

PROP Organics Council
Tuesday, April 19, 2005
10 am – 3 pm
Lycoming County Resource Management Services

Those in attendance were:

Amy Cicchillo, PROP
Don Bryson, Lycoming County
Tom Murphy, PSU
Patti Olenick, DEP
Jim Bednarski, EnviroGro
John Frederick, PROP
Mike Hnatin, Lycoming County
Dave Shimmel, DEP/OETD

Nadine Davitt, PSU
John Yingling, Lycoming County
Dan Eichenlaub, AgRecycle, Inc
Steve Tucker, Lycoming County
Mike Giuranna, EPA
Jan Arnold, Blair County
Jim Young, DEP/OETD

Nadine thanked Lycoming County for hosting this meeting.

Following the agenda items:

EVENT UPDATES

The Manufactured Soils Conference will be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College on Tuesday, February 21st and Wednesday, February 22nd, 2006. Bob Graves is working on this event and Nadine asked that council members contact her regarding what they think Pennsylvania manufacturers and users of these soils want to learn. Patti Olenick also recommended contacting the Pennsylvania Professional Soil Scientists for their input.

John Frederick stated that last year's conference made about \$200 or \$300, factoring in labor costs, it cost the organization but it is the beginning. He went on to say that it is very important to attract more people to the upcoming event and that using the Ramada will be economical. He added that a 20% increase in registrants will also add to funds. Dan Eichenlaub suggested having users one day and the manufacturers the next. This will be considered.

The 2005 PROP Conference is scheduled for July 27, 28, and 29 at the Penn Stater in State College. The conference brochure was distributed and everyone was urged to attend. Of course, special attention was given to the many and varied organics sessions.

Dan Eichenlaub asked about sending a mailing informing people that they are on the list and to ask them to inform PROP of any changes. Also requested was to have a button put on the page asking why they came to show if they are an organics professional or not. Amy Cicchillo said that the Organics Commodity

site page is being built and invited anyone interested in helping with this to contact her to provide input.

PROP Outreach includes the organics web site composting information. Douglas Orner, Electronic Outreach Coordinator, has requested members' updates regarding changes, news, etc. John added that the Compost web site has the highest hits of all the other topics on PROP's web pages. Nadine inquired if there are certain sites that people are viewing and Amy said that she will check with Doug and send a statistical sheet on the hits with these minutes. John Frederick distributed a draft copy of "The Rottin' News," PROP's new composting and organics newsletter. A copy of the West Nile Virus fact sheet will also be included with this newsletter's mailing. John added that PROP's organics classes are attended by 350 of the 450 PROP members.

Mike Giuranna mentioned that the Byproducts Beneficial Use Summit, sponsored by Waste News and US-EPA, will be held November 29th and 30th at the Windham Plaza in Philadelphia. Industry and state people from the East Coast are invited to attend. Contact Mike if you have any questions.

Committee Updates

Marketing Committee – Jim Bednarski, chair, reported on the conference call on February 3 that was conducted to brainstorm ideas on markets. The top three points were: 1) Look for and use strategic inflection points that will allow us to achieve maximum leverage with minimum effort, 2) Develop list of market segments with potential customers for compost and identify the values that would cause them to select one soil amendment instead of another, and 3) Work directly with DEP and help them understand how they can help.

Government Committee – Dan Eichenlaub, chair said that his committee had a conference call and that PROP authored a letter that included input from this group regarding organics concerns and the changes to DEPs regulations. Their next conference call is in June.

John Frederick mentioned that PROP's Legislative Day will be held on May 10 and invited us to participate. He said that it would be very beneficial to composters to help legislators understand the benefits of organics: environmentally, monetarily, etc. PROP is providing each legislator with a lunch bag (made of recycled PET plastic) that will be filled with locally produced goods.

Council Issues

Nadine Davitt's term has expired and a new council chair was named at this meeting. Dan Eichenlaub made the motion to elect Tim Bollinger, Operations Manager, Lehigh County Compost Facility, as the new council chair. All were in favor.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20. Dan Eichenlaub will talk with his committee to arrange a meeting in Harrisburg at the Rachel Carson Building.

Other Items

John Frederick asked that we inform him of special services providers (mobile tub grinder and screening operations) so that a list could be compiled.

Dan Eichenlaub asked about any additional compost training and Amy replied that the basic composting class, "Composting: The Practical Science" is scheduled for June 21 – 22. There will be a composting marketing class at PASA and several organics sessions at the PROP conference in July. Various organics classes are being arranged for 2006.

Following the meeting, a fascinating presentation by Dr. Tom DiStephano of Bucknell University and Michael Hnatin, LCRMS, was given on the Green Technology Project (Anaerobic Biodegradation of Food Processing and Site-Reduced Municipal Solid Waste).

Afterwards, we were given a tour of the Lycoming County Facility that included the landfill operations, clean wood processing, and the recycling center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Arnold
Acting Secretary