

PROP Organics Committee
Meeting Agenda
02.08.07
Penn State Harrisburg
Educational Activities Building, Room 104



Attending:

Bob Bylone, PA Recycling Markets Center
Carl Hursh, PA-DEP
Patti Olenick, PA-DEP
Dan Lapato, PA-DEP
Mike Giuranna, EPA
Ned Foley, Two Particular Acres
Corinne Ogradnik, PRC

Carla Castagnero, AgRecycle, Inc.
Cary Oshins, Gardenique/Fittrex
Rick Stehouwer, PSU
Nadine Davitt, PSU
John Frederick, PROP
Amy Zuckett, PROP
Marissa Carney, PROP
Jan Arnold, Blair County Dept. of Solid Waste & Recycling

Welcome and Introduction

Bob Bylone called the meeting to order at 10:15.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Ned Foley made the motion to accept the minutes, Patti seconded, all were in favor.

General Permit 25 Update Response Letter: Part 1

Bob stated that the permit draft was in the PA Bulletin and that the last day to comment is March 28. Bob questioned if we should respond and Patti replied that members have already been replying and that even though individual responses are valued, that a letter of appreciation from this committee would be recommended. Bob will write the draft and circulate to committee members via email.

Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association

Proposed Workshop & Food Residuals / Task Force Summary Presentation

Mike Giuranna distributed copies of the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association's draft agenda for their "Food Waste Collection and Composting Workshop" summit that will be held in late spring or early summer. It will be held in south central Pennsylvania, perhaps Hershey or Harrisburg areas. It is also possible that they may hold a summit in the Pittsburgh area as well. The summit would show PFMA members how to set up a system, start dialogue, and begin programs. Mike also commented that they received funding for GIS for composters. Rick recommended using AgMap for composting information stating that each year the facility noted is asked for updated information. John recommended creating a subcommittee to discuss the GIS and it was determined that Bob will have a meeting with Rick Day regarding the AgMap system. The outcome of that meeting will determine whether or not to have a subcommittee. Bob requested that committee members should contact him regarding their interest in being a subcommittee member.

General Permit 25 Update Response Letter: Part 2

Dan Lapato distributed copies of the "Draft General Permit WMGR025" with a copy of the cover letter from Secretary McGinty. He noted that the format has changed and that previously there were 16 individual forms and that was changed to 3. Major changes were noted: chemical numbers have changed and these were based on ecological risk factors with a few human factors included. Rick had concerns with the nickel, zinc, and aluminum numbers. Carla added that aluminum is not on the previous list. Dan said that DEP chemists and Fish & Wildlife contributed this information. Rick said that the ecological toxicity numbers are based on ecological receptors but that they have to be sure that it is a reachable number. Dan stated that the previous GP numbers were lower and he recommended referencing the September copy. Bob mentioned that he learned from the SWAC meeting that altering the content of the list would be difficult. Dan agreed but that it was based on a 4 year old report. Dan also reminded us that they are still accepting comments and we are invited to participate in this. He also stated that if the compost doesn't meet these numbers that it must be landfilled. He also said that this has nothing to do with on farm composting: this is only with GP25. Carl had budgetary concerns regarding testing adding that it would cost \$900 per test. Dan said that tests should be done quarterly and then reiterated that comments are welcome. In regard to other concerns: Carla referred to page 3, #2 and the composition and permeability of the pad. Much discussion followed. Cary was

concerned with the temperatures as stated in page 5, #2, subsection a and b. Dan summed it up by saying that he felt the group was saying that he is too strict on chemicals and not strict enough on the pad or the temperatures. Bob questioned John regarding the draft of a letter and John explained that it would go to Cary, then to the Government Liaison committee, then John would send it. Bob then recommended that a committee-based letter, with the assistance of a subcommittee, be written that would state:

1. This committee appreciates the effort made by DEP to address issues
2. Consideration should be given for the chemical analysis
3. Consideration should also be given to the surface permeability depth.
4. This committee greatly appreciates the new bonding requirement.

Nadine shared concern with page 4, #8, regarding storage and if a holding area is acceptable. Dan stated that it was. He added that the purpose of this was in overnight containment. Carl recommended that "non-marketable" paper be changed to "non-recyclable" paper for better clarification. In summation, Bob encouraged the committee to contact him by March 2 via email. We are to email this letter to him with a cc to all committee members. Bob bill then draft a letter by March 9, it will be finalized within a week, then submitted to John. Dan also recommended that hard copy is best when members make comments to DEP.

LUNCH

PRC Food Recovery Feasibility Presentation

Corinne Ogradnik gave a very interesting presentation detailing the PRC project that involved various businesses, schools, and a nursing home. This was Phase I of the project and it was a pilot program to collect and compost food waste. The project targeted the Pittsburgh area and the report is available on line. Corinne added that this has been a 6-year process and that they hope to find additional funding to complete it.

Organics PROP Certification Courses

Patti Olenick distributed a copy of the "Recycling Professional Certification Program Overview & Requirements" and a copy of the "Recycling Professional Certification Program 2007 Course Schedule." She then thanked Cary for sharing his involvement. She asked us to review the required electives for the Composting Operator Certificate and make suggestions for additional classes. Ned suggested an ag application (on farm). It was mentioned that PASA offers field days and that the PSU Extension offers rendering so perhaps partnering could take place. Cary questioned the possibility of offering classes without certification credits: maybe a day of several topics. John interjected that the budget is at risk for these certification classes and that the involvement of subcontractors, coordinators, etc., may be limited. Additional buy-ins from interested parties will be needed. Bob inquired about the funding cuts and John said that perhaps \$65,000 may be cut this year. He also added that their total budget is down \$120,000 from a couple of years ago, their contract year is March 1 - February 28, that the online composting class, including the \$4,000 sponsorship of Norseman Plastics, cost about \$75,000. Nadine asked John the reasons for getting certified and John replied that the professional level of the attendee would be raised and that in some cases, it will enhance the person's earning power (they have these results from a completed survey). John also added that there is an increase in class attendance, as well. Nadine remarked that the class cost is too low. Patti mentioned that a safety class will be held in August or September. Everyone was very receptive to this. In further discussion regarding certification classes, Nadine offered that perhaps Penn State (via Nadine, Rick, Bob Graves and Tom Richards) would coordinate the course and contract with PROP. Rick volunteered to work out the cost, facilities, and in-field training sites. Bob recommended that Patti take this information to Joanne Shafer (Certification Committee Chairman) and Bob Graves to discuss this as a viable option. Bob also gave the directive for Patti, PSU, and Joanne to work this out and perhaps find other funding sources.

Conference & Event Planning Alternate Activities Planning Assistance

Rick Stehouwer stated that there were planning issues and that the Soil Builders Expo was postponed to 2008. A suggestion was made to have extra composting tracts at this year's PROP conference and perhaps have an independent day session at the same time. Rick stated the need to have additional partners, perhaps a different organization behind it, so he spoke with Nora Goldstein and Bob Oberheim (Ag Progress Days) about sponsoring it. Penn State Extension would be an equal player (or a leader, especially if Bob Oberheim is involved). Rick also mentioned partnering with the Mid Atlantic group. The big question would be: Who's going to finance it? John proposed that we put this aside for future discussion and added that additional organics sessions have been added to this year's conference: a compost operator's roundtable, a review of the organics trip to Europe, and an additional roundtable that would profile 2 or 3 southeastern innovative/progressive composters. Patti suggested contacted someone at Columbia Borough regarding their food waste efforts. Bob recommended sending a mailer to past Soil Builders conference attendees urging

them to keep 2008 in mind but to come to the PROP 2007 conference. In further discussion, Carla suggested having a hands-on soil making session that would take place at the time when the soil builders Expo would have been held, September 19 and 20. Rick volunteered to work on this with a committee. Rick stated that he would talk with Bob Oberheim to see if Bob would manage the Expo, how much it would cost, who would be the partners, etc. Rick will talk with Bob O. soon and with Extension to get additional financial backing. He also suggested having the Expo in the spring instead of fall. It was determined that Carla and Rick will organize and plan the Soil Builders hands-on class and get back to the committee with information. There will be a conference call in mid-March to discuss details. Cary then spoke about the Stormwater Management Manual that was being developed by DEP and noted that no change was made between the final document and the draft document. He has emailed them 3 times without any response. John directed him to contact a person in the next level and Dan said that he will find out why no response was given. It was also suggested that a hard copy should be sent via certified mail. In questioning whether or not the document could be changed, Dan said that it could be changed and reissued. Dan will also look into this. John also requested committee members to submit articles to Jill Reigh for the Rottin' News publication as soon as possible. Perhaps an article about the General Permit could be submitted.

Next Meeting Date(s) and Time(s)

Friday 29 June, 10:00am

Thursday 06 September, 10:00am

Tentative Location PS Harrisburg Campus

The meeting then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold
Acting Secretary