

Meeting Minutes
Capital Region Solid Waste Management Partnership
SWMP Steering Committee

Date: 9/22/09

Loc: 200 Henry Johnson Blvd.

Time: 4:00PM

CHA Project No.: 19283

Steering Committee:

David Phaff--CANA	Tom Reynolds—NYSDEC
Mike O'Brien--Albany City Council	Bill Bruce--SWMP Committee Chair
Bob Griffin--Allied Waste	Frank Zeoli—City of Albany-PURC
Kurt Larson--NYSOGS	Jim Sano—Albany City Council
Sean Ward--Town of Green Island	Resa Dimino—NYSDEC
Gregg Sagendorph--Town of Bethlehem	

Consultants and Others in Attendance:

Michael Franchini--Albany County	Sharon Fisher—Town of Bethlehem
Ken Gallagher--CHA	Tom Ellis—Citizen
Frank LaVardera--CHA	Aimee Alland—Citizen
Suzanne Christopher--CHA	Julie Elson—Citizen
Meghan Ruby—City of Albany	Mary Ellen Mallia—University of Albany
Joe Giebelhaus—City of Albany	Jeff Edwards—Schenectady County

Introductions were made by each person in attendance.

Last months meeting minutes where accepted.

Scott Christiansen from Enerkem gave a power point presentation about Enerkem's solid waste to biofuels technology. The company was founded in 2000 and is developing commercial scale facilities in Edmonton Canada and in Mississippi. A copy of the power point presentation will be provided so that it can be posted on the SWMP website. Ken Gallagher asked how many tons of MSW is need to make and 100,000 dry tons of their RDF feedstock. Scott indicated that they need 190,000 tons per year to make 100,000 MSW. 10% of their waste does end up in a landfill and 7% of the RDF becomes ash. Ken Gallagher also asked about their tipping fees. Scott indicated that the floor is \$45.00. Ken Gallagher asked when their Edmond facility will be up and running. Scott said 2/4/10 construction begins, and 2011 they will be on-line. Jeff Edwards asked if waste flow control could be applied to a facility which was not publicly owned. Scott indicated that Enerkem likes to locate their facility inside the public facility or landfill site, and pointed out that the Enerkem facility needs to accept an RDF product, which could be produced at a publicly owned facility. Bob Griffin asked what the difference between the modular units is. Scott indicated that one modular unit would need 15 acres of land, and a 5 modular units would need 40 arecas of land.

Dave Phaff asked if an existing Landfill could be recycled by using a solid waste facility to process the waste and recover materials or energy. Tom Reynolds of the NYSDEC indicated that this had been evaluated in pilot projects at several old landfills but in his opinion, it was not cost effective, in part because of precautions that had to be taken because of the presence of asbestos and medical waste. Scott Christiansen also noted that excavating waste from an old landfill was not a preferred feedstock for the Enerkem process.

Ken Gallagher handed out a Summary of the site visit to Delaware County Co-composting facility that was taken on 9/2/09. (this will also be placed on the web site) They operate with no tipping fee. They are funded thru a sales tax and a received a grant to offset part of their capital cost. The operating cost is about \$55 a ton, not including debt service. Residue from the process goes to the adjacent landfill and represents nearly 60% of the incoming MSW.

Ken Gallagher reviewed the criteria that are being used to evaluate the Alternative Implementation Scenarios and noted that he expected to have the results of the evaluation distributed to the committee in advance of the next meeting. These criteria include cost, facility sizing, financial risk, time to implement, effectiveness in meeting the goals and objectives of the SWMP, environmental impacts, and impacts on neighboring jurisdictions. Several members of the committee expressed concern that about whether it was premature to select the elements of a preferred regional solution without getting consensus from the adjacent planning units. Frank LaVardera explained that if the SWMP process resulted in the selection of a regional solution, these results could be used as the basis for forging the regional participation that would be needed to implement a regional approach.

There was no old business to discuss.

There was no new business to discuss.

Tom Ellis asked if flow control were in place would that make people recycle. Bill Bruce said yes, the authority tipping fees would fund recycling programs and education, etc. Resa Dimino added that with flow control although you achieve great benefits you still need continuing evaluation.

The next meeting was scheduled for October 20, at 4PM at 200 Henry Johnson Blvd.