

Summary of Transcript/Minutes
Indiana Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB)
IDEM Indianapolis Shadeland Office
2525 N. Shadeland Ave.
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219
Thursday, September 24, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Chairman Bruce Burrow, Prof. Harvey Abramowitz, Dr. Jie Chen, Matt Gratz, Terry Guerin, Tara Wesseler-Henry, and Kelly Weger

New board appointees (did not participate in voting): Debbie Hackman, Craig Lutz, Andrew Nunan, Sandy Whitehead

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Julia Wickard (IDEM), Representative Donna Schaibley, Representative Sue Errington, Senator Brian Buchanan, Senator Jean Breaux

IDEM staff included: Pat Daniel, Deanna Garner, James (Michael) French, Kathy Mills, Alison Taylor, Jacob Schmicker, and Tom Leas

Other: Dan Graeter, GT Environmental; Chris Jackson, Dan Cristiani Excavating Co, Inc; Dan Cristiani, Dan Cristiani Excavating Co, Inc; Paul Andrade, Plus5 Indiana, LLC; Carole Yeend, Rush County SWMD; Marla Cherney, IRC; Allyson Mitchell, IRC; Logan Miller, Recycling Works, Inc.; Shikha Bhattacharyya, ReTHink, Inc.; Leighanne Hahn, Richmond Sanitary District; Dale E. Needleman, Technology Recyclers; Brian Whitesell, Tri-State Resource Recovery Center

Chairman Bruce Burrow called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A quorum was present. The new board appointees were announced and welcomed. Also, leaving board members, Prof. Harvey Abramowitz, and Dr. Jie Chen, were recognized for their years of service with the board and valuable input.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the RMDB meeting held on March 12, 2020 were approved.

3. IDEM UPDATE

Julia Wickard shared IDEM's Office of Program Support current efforts including:

- IDEM, like all state agencies are extremely tight budgets and therefore IDEM is not hiring new staff. Working with state budget agency, the decision was made to reduce the FY21 grant round from \$2 million to \$1million due to the State's current financial situation due to hardships resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Also, due to the budget restraints, the Community Recycling Grant Program was suspended with the hopes to reinvigorate the program towards the beginning of next year.

- IDEM is planning an Electronic Waste Recycling Event at the Indiana Government Center for state employees November 12 and November 17, 7:00 am to 1:00 pm. The event is open to the public but will focusing on collecting e-waste from state government employees.
- The annual Pollution Prevention Conference and Trade Show administered by IDEM was held virtually this year on September 16 and 17th. During the conference, six recipients were awarded the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence. Additionally, six new members were inducted to the Partners for Pollution Prevention.
- Environmental Education programs from IDEM has shifted into virtual learning opportunities.
- IDEM's Confidential Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) is launching a brand-new confidential database hosted on IDEM's website.
- E101 Webinar, an environmental issues training session hosted by IDEM's CTAP section will be offered later this year.
- IDEM's Office of Program Support is planning a presentation to the Interim Environmental Affairs Study Committee on October 5. The presentation will provide the committee with information about the Recycling Market Development Program and the Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study.

Julia also took a moment to recognize the work of the current and leaving board members as well as IDEM staff, Deanna Garner, Tom Leas, and Pat Daniel with a special thank you for the work conducted to prepare for this meeting. She then opened the floor for questions.

Representative Sue Errington expressed disappointment in the reduction to grant funding. She asked if the funds were dedicated for the board's purpose, why could they not be used. Julia explained it was a decision made to cut all IDEM's programs when we were asked to reduce our budgets by the Governor's office and the state budget agency. She has asked our chief financial officer, Grant Geiss to provide a budget update to the board on February 4. Grant should be able to provide further information to the board at that time. Senator Breaux then followed up by asking about the destination of the additional \$1million in appropriated funding. Julia responded that her understanding is that the funding remains within the fund but is frozen.

Additional questions asked by Senator Breaux included:

- Information on the other grant program suspension and dollars in that program
 - o Response: The Community Recycling Grant Program was suspended. It had \$500,000 allocated. The decision was made to freeze that fund with hopes to still have a grant round this fiscal year.
- Notification if our understanding of grant funding and its allocation changes.
- Additional information on Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence to congratulate recipients in her district
 - o Response: Deanna will forward the press release to all board members
- Information about the CTAP database and what data will be collected there
 - o Response: The new CTAP database will collect information requested by businesses, data provided by IDEM to businesses, the capability to produce reports by type of business and other IDEM metrics.
- Information about the October 5 Interim Environmental Affairs Study Committee presentation by IDEM including if we are working with LSA, and if IDEM is the only one testifying or also members of the recycling industry.

- Response: The LSA representative wanted to limit speakers. Therefore, two items are on the agenda: IDEM’s Covid Response and RMDP and Recycling Study update.

A discussion ensued from board members, Terry Guerin, Harvey Abramowitz, Bruce Burrow, and Julia Wickard expressing the same concerns as the legislators. In addition, they want to know if the funds are still in the account, just frozen, why couldn’t they be used this year to award grant funding. Terry and Harvey shared that they are concerned because dollars were swept from the fund in a previous administration and moved into the general fund. Bruce expressed that the current administration is more supportive of the program than in the past and Trusts in the commissioner’s decisions and believe we will have his full support moving forward. Julia reminded the board that a full financial report will be provided by IDEM’s CFO at the February 4th, 2021 board meeting and that will be a good opportunity to ask additional questions.

4. STATUS UPDATE OF EXISTING GRANTS

Deanna Garner shared an update. Last FY19 grant with ERI for a mobile electronic waste shredder wrapped up with a virtual site visit. FY20 Grants in progress with O’bryan Barrel Company withdrawing due to budget constraints resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Rumpke Medora Grant and Warren County SWMD will be completing their projects soon. Deanna then introduced Dan Graeter from GT Environmental to give an update on the Indiana Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study.

Dan shared the progress made on the study including meetings with various stakeholders and work with IUPUI to conduct surveys to gather the data. Weekly meetings are held with IUPUI to oversee the work, as broken out into seven regions for the state. This involves seven graduate students and 40 undergrads until the end of the semester (November 20) to conduct the surveys.

5. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Bruce Burrow nominated Kelly Weger to serve as vice-chair. With a roll call vote the motion carries to appoint Kelly as Vice-Chair of the Recycling Market Development Board.

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE RECYCLING PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FUND (RPAF) GRANT APPLICATIONS

Mr. Burrow reminded the members of the code of ethics and training and asked for any conflicts of interest.

The board reviewed 11 proposals totaling \$2,050,670.94 in funding requests. Available funding by the board was \$1 million. Eight projects were awarded funding as listed below.

BUSINESS			
1	Elliott Company of Indianapolis, Inc	Marion County	\$18,184.44
2	Recycling Works, Inc.	Elkhart County	\$478,599.06
3	Technology Recyclers	Marion County	\$97,500.00
GOVERNMENT			
4	Richmond Sanitary District	Wayne County	\$220,000.00

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT			
5	Dearborn County SWMD	Dearborn County	\$15,212.50
6	Rush County SWMD	Rush County	\$10,050.00
NONPROFIT			
7	ReTHink, Inc	Vigo County	\$10,454.00
8	Tri-State Resource Recovery Center (TSRR)	Vanderburgh County	\$150,000.00

7. OTHER

Pat Daniel requested approval of the board to submit the annual recycling activity and electronic waste report to the Governor’s office by the November 1, 2020 deadline prior to the report presentations to the board at the next meeting. The board approved the move to submit the report on the board’s behalf.

Next meeting will be held November 5, 2020.

8. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made. The meeting concluded at 12:04 p.m.