

PROP Organics Council

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

10 am – 3 pm

PA-DEP South Central Office

Harrisburg, PA

Attending:

Tim Bollinger, Lehigh County

Larry Holley, PA-DEP

Mike Hnatin,

Amy Cicchillo, PROP

Allen Siberini, Middle Smithfield Materials

Patti Olenick, PA-DEP (“Dirt Diva”)

Jim Bednarski, EnviroGro

John Frederick, PROP

Dan Lapato, PA-DEP

Mike Giuranna, EPA

Phil Guenzer, Nutri Soils

Bob Meneses, PA Recycling Markets Center

Loren Martin, Terra-Grow, Inc.

Dave Zwicky, Zwicky Processors

Warren Weaver, PA Recycling Markets Center

Bob Bylone, PA Recycling Markets Center

Dan Eichenlaub, AgRecycle, Inc.

Carla Castagnero, AgRecycle, Inc.

Cary Oshins, Lehigh County

Jan Arnold, Blair County Department of

Solid Waste & Recycling

Dan Desmond, PA-DEP

Glenn Caufmann, PSU

Tim Bollinger, chairman, welcomed everyone to the facility. Attendees introduced themselves. An explanation of the PROP Organics Council and its activities was given.

Patti followed with an overview of PA-DEP responsibilities in organics and composting. She distributed a folder containing three information sheets: 1) Special Conditions – General Permit WMGM030, 2) List of Municipal Waste Beneficial Use General Permits (noting permit numbers and their description) which can also be found on the DEP website at www.depweb.state.pa.us/landrecwaste/cwp/view.asp?A=1238&Q=463606, and 3) the PA-DEP Bureau of Waste Management’s administrative flow chart. She then gave an explanation of the General Permit changes for compost facilities. She also brought to our attention that “Each permitted facility operating under this general permit must have a certified compost operator on staff.” PROP’s and DEP’s certification training (“or other DEP approved certification courses”) may be used to accomplish this. In regards to storm water management control plan, Patti said that vegetative filters are permitted. Other discussion followed.

Next, Bob Bylone, Recycling Program Manager of the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center, gave a presentation describing the PRMC whose Executive Director is Warren Weaver. Bob mentioned that PRMC has a 9 member board of directors, 4 ex officio members, is DEP funded through the recycling fund and has partnerships with, among others, PENNTAP, PROP, SBDC, PA-IRC. Its purpose is to help identify markets and support recycling. Future plans include offering their own grants. Their priority materials are organics, plastics, glass, and tires. Paper and aluminum are also considered. More information can be found on their website at www.parmc.org or by calling their office at Penn State Harrisburg at 717-948-6729.

A roundtable discussion followed (DEP panelists – Dan Desmond, Deputy Secretary, Energy & Technology Development; Ken Reisinger, Director, Bureau of Waste Management; Larry Holley, Chief, Division of Waste Minimization & Planning; and Steve Socash, Acting Chief, Division of Municipal & Residual Waste) with the following topics:

- **Incentives for compost use** – statements from the floor included that no one uses compost for highway projects (Patti emphasized that it is important to talk to engineers, landscape architects, etc,

who drew up the specs to see that compost can be included for this use), is it a legislative issue, and where can users find compost (answer: DEP webpage, PROP's Organics webpage, and RMC-GIS).

- **Food waste composting & post-consumer food recovery** – statements made from the floor included: the controversy concerning pre-consumer vs. post-consumer, why aren't we doing more, food processors are land-applying waste, source separated is not pre & post. After a long discussion, a "to do" list was compiled. The list included: PROP to contact the PennDOT environmental group to disseminate information state-wide (i.e. district offices), a DEP AgRecycle bonding meeting, DEP will look at definitions in existing regulations. Recommendations made were: Dan Lapato recommended that Linda Farrell be contacted to find out how close they're getting to have mushroom substrate de-wasted, Dan also said to list "source separated food waste" instead of pre or post consumer waste, Dan & Patti are the contacts for the General Permit renewal and wetland issues, Larry & Dan will meet to work on private/public relationships and bonding issues. Ned also had some concerns and John stated that PROP will write a letter of support for Ned's situation.
- **Compost Infrastructure Grants** – A grant will be announced in December on the DEP web page. At this time, the total amount offered will be \$400,000 with the maximum grant amount being \$200,000.
- **Manufactured Soils Conference** – The event will take place at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College on Wednesday, February 22nd and Thursday, February 23rd, 2006. The Organics Council will have a breakfast meeting prior to Thursday's sessions.

In the discussion that followed:

Cary mentioned that perhaps the Government Relations Committee could make other entities more aware of compost use, the specifications on Erosion Control are being revised (comments are welcome), and it was recommended to call the Central Office for General Permit information. Dan Lapato further explained that a General Permit could be amended. The permit would run for 10 years from the time it was issued by DEP.

Tim asked for a history of the Organics Council so it was deemed appropriate that **Committee Updates** were given:

Education Committee – Cary Oshins, chair, explained the history of the Organics Council (from PACA to PROP's Organics Council). He also stated that the committee has worked with PROP on certification classes and that a Compost Marketing session will be held at the PASA Conference in February.

Marketing Committee – Jim Bednarski, chair, reported on the survey regarding marketing ideas.

Government Committee – Dan Eichenlaub, chair said that his committee interfaces with PROP and DEP regarding organics issues and acts as a government liaison.

Council Meeting

The Organics Council's newsletter "Rottin' News" is in the process of being published. Amy has been the sole source for writing the articles and would appreciate any items of interest, photos, etc., that could be included in the next issue. A sample of the newsletter was distributed.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at the DEP South Central Regional Office Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold
Acting Secretary