

## **Regional Composting Working Group Minutes**

### **Thursday August 5, 2021**

#### **Members present:**

Maggie Morrison (ORCSD)  
Chuck Cox (Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee)  
Dean Rubine (Lee Sustainability Advisory Committee)  
Chloe Gross (UNH Sustainability Institute)  
Jenn Andrews (UNH Sustainability Institute)

#### **Members absent:**

Nell Neal (Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee)  
Evy Ashburner (ORCSD)  
Mary Caulfield (Durham Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee)

**Public Present:** N/A

**Call to order:** 4:07pm

#### **O. Agenda**

Added Chloe presentation, Kwoka letter, Maggie website report, Jen.

#### **I. Approval of minutes from June 17, 2021, July 8, 2021**

Jen moved, Maggie 2nd, June 17 minutes approved 5-0 as amended.

Maggie moved, Jen 2nd, July 8 minutes approved 5-0 as amended.

#### **II. Public comment** N/A

#### **III. Updates**

Maggie: I talked to Todd Selig, Durham Town Administrator. Durham has a sustainability fellow who's working on the "Sustainable Durham" website. Oyster River has similar problems with the public not knowing what we're doing; information is buried on the websites. I asked if we could make it "Sustainability Durham and Oyster River." That could also link into what Lee's doing, the LSC, Lee initiatives. There's so much that Oyster River is doing. Even though we're following the rules, folks can't find the link to our minutes on Lee's website. Hopefully Sustainability Durham will solve that.

Dean: The LSC got a note from the Middle School architects, asking if we had ideas to include in a mural for the school about the sustainability history in the towns.

Dean: I got a letter from State Senator Kwoka. I had a long discussion with her about municipal compost when Senator Kwoka was running for the vacated Fuller-Clark seat. In the letter she states that the updated municipal compost rules will be completed by the end of September. [Committee reviewed letter, which is included at the end of the minutes below.]

Maggie: This begs the question whether Lee LSC or Durham IWMAC could be bringing attention to the lack of funding for the NHDES. Mike Nork talked about it. It's an advocacy action item for each of the town committees. I'll suggest it to Nell when I see her. I don't know if UNH wants to put muscle into the game, perhaps as a strategic partner.

### **Chloe Presentation**

Jenn: Chloe's apprenticeship rapidly coming to a close. There's a plan for Chloe to continue on as an intern over the semester. She put together a summative document, what we've been up to, why, data collected, etc. She has a written report and this slide deck; let's get RCWG's take on the data.

[committee commences discussion of Chloe's presentation]

Maggie: Objective on the left tied to my concern. Better RCWG gathers data to make recommendations. Composting is just one small sliver of a larger solution about food waste. Although our name is about composting, I feel that composting is just one part.

Dean: OK, we're in agreement that it's the first part, making recommendations.

Jenn: Framing info on the side Current Systems -- landscape assessment of where we started. Thinking back to the conversation we just had, I wonder if there's benefit to enumerating what programs already exist. Still pretty compost heavy, might want to broaden it a bit.

Maggie: Add Mr. Fox to ORCSD.

Maggie: Should give history before recommendations; too soon for expansion recommendations

Maggie: This could serve as an educational piece; give an overall introduction about the issue of compost, the weight of food, why it needs to be diverted out of the waste stream, it's potential to have more power than being in a landfill.

Chloe: Report structured for RCWG; will be restructured for the public.

Jenn: We shouldn't be introducing results in the introduction.

Jenn: I love the idea of an outreach presentation.

Dean: In my note, MSW refers to landfill and incinerated trash. Sometimes the term MSW includes recycling, all waste.

Maggie: In the introduction, say Lee and Durham send their MSW to Turnkey landfill, Oyster River to EcoMaine, South Portland, an incinerated-trash-to-energy plant. Fascinating tour.

Chloe: Durham has a flat rate contract, \$450 per month, to Mr. Fox. \$162/ton more than MSW.

Maggie: How do we have legitimate data when people have different contracts? Oyster River just has a flat rate, Lee pays per bin.

Jenn: What you do is you start with something that says costs and contracts vary, two ways flat rate vs per bin, compare in introduction. Change “Cost Comparisons” to Current Cost Comparison.

Dean: Durham MSW number probably doesn’t include hauling.

Chloe: I thought Durham DPW said hauling was included.

Jenn: Let’s confirm

Chloe; I need the contract, getting clear on the current system. What education has been done?

Dean: Previous attempts before Mr. Fox; Dean will look into history.

Chuck: We talked about composting for a long time.

Maggie: Each of us do a paragraph on the history of compost in towns, specific costs for MS, including hauling, current contract with Mr. Fox.

Jenn: Still need quantitative data on Oyster River MSW costs.

Chuck: Why is UNH so much higher?

Jenn: Perhaps because the trash is less aggregate, 30 stops per week collection. On the recycling front, so much higher than Durham, not single stream in Durham, UNH is single stream. Premium for sorting, contamination.

Maggie: I wonder, re education, we’re nerds; worry there could be misinterpretation to the public, so many nuances about what is said here.

Jenn: We can show the public easier to digest diagrams.

Maggie: Mr. Fox is in Maine.

Jenn: Their laws are set up to make it easier there.

Jem: It's 5pm; we can continue the presentation next time.

Dean: We got to page 16 or 23. We can read the rest and send comments to Chloe.

Maggie: Chloe sent an email. Ask for history of composting, current contract, who with, flat versus variable rate, what facility MSW is going, that well Nell can follow up.

Chloe: Should I compile a separate slideshow for when the audience is the general public?

Jenn: RCWG are we OK with Chloe wrapping up her summer reports before more additions?

Committee OK.

Everybody sends Chloe thoughts and feedback, Chloe sends out a draft of the written report, people can comment if they want.

Maggie: REAP - Research ....

Jenn: Part of the deliverables for the program is a deliverable report, with an option to present.

Chuck: Certain municipalities are requiring composting, in Massachusetts. What are these regulations, who's doing this, what could it mean?

Jenn: Mass and Vermont ban some food waste.

Maggie: New landfill in NH

## **V. Data Inventory**

N/A

**VI. Deadline for our recommendations: September** N/A

**VII. New Business** N/A

**VIII. Next meeting date: August 19, 2021 4 pm**

Next Meeting August 26, 4pm

## **IX. Adjourn**

Adjourned: 5:10 pm

Attached: Kwoka Letter received August 4, 2021.



## The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

Dean Rubine  
116 High Road,  
Lee, NH 03861

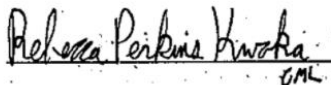
Dean,

Thank you for bringing the delay of NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) issuing rules regarding the composting of meat and dairy to my attention. Since then, I have reached out to Commissioner Robert Scott and DES to understand the delay.

My office spoke with Sarah Yuhas Kirn, an administrator in the Waste Management Division at DES on June 29. She said that DES knows that it is behind in promulgating the rules for composting meat and dairy. HB 413 (2021) set a new deadline for the rules as September 30, 2021. She said that they are working on those rules and have had several stakeholder meetings around a draft of the potential rules. She said that the draft potential rules include allowing permits by notification for smaller facilities as well as not requiring a permit for composting meat and dairy that is produced on-site (such as at UNH or Colby Sawyer). She said that they are planning to send those draft potential rules to their legal team for formatting and review in the near future.

Sarah also said that the delays have been caused by continual underfunding of the Solid Waste Bureau at DES. She said that the Bureau is the only 100% General Fund funded bureau in DES and has had its budget reduced every two years for many budget cycles. She said that 40% of all positions in the Solid Waste Bureau, who would be working on things like the compost rules, are currently vacant. She did say that things are looking up, as HB 1 and HB 2 (2021) included funding for all of the requested positions in the Solid Waste Bureau, however, HB 2 also eliminated two Solid Waste Bureau positions because of how long they had been vacant.

Again, thank you for bringing this issue to my attention. I hope that this information is helpful to you. We will follow up in a couple months to see how the rules have progressed. Please do not hesitate to reach out in the future on this issue or any other if I or my office can be of any assistance.

  
CML

Rebecca Perkins-Kwoka

Cc: Former Senator Martha Fuller Clark

Senate District 21

Respectively submitted,

Dean Rubine