

TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES

The following is a compilation of charted postings made during the Waste Reduction Task Force meeting dated September 27, 2007, held in the 17th Floor Conference Room of the L&C Tower.

GROUND RULES / NORMS

Don McCain, Task Force facilitator, helped establish the group's meeting ground rules and norms for this and future meetings. They are as follows:

- Start and stop meetings on time
- Task Force members input within limits of the discussion
- 3 minute limit per member to allow everyone an opportunity to speak
- Provide a good analysis and record of meeting events for Task Force and public
- No side bar discussions, these are distracting and interfere with the meeting
- Respect ideas of Task Force members to avoid ridicule and foster discussion by all
- Stay on topic
- Speak loud/restate question or issue

TASK FORCE OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the Task Force to be accomplished during their term of service were discussed, charted and established as follows:

- Develop recommendations for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to update, change, and/or revise the waste reduction goal for the State
- Define methodology to measure the new waste reduction goal
- Develop alternatives to reduce waste

These are the only objectives set forth by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for the Task Force at this time.

ESTABLISHMENT OF WORK GROUPS

Don McCain, then worked with the Task Force to identify key issues and new directions to explore through the use of brainstorming techniques. The results by work group category are as follows:

Work Group -WASTE REDUCTION GOAL and METHODOLOGY

Issues Identified:

- Diversion
- Landfilling is landfilling
- Climate change is a factor
- Make goal equitable between rural/urban, county/municipal, socio-economic
- Costs associated with landfill (total system/processing costs)
- Costs of materials from cradle to grave
- Ten largest counties produce 70% of waste generated
- Landfill bans
- Explore qualitative assessment
- Education
- Explore the quantitative assessments
- Consider all aspects of composting
- Standardize reporting
- Clarify definitions
- Goal should be user friendly and easy to understand and to participate
- How to get the biggest return (on goal)for the dollar invested
- Grants for single stream recycling
- Rural verses urban – need different goals/methods
- Need to know source of waste streams
- Tourism contributes to waste streams – how do we handle?
- Educating the public, staff and policy makers better
- Individual accountability
- Packaging industry
- Ground waster pollution
- Communities around landfills
 - o The social marketing issues relating to landfill public relations
 - o Change the paradigm of public perception
- Incentives to manufacturers for recycled products
 - o Economics of recycling by manufacturers
 - o Development of markets for recycled products
- Accountability put on manufacturers to create markets for the wastes they create
 - o Product stewardship

New Directions Identified:

- Simplify the waste reduction goal
- Determine waste stream analysis
- Benchmark State with successful programs
- Only make counties responsible for controllable waste
- Identify hazardous and toxic waste
- Understand current infrastructure to make economically viable
- Legislative changes on disincentives needed
 - o Bottle bill (better one than has been proposed)
- Require Class III/IV to charge by the ton

- Extend a tipping fee surcharge to Class III/IV landfills
- Single stream recycling
- Influence the packaging industry to change ways

Work Group -PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION

Issues Identified:

- Make everyone responsible
- Extend accountability beyond county to the industry
- Find the “What’s In It For Me” for industry and county
- The role of other government/public entities (military, DOE, universities, etc.)
- Role of non-profits, other state agencies (TDOT, DOC, etc.)
 - o Government agency’s role in diversion of solid waste
- Role of haulers and transporters of solid waste
- Role of landfill operators
- Identify the role and accountability of all stakeholders
- Make waste haulers accountable for reporting
- Enforcement should be balanced and integrated with incentives and disincentives

New Directions Identified:

- Make everyone responsible
- Cities responsible within counties, shared responsibility
- Incentives for partnership with industry

Work Group –GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ROLES

Issues Identified:

- Current status of State
 - o What are the best management practices?
 - o What works?
 - o What does not work?
- What roles and responsibilities do the development districts have verses the municipal solid waste planning regions?
- Who is on the municipal solid waste planning region board?
- County and municipal cooperation and coordination
- Flow of information through all agencies involved
- Incentives

New Directions Identified:

- Develop strategy first, then infrastructure
- Conduct situational analysis to account for differences in local government abilities

Work Group – INFRASTRUCTURE AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Issues Identified:

- Grants for tires running out of money
- Do local government solid waste programs have access to state revolving loan fund?
- Award and reward local governments and programs with funding for achieving goals
- Financial accountability
 - o Total cost accounting
 - o Total cost of entire system (Enterprise fund)
- Allow municipalities to establish solid waste authorities similar to Part 9 Authorities
- Educate those eligible for grants on process and availability
- Educate public leaders on financial and infrastructure issues
- Make priority on these issues and give a sense of urgency

New Directions Identified:

- Conduct situational analysis and develop best management practices
- Review previous grants
 - o What are available?
 - o Which grant gave greatest return on investment?
 - o Look at future verses past performances
 - o Reallocate according to these directions
- Make reporting back part of the grant
 - o What did or didn't work
 - o Past performance
- New or pilot programs for new solid waste programs get grants to help get off the ground
- Address infrastructure needs and short falls
- Identify markets for recycle commodities

Parking Lot –ISSUES RAISED BY TASK FORCE THAT NEED ADDRESSING

As part of the organizational time, Don McCain the facilitator established a “Parking Lot” for ideas that come up during the meeting that may not fit in the current discussion. Post-it pads were handed out and members of the Task Force were encouraged to write ideas down as they come to them and post them on the “Parking Lot” board. The following is a compilation of these quoted issues.

- “Grants based upon some measure of ‘level of difficulty’ For example, a county whose population decreases while industrial waste generation increases, faces greater difficulty meeting a tons/capita goal”
- “Post all documents to be discussed in advance of meeting on website”
- “Post contact information of committee on website along w/ link to allow input from outside community”
- “EJ coordinator” [*Environmental Justice Coordinator*] “should be involved in process!!!”
- “Evaluate present damage to groundwater from landfilling & how to remediate”
- “Focus on (1) C&D Waste (2) Business waste (3) Yard and food waste”
- “Focus this group on waste stream analysis – What is landfilled and how to keep out of landfill”
- “Survey Suggestion: Drop 2, 3,& 4 TN. Waste reduction goal should be based on diversion vs landfill disposal”
- “Documents posted prior to meetings on website for input.”
- “Suggestion Minutes of meeting”
- “Concentrate on 10 largest counties which create 80% of waste”
- “Committee members – include someone from Environmental Justice Coordination”