to share with attendees.

Mike Giuranna then introduced Craig Coker who gave two enlightening PowerPoint presentations:

- 1) "The State of Organics Recovery in Virginia," and 2) "Developing A National Training Program" which deals with the US Composting Council's interest in having their own certification program. Doug invited Craig to contact him to discuss their program and to also participate in testing PROP's new online composting course.

Information distributed at this meeting included:

- o "Composting Food Waste Significantly Reduces Green House Gas Emissions"
- o "EPA: Food waste composting plan worthwhile" article from the Sandusky Register newspaper.
- o "Governor Rendell Announces \$366,000 Investment to Help Businesses Increase Use of Composted Material" news release.
- o "Act 101 Section 902 Recycling Grant Application Guidelines Regarding Proper Management of Recyclables, Including Leaf Waste", PA-DEP
- o "Ready to Grow: *Sharing the Sustainable Story*" PASA's 17th Annual *Farming for the Future* Conference booklet.
- o BioCycle November 2007 issue with findacomposter.com flyer and "COOL 2012 – Compostable Organics Out of Landfills by 2012" flyer (visit www.cool2012.com) for details
- o A Norseman Plastics Catalog

Future committee meetings are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, February 20, 10 am – Conference Call.
Please call 1-800-377-8846, passcode: 862381#
- Monday, April 7, 9:30 am at a location in State College
- Tuesday, July 8, time to be determined, at a location in Columbia Borough
- Tuesday, October 7 at a time and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold
Acting Secretary