

**PROP Organics Committee**  
Tuesday, September 19, 2006  
9 am – 12 pm  
Penn State Harrisburg  
Educational Activities Building, Room 101

**Attending:**

Bob Bylone, PA Recycling Markets Center	Jack Himes, PennTAP
Carl Hursh, PA-DEP	Dan Eichenlaub, AgRecycle, Inc.
Patti Olenick, PA-DEP	Carla Castagnero, AgRecycle, Inc.
Dan Lapato, PA-DEP	Mike Giuranna, EPA
Rick Stehouwer, PSU	John Frederick, PROP
Amy Zuckett, PROP	Jan Arnold, Blair County Department of Solid Waste & Recycling

I. Bob Bylone welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

II. **Approval of last meeting minutes** – Dan Eichenlaub moved that the minutes be approved, John Frederick seconded, and all were in favor.

III. **Regulatory Update, Grants** – Dan Lapato distributed copies of the “Special Conditions Draft General Permit Number WMGR025 Residual/Municipal Waste Composting” for our review. Dan said that he expects this to be published in the PA Bulletin by mid-October and then will await comment for 60 days. He also mentioned that the Regional offices perform all of the reviews. Among items he specifically mentioned are: the metals parameters' numbers are not negotiable (see table 1), compost sample taking must be performed at least once every six months, and the compost pad construction information as detailed in #13 (he also added that this could be clay or lime cement as these will meet the standards: if it's an earthen pad the Department may need ground water monitoring).

In regards to the last grant round, Patti said that 16 applications were received and that 4 were selected. The awardees will probably be announced at the end of October and the next round will follow – usually the next grant round will run from October through March.

IV. **EPA Updates** – Mike Giuranna stated that the recycling goal for the USA was to be 35% by 2008 and that it seems that we're stuck at 30%. Two items that need to be addressed are paper and food waste. The USDA and EPA are working together to increase those numbers. Mike mentioned: that there would be 2 upcoming conferences (one in Beltsville, Maryland, on November 30, and the other with the PA Food Merchants Association), EPA is getting all composters on GIS (there are a total of 455 in PA), and the generators will be next to be tracked. EPA is providing an in-kind grant to the RMC to complete the GIS project work.

V. **Organics – PSATS Training** – Carl Hursh distributed the DEP/PROP/PSATS Organics Recycling workshops list with dates, DEP regions, counties, workshop locations, compost facilities, and municipality locations listed. The workshops will include options for collecting and managing organics, the economics of sustainable programs, benefits of multi-municipal cooperation, and the growing arena of food composting in Pennsylvania. Workshops will begin at 9 am and go to noon, followed by lunch, then from 1 to 2 pm will be a tour of the facility. Carl is looking for people to help with this program. He added that any municipal person is invited to attend and that the workshops will be .5 CEUs so recyclers will also be invited.

VI. **Tasks of the Committee** – Bob Bylone and Patti Olenick took the 3 documents (RMC stakeholders report, DEP Task Force Report, and PROP Strategic Plan which also included the Organics Committee Plan) and reviewed the tasks that needed to be done. They condensed their findings into three categories: 1 – what can be done, 2 – pie in the sky items, and 3 – what has been done. Bob wants a list of compost players in PA (organizations, food service, markets, Conservation Districts and Watershed groups, etc.)

VII. **List Development** – Bob Bylone spoke about the need to raise awareness and this committee’s involvement to develop a list to learn what to work on, how to work on it, and who will work on it. Patti will email the list to everyone and we are invited to contact her or Bob via email or phone if we’d be interested in assisting them. Bob hopes to hear from everyone by November 15. We are also invited to send our lists of contact people to them.

VIII. **Conference Update** – Rick Stehouwer said that the conference will be called the “Northeast Soil Builders Conference and Equipment Demo.” It will be a combined conference and equipment demonstration opportunity that will focus on energy, equipment, and efficiency. The conference will be held September 20 – 21, 2007. He also stated that: they would like to have 200 – 300 attendees, they will be inviting out of state people and businesses, and that they will be meeting with Lancaster Farming representatives after today’s morning meeting to discuss their involvement with the conference preliminaries. The next conference call for this committee is Thursday, October 12, at 1:30 pm. Please contact Rick if you would be interested in helping with the preparations of this conference.

IX. **Evaluate use of focus teams** – The list of those in charge of the committees are: Regulatory/Legislative Interaction – Dan Eichenlaub, Education – Cary Oshins/Patti Olenick, Materials Marketing – Jim Bednarski, Public Relations - ?, Conference – Rick Stehouwer, List Management – Bob Bylone. These small groups can still continue to work on any outstanding projects as well as future projects. In regards to the “Rottin’ News” newsletter, Jan asked if it would be acceptable for the newsletter to now be included in PROP’s newsletter, “The Proponent” in order to show singularity of membership and to save money and trees. All were in favor.

X. **Future Committee Meetings & Structure** – Bob Bylone said that this will be decided at a later date. John Frederick mentioned that better participation is possible with a speaker. Bob will take this into consideration. He also stated that our next meeting will be held February 20 or 27, at 10 am, at this same location, Penn State Harrisburg. He will be in touch with us regarding the finalized date.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch followed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold  
Acting Secretary