

The New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

November 18, 2013

To: Members and Prospective Members of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network

From: Steven Rinaldi, Chair
New Jersey WasteWise Business Network
NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning

Subject: Minutes from the Network meeting of November 13, 2013

Minutes:

Welcome –Network Chair Steve Rinaldi (Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us) welcomed everyone and introduced Margaret Kevin-King (mking@pppl.gov) of the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, who has agreed to serve as the Network’s “National WasteWise Advisor.” In this role, Margaret will be available to help Network members who have a question or need information about the national program. Furthermore, Margaret will keep the Network updated on the activities of the national program. Steve also mentioned that he would like to add more case studies to the “The Economic Benefits of Recycling – WasteWise Case Studies from the Private and Public Sectors” report that was first issued earlier this year. An email will be sent out in regard to this matter sometime soon. In addition, it was reported that the 132 people registered for the meeting - an all-time high.

- 1. Hurricane Sandy’s Impact on Solid Waste Management in New Jersey** – Guy Watson, Chief, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Recycling and Planning (Guy.Watson@dep.state.nj.us) - Mr. Watson discussed the efforts made over the past year to properly manage the incredible amount of debris (vegetative and demolition) generated by this storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimated that 10,000,000 cubic yards of debris was deposited in just the roadways and waterways of New Jersey as a result of Hurricane Sandy. This figure does not take into consideration the debris that would later be generated by the demolition of buildings. Mr. Watson indicated that 4.5 million cubic yards of vegetative waste (trees, branches, stumps) was generated by this one storm, which is the amount typically generated over a year and a half’s time. In order to deal with this crisis and help speed up cleanup efforts, the Department relaxed certain solid waste rules so that solid waste disposal and recycling facilities could operate 24 hours per day and seven days per week. In addition, the Department approved capacity increases at these facilities in an expedited manner. The NJDEP also relaxed some of the transporter requirements during this period to ensure that enough trucks were available to help with the post-storm cleanup. Furthermore, the Department quickly

approved 326 Temporary Debris Management Areas (TDMAs) throughout the state so that municipalities would have a location to temporarily store debris from the storm. A major initiative was also undertaken to remove debris from the State's waterways. Many other steps were taken by the Department to facilitate the cleanup efforts and provide oversight so that waste was managed properly. Among other measures, Mr. Watson indicated that the NJDEP is developing a Debris Management Planning Toolkit for municipalities and revising the Statewide Debris Management Plan in order to better plan for the future. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

- 2. The ABCs of Reusable Transport Packaging** – Jerry Welcome, President, Reusable Packaging Association - Mr. Welcome stated that the Reusable Packaging Association was formed in 2007 and its mission is to promote reusable packaging systems, including reusable transport packaging. Examples of reusable transport packaging are plastic pallets, containers, wraps, bands and dunnage. Mr. Welcome indicated that a reusable packaging product or system will have the following characteristics:

Typically never disposed of by the user;

Used in a component or finished goods movement system or raw material supply chain;

It is used in a reusable pool of like products, within an open loop pooling system or closed loop pooling system;

Long lasting, sufficiently rigid, and highly durable in its construction such that it will function in its original condition for multiple trips, in all weather conditions, under maximum capacity load conditions, without product failure;

Lifetime is measured in years; and

Has a demonstrated history or generally accepted potential to qualify as a source reduction, solid waste elimination reusable system.

There are environmental, financial and health and safety benefits associated with reusable transport packaging. Using reusable materials is a form of source reduction and thus will result in less waste generation and disposal. This in turn conserves resources, saves energy, reduces pollution and results in the generation of fewer greenhouse gases. On the financial side, this practice will reduce operating expenses and ultimately result in greater revenue for the company utilizing this strategy. In terms of health and safety, the use of reusable transport packaging has been shown to reduce work related injuries resulting from bending and lifting, among other things. The Reusable Packaging Association and StopWaste.org have developed a costing model to help organizations evaluate the cost of switching from expendable to reusable packaging. This information is available at <http://usereusables.com/cost/cctool.html> or <http://reusables.org/library/calculators>. The website for the Reusable Packaging Association is <http://reusables.org/>. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

- 3. Case Study: McCaffrey's Princeton...A Supermarket and a Super Recycler!** – Steve Carney, Store Manager, McCaffrey's Princeton – McCaffrey's currently operates four stores in the area and hopes to maximize value at each location. One way to do this is to reduce disposal costs through waste reduction and an enhanced recycling program. Employees were trained for three months about the various "green" initiatives prior to the start-up of the store's waste reduction and recycling program. The program focuses

on all aspects of the operation, including purchasing and inventory control and features bag and film recycling, food donation, food waste recycling and single stream recycling programs. Through its bag and film recycling program, McCaffrey's now recycles 50 tons of plastic bags per year. In addition, the company promotes the use of reusable bags through a rebate initiative. The latter effort has enabled the company to significantly reduce its purchase of plastic bags. The company's food donation program has also been a big success. McCaffrey's now works with seven different food banks that pick up leftover food and produce on a daily basis. Mr. Carney noted that before this program was started, all of the leftover food and produce went into the trash. Food waste generated by the store is now recycled through a facility in Delaware. This program has reduced the company's waste stream by 45%. Furthermore, the company's single stream recycling program for other materials has also been a success. These initiatives have enabled McCaffrey's Princeton to reduce the number of pickups of trash from the store. In fact, McCaffrey's was able to go from three trash dumpster collections per week to one trash dumpster collection every two weeks. This has reduced the company's waste disposal costs and has benefitted the environment. McCaffrey's continues to remind its employees of the program through educational posters and other means. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

4. **National Computer and Electronics Recycling Update** – Jason Linnell, Executive Director, National Center for Electronics Recycling – Mr. Linnell stated that New Jersey is one of the 25 states in the U.S. with an electronic waste (e-waste) recycling law in place. These 25 states encompass 2/3 of the U.S. population. The electronic products addressed in these laws vary from state to state, as do other provisions, such as the inclusion of landfill bans, the financing mechanisms utilized and access to the free recycling systems being implemented. The use of “market share” versus “return share” for determining a manufacturer's recycling obligation also varies from state to state. Mr. Linnell indicated that there are several key issues affecting e-waste recycling nationwide and are as follows:

There are new products challenging the definitions found in state laws – for example, how are e-readers and GPS units, among other newer products, to be handled?

The push and pull of targets – regulators want results and targets met, recyclers want more and more material passing through their facilities and manufacturers want compliance, but may not want to continue recycling once their recycling target has been reached – how do you handle this situation?

Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) management – there are fewer and fewer end users of CRT glass in the marketplace and so CRTs are starting to be stockpiled throughout the country – what is to be done with this material?

Collection issues – scavenging of e-waste placed at the curb for collection has created a new problem as scavengers remove the valuable components from the devices.

Mr. Linnell also mentioned that the National Center for Electronics Recycling and the Northeast Recycling Council launched the Electronics Recycling Coordination Clearinghouse (ERCC) in 2010 to work with states and impacted stakeholders to address

these and other issues. Among other plans, the ERCC will be issuing a Best Management Practices document for e-waste collection sites. Lastly, Mr. Linnell indicated that the adoption of a national e-waste recycling law is unlikely. An attempt was made about a decade ago to no avail and so he does not see this as an upcoming issue. (PowerPoint to be made available at www.anjr.com.)

The following is the list of attendees for the 11/13/13 meeting;

Speakers:

Steve Rinaldi, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, Steven.Rinaldi@dep.state.nj.us
Guy Watson, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, Guy.Watson@dep.state.nj.us
Jerry Welcome, Reusable Packaging Association, jerry.welcome@gmail.com
Steve Carney, McCaffrey's Princeton, steve.carney@mccaffreys.com
Jason Linnell, National Center for Electronics Recycling, jlinnell@electronicsrecycling.org

Attendees:

Doug Andresen, Township of Branchburg, doug.andresen@branchburg.nj.us
Ken Armellino, Covanta Energy Corporation, KArmellino@CovantaEnergy.com
Eric Babek, NJ Turnpike Authority, babek@turnpike.state.nj.us
Richard Baroch, Bergen County Utilities Authority, rbaroch@bcua.org
Tina Beakley, South Jersey Healthcare, BeakleyT@SJHS.com
John Bennevich, Subcontractor with the NJ Civil Service Commission, jbennevich@att.net
Angela Bonanno-Lynch, Bergen County Utilities Authority, abonanno-lynch@bcua.org
Gabrielle Bové, Anything IT, gabrielleb@anythingit.com
Kathi Bragdon, Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., kathi_bragdon@merck.com
Carol M. Broccoli, Rutgers University -Office of Continuing Professional Education, broccoli@NJAES.Rutgers.edu
Jeffery Bryk, Waste Management, jbryk@wm.com
Jeffrey P. Caldwell, New Jersey American Water, Jeff.Caldwell@amwater.com
Rich Campanelli, Township of River Vale, dpw@rivervalenj.org
Pedro Carrasco, Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, pedro.carrasco@hyatt.com
Patrick Casey, Ravitz Family Markets/Wakefern, pat.casey@wakefern.com
Steve Changaris, National Solid Waste Management Association, schangaris@nswma.org
Charles Chiovitti, Township of Union, cchiovitti@uniontownship.com
George Crea, Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, george.crea@hyatt.com
Roseanne Crisafi, Bergen Community College, rcrisafi@bergen.edu
Raymond Cywinski, United Water, Ray.Cywinski@UnitedWater.com
Michael Damato, ImClone Systems, michael.damato@imclone.com
Doreen Danner, Township of Branchburg, doreen.danner@branchburg.nj.us
Nancy Dennion, Burlington Coat Factory, Nancy.Dennion@coat.com
Jim DiSantis, PSE&G, James.DiSantis@pseg.com
Susan Dorward, Raritan Valley Community College, sdorward@raritanval.edu
Al Du Bois, City of Clifton, adubois@cliftonnj.org

Tom Elder, Township of Ewing, telder@ewingnj.org
James M. Entwistle, Newtech Recycling, jim@newtechrecycling.com
Aleta Finney, PHI-Atlantic City Electric, alfinney@pepcoholdings.com
Albert Fisher, PSE&G, Albert.Fisher@pseg.com
John Flanagan, Township of Morris, jflanagan@Morristwp.com
Sondra Flite, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, Sondra.Flite@dep.state.nj.us
Pernilla Frisk, The Monarco Group, pfrisk@monarcogroup.com
Kevin Gashlin, U.S. Army Reserves 99th Regional Support Command,
kevin.f.gashlin.civ@mail.mil
David Gavura, McCarter & English, LLP, dgavura@mccarter.com
Joann Gemenden, Union County Recycling Office, jgemenden@ucnj.org
Richard Gesumaria, Covanta 4Recovery L.P., RGesumaria@CovantaEnergy.com
Marilyn Gettinger, New Directions Consulting Group, mgettinger@aol.com
Lucas Gillman, Anything IT, lucasg@anythingIT.com
Sissy Grusemeyer, Inspira Health Center Bridgeton, GrusemeyerS2@ihn.org
Richard Guindon, Anheuser-Busch, richard.guindon@anheuser-busch.com
Michael Halady, SBM Site Services, mhalady@sbscorp.com
Howard Halverson, The Valley Hospital, hhalver@valleyhealth.com
Lisa Hamilton, NJ Natural Gas Company, LHamilton@NJNG.com
Priscilla Hayes, Littlebrook and Community Park Schools in Princeton,
priscilla.ellen.hayes@gmail.com
Paul Holstein, Hyatt Regency New Brunswick, paul.holstein@hyatt.com
Mark Hughes, Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, mhughes@pppl.com
Jamie Hutson, Greased Lightning/Unity Fuels, jamie@unityfuels.com
Mario Ianiero, Complete Recycling Solutions, mIaniero@crsrecycle.com
Knud Jacobsen, Mil-tek NJ Recycling and Waste Solutions, kjacobsen@miltekusa.com
Roland Jacobsen, Township of Rochelle Park, rprecycling@gmail.com
Todd Kato, Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC, Todd.Kato@veoliaes.com
Mike Kaufman, Cox Printers, mkaufman@conxprinters.com
Lawrence Kendrick, Toyota Logistics Services, Lawrence_Kendrick@toyota.com
Margaret Kevin-King, Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, mking@pppl.gov
Ted Knapp, AnythingIT, Inc., tedk@anythingit.com
Toni Koenigsberg, AERC Recycling Solutions, tkoenigsberg@aerc.com
Art Koster, City of Hackensack, akoster@hackensackdpw.org
Karen Kritz, NJ Department of Agriculture, karen.kritz@ag.state.nj.us
Ernie Kuhlwein, Ocean County Dept. of Solid Waste Mgt, ekuhlwein@co.ocean.nj.us
Katie Kulenich, New Jersey American Water, Katie.Kulenich@amwater.com
John Lawrence, Miracle Office Solutions, LLC, john@miracleofficesolutions.com
Dana Lawson, NJDEP, Bureau of Recycling and Planning, Dana.Lawson@dep.state.nj.us
Bill Lehman, Waste Management, BLehman@wm.com
Kimberly Lehmann, Panasonic, Kimberly.Lehmann@us.panasonic.com
Pam Lewis, Watchung Environmental Commission, inspirational_air@yahoo.com
Clare Lumkong, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Clare.Lumkong@bms.com
Tom Mantz, Township of Branchburg, tom.mantz@branchburg.nj.us
Frank Marella, MRM Consultant, mrmnj@hotmail.com
Chris Massaro, Monmouth Wire & Computer Recycling, Inc., chris@computerreclamation.com

Jill Mastrobattista, Forbo Flooring, jill.mastrobattista@forbo.com
Dave Matthews, Bristol-Myers Squibb, dave.matthews@bms.com
Gary Matthews, New Jersey American Water, Gary.Matthews@amwater.com
Tom McGeachen Sustainability Consultant, PE, LEED AP O&M, tjm35@njit.edu
Leanna Meyer, Princeton Plasma Physics Lab, lmeyer@pppl.com
Margaret Michalowski, Monmouth County Board of Social Services, m.michalowski@att.net
Larry E. Millner, PSEG Power, Larry.Millner@pseg.com
Dan Moran, Covanta 4Recovery LP, DMoran@CovantaEnergy.com
Tony Mrozak Avatar/Mrozak Energy, tmrozak@mrozakgroup.com
Susan Murray, WasteNot Solutions, smurray@wastenotsolutions.com
Kathleen Musante-Cross, Troemner, LLC, kmusante@troemner.com
James T. Naples, Township of Bridgewater, jnaples@bridgewater.nj.gov
James Nerger, Omega Industries Corp., james.nerger@yahoo.com
Stewart Newman, Monmouth County, stuart.newman@co.monmouth.nj.us
Sarah Jane Noll, Chester Township, sjnoll@chestertownship.org
Greg Pavlic, Township of Parsippany, gpavlic@parsippany.net
Fred Petrone, Atlantic Coast Fibers, fred.petrone@atlanticcoastfibers.com
Robert Pierson, Borough of Upper Saddle River, DPW@usrtoday.org
Cliff Pietrucha, Township of Union, cpietrucha@uniontownship.com
Robert Pisko, Borough of Teterboro, rp161@teterboronj.org
Diane Polifronio, City of Paterson, dhpesq1@aol.com
Ted Pytlar, D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C., tpytlar@db-eng.com
Ruth Rees, Borough of Mountainside, reesr@mountainside-nj.com
Paul Ritchie, Borough of Carlstadt, bigyellowhead@verizon.net
James Rodino, Borough of North Plainfield, JRODINO@NPMAIL.ORG
Denise Ross, Bergen County Utilities Authority, dross@bcua.org
Gray Russell, Township of Montclair, grussell@montclairnjusa.org
Ed Russick, GTI and the Township of Denville, erussick@gti-e.com
Gordon Sabol, Waste Management, gsabol1@wm.com +1
Kyle San Giovanni, University Hospital, sangiova@uhnj.org
Nick Saros, Borough of Teterboro, Nsaros@Teterboronj.org
John Scarpiello, Veolia ES Technical Solutions, john.scarpiello@veoliaes.com
Lisamarie Schieli, Borough of Maywood, maywoodrecycles@yahoo.com
Jean Sedilo, Honeywell International, Jean.Sedilo@Honeywell.com
Nina Seiden, Passaic County Recycling Office, NinaS@passaiccountynj.org
Erik Sibbesen, Mil-tek NJ Recycling and Waste Solutions, esibbesen@miltekusa.com
David Sliker, Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Mgt.,
David.Sliker@co.middlesex.nj.us
Jon Francis Snyder, Environmental Service Management Group, Inc., j.snyder@esmg.com
Oren Solon, Ocean County Solid Waste Management, osolon@co.ocean.nj.us
Ellen Speace, US Army Reserve 99th Regional Support Command DPW ENV,
ellen.speace.ctr@mail.mil
Fred Stanger, Middlesex County Division of Solid Waste Mgt.,
Fred.Stanger@co.middlesex.nj.us
Victor P. Stevens, Township of Franklin, Victor.Stevens@twp.franklin.nj.us
LaCola Stewart, Toyota Logistics Services, LaCola_Stewart@toyota.com

David Stires, Township of West Milford, recycling@westmilford.org
David Sutton, Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training, david.a.sutton@lmco.com
Kyle Tafuri, Hackensack University Medical Center, KTafuri@hackensackumc.org
Pete Tindall, Homasote Company, ptindall@homasote.com
Jo-Ann Tamasco, Toyota Logistics Services, JoAnn_Tamasco@toyota.com
Steve Tangorra, Toyota Logistics Services, Steve_Tangorra@toyota.com
Stephen Tyksinski, Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Training,
stephen.p.tyksinski@lmco.com
Mark Vangieri, Bergen County Utilities Authority, mvangieri@bcua.org
Christine Vidal, Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority, cvidal@co.morris.nj.us
Stubby Warmbold, Metro Wood Group, maria@metrowoodgroup.com
Will Warmbold, Metro Wood Group, maria@metrowoodgroup.com
Doug Wertz, The Monarco Group,
Gary Wohler, PSE&G, gary.wohler@pseg.com
Alex Yaworsky, EMEX Power, ayaworsky@gmail.com
Alan Yoss, Laser Save, ayoss@lasersave.com
John Zoller, Shiseido America, Inc., JZoller@sai.shiseido.com
Eva Zouras, edzouras@hotmail.com

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