



MINUTES

JOINT MEETING OF THE ESSEX COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL and MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COORDINATORS.

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Garibaldi Hall, Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland

Len Waterman, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by Mr. DeFeo.

Twenty-one Members or Municipal Representatives, one from Essex County Health Dept. and two from DeFeo Associates were present. Also, two members of the public.

The minutes for the November meeting were approved with no changes.

Chairperson's Comments – Mr. Waterman adjusted the agenda to allow the Turnkey Enterprises to make their presentation.

Presentation - Tom Smith from Turnkey Enterprises went through a PowerPoint presentation describing their Textile Recycling Program. He highlighted the program's Zero Cost to the municipality, the income potential and the advantages of their Collection sheds. After the presentation he answered questions from the members. Members who already use Turnkey commented favorably.

Committee Reports:

A. ECUA – DeFeo Associates – Mr. DeFeo reported:

- i. Mr. DeFeo reported on the 2024 HHW & E-waste events. The 2024 dates are May 4th 8:30 – 4:00 for HHW and May 18, 9:00 – 3:00 for Ewaste, as usual the town may bring material the day before. At this point they will most likely be accepting oxygen, and helium cylinders, but members were asked not to include this information in their flyers or post on their social media.
- ii. He spoke about the Recycled Content Law as it effects the municipalities.
- iii. He reported the Rain Barrell and Composter Sale. The sale will be handled thru the Environmental Center and is advertised on their website as well as the ECUA website.
 - Members were notified that they can add the information to their websites.
- iv. He also commented on a meeting he attended in Montclair and the presentation by the Sierra Club that addressed the per person rate of MTG funds received. Study showed the importance of following up on commercial reporting requirements.



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B. Health Department Report

Mr. Pilas reported via email that the 2023 DEP Solid Waste inspections were complete. He also spoke about the Milburn Compost site being closed for composting.

C. Facilities Reports:

a. **AERI** – No report - No representative in attendance.

b. **Covanta** – Stacey Vickers was not present; she emailed her report as follows:

i. *On Monday, January 22 in the 9am hour, Covanta Essex's induced draft fan, a piece of equipment meant to remove air and smoke from the combustion process, malfunctioned, which caused smoke to be emitted from the facility. The fire department was called by an outside citizen and left the site after 20 minutes.*

In the 10am hour, the facility experienced a chute fire, which was quickly extinguished by our internal fire cannon system. The fire department came to the facility for a second time after receiving calls from motorists and left shortly thereafter as the fire was already out. Due to the diligent work of the Essex Covanta team, who followed their prescribed emergency operations plans, both instances were quickly brought under control. Facility operations were not disrupted during these incidents and all employees were safe and accounted for. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection was alerted to the incident as were relevant stakeholders and the public.

She also indicated that there will be a planned outage on April 1st.

c. **Waste Management** – No report - No representative in attendance.

Old/Continuing Business:

A. **ANJR** – Mr. D'Altilio inquired if there were any new ANJR members. There were none, he then spoke about the importance of being an ANJR Member and urged all those who were not members to consider joining.

B. **2023 MTG** – Mr. D'Altilio reminded all that the MTG "package" is now available on the DEP Recycling website and they should download all information and forms. He displayed copies of the reports that were emailed to the MRCs today and the importance of gathering as much accurate information as they can. He reminded the members to review last year's MTG to see if they received reports from all who submitted them in the past about commercial reporting.

C. **Markets Report Update** – Mr. DeFeo reported that the tensions in the Red Sea may impact the shipping cost of fiber. This will impact the price of fiber and potentially reduce its value if it is largely returned to the U.S. market. He also mentioned that Putney Paper, a Northeast U.S. mill that took in post-consumer recovered fiber and converted it into recycled tissue, napkins and towels, closed its doors last week with company leadership citing rising energy costs contributing to the closure.



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New Business:

- A. Tri-County Meeting** – Mr. DeFeo reported that the annual tri-county meeting has been expanded to include Morris and Passaic Counties. No date has been set or a venue chosen. He will ask the Sierra Club to make the same presentation the did in Montclair. More information will follow as the meting

Member's Comments: - None

Public Comments: - There were two members of the public, Vanessa Thomas & Chloe Desir, that inquired about the membership of SWAC , about commercial reporting and if there was any other follow-up on the Covanta incident.

Adjournment - A motion was made and seconded and the Meeting was adjoined at 1:47 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 26th