

PROP Organics Committee
Conference Call
February 20, 2008
10:00 – 11:30am



Attending:

Bob Bylone, PA Recycling Markets Center	Carla Castagnero, AgRecycle, Inc.
Cary Oshins, US Composting Council	Dan Eichenlaub, AgRecycle, Inc.
Bob Graves, PSU	Rick Stehouwer, PSU
Tim Bollinger, Lehigh County	Crag Frey, Upper Dublin Township
Georgia Keagle, DEP	Terry Stacey, Blair County Dept. of Solid Waste & Recy.
Dan Snowden, PennDOT	Jim Weiss, Lehigh County
Donna McGowan, EPA Region 3	Ron Miller, Columbia Borough, Lancaster County
Terry Keene, Barton & Loguidice	Rick Stehouwer, PSU
John Frederick, PROP	Jan Arnold, PROP

Welcome and Introduction

Bob Bylone called the meeting to order at 10:05.

December 4 Meeting Topics:

Chesapeake Bay Strategies – this will be considered for discussion at a future meeting.
April 8th – Bob Graves informed us that our next meeting will be held at the Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center (near Beaver Stadium). Jan will make the arrangements. She will also inform members of this meeting via email today with a future email to be sent with additional information. The tentative agenda is as follows:

9:30 Registration and Refreshments

9:55 Welcome

10:00 – 12:00 Subject Matter Program by PSU

Biobased Petroleum Substitutes – in your machinery, on the ground, or in your compost pile.

Improve soil quality, shorten the carbon loop, and cheat the landfill with compost.

12:00 lunch

12:45 Committee Meeting

2:00 Optional Visit to OMPEC Site.

CEUs are not possible for the April 8th meeting.

Some topics of discussion were:

Contractor Education – Georgia stated that DEP is intending to go to each district and instruct the contractors about the use of compost and other materials in projects. She also added that PennDOT has requirements for the quality of mulch to be used in projects. Dan Snowden also added that the specs are on the PennDOT website. Dan Eichenlaub added that this (learn about the website, how to get on the list as project suppliers, etc.) could be a great draw for others to future meetings. Bob Bylone mentioned that it might be possible for the July 8th meeting and John Frederick stated that he will look into the possibility of offering CEUs for attendees. Bob will be discussing this with John. John also requested that Dan Snowden send PROP the link and it would be placed in PROP publications and the website.

Organics Committee Brochure – Bob revisited this issue and it was decided that Jan will begin the process. Members were instructed to send her their thoughts on the brochure content by February 20. Jan said that she would send a draft to the members. If possible, the final copy would be available for the next Composting Course (Forced Aeration) on March 6.

Rotation of Meeting Locations – Bob stated that since our next meeting (April 8th) will be in Centre County, a future meeting should be held somewhere in Western PA to draw more attendees.

Online Composting Class – John Frederick stated that people have already registered and are taking the newest online course, Backyard Composting. He added that it has a broad appeal for those who are promoting the Backyard Composting Programs or are interested in learning how to compost. It has been well-received and effective. Bob Graves recommended that PROP's composting page should feature that class and to make the distinction that it is for home backyard composters not the industrial users. After further discussion, it was decided that it would be included on the organics webpage and that the online class information will be linked from the certification page to the organics page and that the General Permit information will be linked via a DEP link. Georgia will provide that link to PROP. John invited everyone to send us comments regarding the PROP Organics webpage.

General Permit 25 – Bob Bylone noted that the permit has been issued in the DEP Update and that many of the amendments recommended by this committee, (especially Carla Castagnero and Rick Stehouwer) were included in this latest version. He also mentioned that the analytical requirements were reduced and invited anyone with concerns or questions to contact him.

Future Composting Events – Bob Bylone mentioned that the **Manufactured Soils Summit** was challenging to coordinate and recommended having a soils conference or other type of conference as a one-day summit. John Frederick noted that the PROP conference is listed as a “**Recycling & Composting Conference**” and mentioned that there are two composting certification classes and two composting sessions available at this year's conference in Gettysburg. John explained that the NRC (National Recycling Coalition) is focused on recycling with minor interest in composting but that PROP, being the state host committee, wants to feature tours of at least two composting facilities in the Pittsburgh area since the NRC conference is being held there this September 21 through 24. John added that Carla & Dan's sites would be greatly appreciated by the national attendees! John also mentioned that the NRC's call for papers has been extended to March 3. Cary said that vermicomposting is being done in a Pittsburgh school and since foodwaste is a hot topic that perhaps that could be a tour, also. He will send PROP information on that location. Bob Bylone stated that the NRC has partnered with the Industrial Resource Center because it is getting more difficult to recycle items such as foundry sand and that perhaps Rick should make a presentation at NRC. John urged Rick to apply since state regulatory agencies, leaders of industry, and the general attendees would find his topic interesting and pertinent. John also said that since the other days conflict with his class schedule, Rick should state that he is only available to give his presentation on Tuesday.

Tim Bollinger mentioned that **BioCycle's 2009 Conference** will also include a celebration of their 50th Anniversary! Nora Goldstein spoke with him about it and she will be speaking with nearby states and Pennsylvania to see if any would be interested in partnering with them. Carla stated that in regards to Pennsylvania, it isn't economical to fly into Pittsburgh or Philadelphia. Bob Bylone spoke with Nora and will continue to be in contact with her regarding conference matters and logistics. He added that should BioCycle have it in Pennsylvania, this committee should be involved. He will keep everyone posted.

Rick Stehouwer said that he would like to explore the possibility of a **1-day Soil Builders Conference** that would be scheduled sometime this summer or fall. John suggested that our October 7 meeting could be incorporated into the program. Rick is interested in having it in the field with hands-on work experience. He would like to have one in the West and one in the East and he will meet with Bob Bylone to discuss this.

Bob Bylone also asked Ron if we are still able to meet in **Columbia Borough on July 8th** and Ron responded affirmatively. Information will be sent.

For the good of the members – Cary added that other topics for articles in the Rottin' News could be: Compost in view of global warming and the anaerobic digestion of foodwaste and manure. He also added

that a visit to the Mason/Dixon Farm would be an interesting and educational conference tour/visit. Bob Bylone added these additional bits of information: manure-based website (the information will be on the PROP website soon), and the PA-RMC will have an exhibit at the PROP conference on biogas as a renewable energy source. John Frederick and Bob will talk about this at a later time.

In regards to the meeting at Columbia Borough, Bob Bylone recommended the following topics for discussion:

Product review as it refers to PennDOT
Global Climate Change
Carbon Credits/Exchanges
Landfill/Disposal Bans

Terry Keane recommended that a future topic could be a Stormwater Management Class that would include various products and their application and how installers could use local compost.

Bob Bylone also added that stormwater management would be a good tie-in with the Chesapeake Bay water quality issues.

Bob Graves added: the use of compost regarding land application, wetlands, and increased infiltration.

Before we ended, John Frederick invited all committee members to write articles for the newsletter and/or magazine, and to send information, links, and pertinent reminders to the PROP office (prop@proprecycles.org or call 814-742-7777 or email him (ifrederick@proprecycles.org) or Jan (jarnold@proprecycles.org).

Next Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, April 8, Centre County/Penn State Visitor Center, 10 am – 2 pm (registration at 9:30 am)

Tuesday, July 8, Columbia Borough

Tuesday, October 7 (at a place to be determined).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold
Acting Secretary