

Solid Waste Committee

Meeting Notes – July 14, 2010
Stony Kill Farm EEC, Wappingers Falls

Present:

Mike Bemis	Ulster County RRA
Ken Brezner	NYS DEC
Bill Calogero	Dutchess County RRA
John Crews	Hudson Valley Regional Council
Bill Cutler	Sullivan County Solid Waste
Sarah Garvan	Westchester Dept. of Environmental Facilities
Michelle Leggett	Ulster County RRA
Rob Morris	Putnam County Health Department
Mary Rice	Putnam County Health Department
Kerri Scales	Rockland County SWMA

I. **Welcome and Introductions:**

Chairman Ritchie was unable to attend; John Crews acted as Chairman.

II. **Single-Stream Discussion:**

After discussion concerning the subject of Single Stream vs, Dual Stream Recycling Flow, it was concluded that "we" individually and collectively do not have enough information relative to the overall economics--product quality, workload, etc, benefits (or advantages/disadvantages)--of the two processes and that there is not enough factual information or data to support a "what's best" conclusion. The group decided, therefore, to develop a list of questions to pose to the waste stream operators in the form of a survey from the HVRC Solid Waste Committee.

Action Plan:

The action plan is to construct a survey instrument as follows:

- a) Respond to an e-mail (jcrews@hvi.net), which HVRC will distribute, with a list of questions you would pose to learn more and to gather the information and data needed to do an appropriate cost-benefit analysis contrasting the two methods;
- b) Forward your questions to HVRC no later than 7/30/2010;
- c) HVRC will consolidate and format the questions into a DRAFT survey by 8/16/2010 and distribute it back to the committee members for editing and comments;
- d) The survey instrument will be discussed and finalized at the next SW Committee Meeting on 9/8/2010, and a list of the operators to distribute the survey to for a response will be developed.

III. County Roundtable Briefings:

Dutchess County: Bill informed the group that Royal Carting is going to conduct a “pilot” Single Stream pick-up in a designated “high-end” neighborhood for a specific time and then conduct an evaluation. There is a possibility they will follow with another study in a “marginal” neighborhood in order to obtain more information and conduct another evaluation.

Orange County: Was not represented.

Putnam County: Mary Rice told the group that single stream collections were being done in Cold Spring.

Rockland County: Kerri Scales reported their “flow control” continues to be successful.

Sullivan County: Bill Cutler reported Sullivan has distributed two RFPs for single-stream collection bids. The concern he expressed is the difficulty in dealing with “marginal material,” that is contaminated materials, low market value commodities, etc.

He also informed the group that his operation conducted a fundraiser with the 4H organization and collected some 49 thousand pounds of electronics, raising close to \$9,000 for the 4H Club in Sullivan County.

Ulster County: Mike said County Waste is distributing 130 thousand single-stream collection containers to its customers. They are also running “promos” on the local radio stations promoting “single stream” and using it as a ‘come-on.’ Mike also mentioned his concern about the impact single stream recycling will have on the quality of recycling material.

Westchester County: Sarah reported that Westchester has four collection events remaining this year and that their last collection event resulted in 29 tons of material being collected.

NYSDEC: Kenneth Brezner noted that he thought the action plan to conduct a survey to obtain more information on “single stream collection” was sound and that DEC will participate and support the effort.

IV. Regional Composting Initiative:

John Crews reported that, based upon e-mail exchanges with Pete Hammond (who was unable to attend the meeting), Pete indicates that he has met with his County Planning Dept and the grant writers, and they have already started the application process for the HUD/DOT grant, working in conjunction with Ulster and Dutchess Counties. He also states he is “going to try to incorporate the regional food waste composting project into this application.” Pete also indicated he will be distributing a “synopsis” of the plan as soon as he is able to prepare it.

V. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is of scheduled for **Wednesday, September 8th at 9:30 a.m.** at the NYSDEC Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center, Wappingers Falls.

VI. Adjournment