

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Solid Waste Working Group

Karen Ebel, Chair

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Minutes of February 23, 2024
Solid Waste Working Group (SWWG)
NRRA Office
2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH 03234

Members Present: Chair Karen Ebel, Sen. Howard Pearl, Reagan Bissonnette, Greg Leahey, Freda Paris, Ben Piche, Steve Poggi, Eric Steinhauser, Duncan Watson, Michael Wimsatt

Members Present Remotely¹: Rep. Judy Aron, Adam Clark, Erica Douglas, Mark Laliberte, Josh Whipple

Members Not Present: Megan Fontes, Matt Hughes, Colin Kelly, Jim Malley

Call to Order/Introduction

Reagan Bissonnette called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and gave a short overview of resources available on the NRRA website. Chair Ebel was delayed due to bad weather.

Approval of Minutes

Duncan Watson made a motion to accept the December 1, 2023, minutes. Reagan Bissonnette seconded. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Presentation on Recycling at Advanced Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)

Rob Watson from [Upland Road, LLC](#) gave a presentation about Sustainable Materials and Advanced Recovery Technology (SMART) Centers that mechanically separate mixed waste.

- Business model co-locates processing facilities on the same campus to reduce the need for shipping out materials. Keeps jobs local. Onsite combined heat and power system.
- Some U.S sites have been identified and technology has been proven successful but there are no existing SMART Centers in the country.
- Examples of technology use: Mixed Waste Processing Centers in Spain
 - Expansions to process packaging waste, glass, organics, plastics.
 - Approximately 90% of materials recovered. Contamination is not an issue.
 - With AI technology, facilities can perform a waste characterization every day as material comes in.
 - Can process hard-to-recycle materials (i.e. – diapers).
- Cost effectively accepts materials from residential, commercial, and industrial sources.
- Minimum level facility (only sorting and wet-organic processing) = 40 acre parcel.

¹ Remote attendance necessary due to logistical considerations.

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- To add paper recycling = 70-90 acre parcel which includes landscaping, buffers, parking, etc.
- Timeframe to break ground and open a facility depends on regulatory process. Estimated a minimum of 3 years and then another year if adding paper recycling.

NHDES Update

Director Mike Wimsatt reviewed NHDES work related to implementing 2022 SWMP:

UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

- State waste characterization study contract was approved by G&C for \$295,500.
 - NHDES has a kick-off meeting with *MSW Consultants* on March 7th.
- Waiting on internal processes before posting the temporary (3-year) job position to help implement the SWIFR grant.
- Tracking 15 bills related to solid waste. Attending hearings. Providing testimony.

NEW ACTIVITIES

- Working with NHDES Air Resource Division to include solid waste in their Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due March 1st.
 - Pre-requisite to apply for [EPA CPRG Implementation Grant](#) due April 1st.
 - Projects focus on food waste diversion and recycling.
- Past/future [Solid Waste Operator Trainings \(SWOT\)](#) on facility operating plans, town waste management decisions, and food waste management.

Director Wimsatt also shared that draft Env-Sw 800 (landfill siting) rules were presented to the Waste Management Council. The Council provided detailed feedback.

Legislative Updates

To read specific bill language and amendments, search for the bill number on the [New Hampshire General Court website](#).

Chair Ebel shared updates on the following House bills:

- [HB 1371](#) – with Municipal & County Government Committee.
- [HB 1386](#) – amended, recommended OTP by Environment & Agriculture (E&A) Committee, put on House consent calendar.
- [HB 1490](#) – recommended OTP by E&A, put on the consent calendar.
- [HB 1636](#) – sent to interim study by Commerce Committee.
- [HB 1649](#) – passed the House floor unanimously. Bill now goes to Finance Committee.

Rep. Aron provided updates as Chair of the House E&A Committee:

- [HB 1132](#) – voted ITL. NH's brownfield sites are not ideal locations for a landfill but there could still be a better use for the sites (i.e., recycling centers or solar farm).
- [HB1145](#) – still with the committee.
- [HB 1170](#) – sent to interim study.

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- [HB 1221](#) – being amended by the committee.
- [HB 1376](#) – voted ITL. It would be very difficult to implement.
- [HB 1504](#) – in a subcommittee to determine how to implement in NH. Most likely will be passed with amendment.
- [HB 1620](#) – passed by committee with amendment.
- [HB 1630](#) – voted ITL. The bill was too broad. Need to target EPR with separate pieces of legislation.
- [HB 1632](#) – still with the committee.
- [HB 1681](#) – voted ITL. Needs to be a commerce bill.
- [HB 1687](#) – passed by committee with amendment.

Rep. Aaron and Chair Ebel both thanked NHDES SWMB staff for their active participation in the legislative process (i.e., writing letters of testimony, attending hearings, providing info, etc.)

Topics for future meetings

Focus on EPR – Follow up on [EPR study committee report \(HB 253\)](#). Review information on SWANA website. Find presenter(s) for next meeting(s).

Other suggestions:

- Learn about how we can utilize existing technology to help with diversion.
- Look at landfill monitoring, learn about what happens when there is a problem, etc.
- Research tipping fee issues and revisit legislation to establish a surcharge that can be used to fund planning efforts.

Future meetings, locations, site visits

Chair Ebel proposed the group visit some solid waste facilities that would involve a tour and a shorter meeting discussion. Suggested tours:

- Steve Poggi – WM Turnkey Landfill (Rochester, NH) or MRF (Billerica, MA). Visiting the MRF would require SWWG members to carpool. Spring is best for touring the landfill.
- Greg Leahey – Resource Waste (Epping, NH) processing facility for C&D.
- Duncan Watson – City of Keene Transfer Station as a hub-and-spoke for recyclables.

Next meeting will be March 22nd (9:30 – 11:30am) at NRRRA office. Chair Ebel will find a presenter to talk about EPR.

Member updates

Registration is open for the [NRRRA Annual Recycling Conference \(June 3-4, 2024\)](#). There will be 24 workshops on a wide range of topics.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6060424966844450820>