

Summary of Transcript/Minutes
Indiana Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Monday, February 1, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Chairman Bruce Burrow, Matt Gratz, Terry Guerin, Debbie Hackman, Craig Lutz, Kelly Weger, Tara Wesseler-Henry, and Sandy Whitehead

Non-Voting Ex-Officio Members: Julia Wickard (IDEM), Senator Jean Breaux

IDEM staff included: Bruno Pigott, Grant Geiss, Pat Daniel, Deanna Garner, James (Michael) French, Kathy Mills, Alison Taylor, Kristen Koesters, Cameron Maschino, and Tom Leas

Other: Dan Graeter, GT Environmental; Marla Cherney, Indiana Recycling Coalition (IRC); Allyson Mitchell, IRC; Morgan Hartman, IRC; Kelvin Okamoto, Green Bottom Line & IRC; Vicki Bohlsen, Bohlsen Group; Ben Pedigo, Rumpke Recycling; Heather Siesel, Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District; Fred Read, Plastic Recycling; Scott Mouw, The Recycling Partnership; Brijesh Krishnan, Cummins; Matt Smith; Jessie Biggerman, Johnson County Recycling District; Gregg Keesling, RecycleForce; Kenneth, unknown; Marrisa Smith-Kenny, Hiron; Neilk, unknown; Mo McReynolds, City of Indianapolis;

Chairman Bruce Burrow called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The summary for the RMDB meeting held on November 5, 2020 were approved.

3. IDEM UPDATE

Julia Wickard introduced IDEM's Commissioner, Bruno Pigott. Bruno shared IDEM's recent accomplishments for 2020 including issuing permits on time. Also, the agency average for completing inspection reports was 4.5 days. For 2021, IDEM is focused on provisions for safe and clean water for Hoosiers, service excellence, diversity and equity, and building a resilient Hoosier state. Last, Commissioner Pigott shared legislation to affect IDEM and other environmental issues in 2021.

Julia shared updates in the Office of Program Support which includes:

- Community Recycling Grant Round opened and will accept applications through March 1 and will target recycling opportunities that may not fit the scope of RMDP projects.
- Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence nominations are open for seven award categories: Energy Efficiency/Renewable Resources; Environmental Education and Outreach; Five year Continuous Improvement; Greening the Government; Land Use/Conservation; Pollution Prevention; and Recycling/Reuse;
- IDEM conducted a successful two day electronic waste recycling event at the Indiana Government Center complex collecting over 14,000 pounds.
- HB1325 was proposed as an operations study of solid waste management districts proposed by Representative Gutwein.
- Finally, Julia recognized the work of the recycling staff at IDEM.

4. RMDP FINANCE UPDATE

Julia introduced IDEM's new Chief Financial Officer, Grant Geiss. Grant provided an overview of the RMDP funds and trends. The fiscal year (fy) 2020 revenue for the Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund (RPAF) which funds the RMDP grants was \$2,432,126. The cash balance at the end of FY 20 of for the RPAF was \$14,176,144.

The update was opened to the board for questions. Terry Guerin shared his concern about the amount of money that comes into the fund versus the amount of money allocated to be used by the RMDP. He shared that the money present in the fund should be used for the board's purpose to award grants to develop recycling markets in Indiana to ensure excess funds are not swept for the fund into the state's general fund.

5. STATUS UPDATE OF EXISTING GRANTS

Deanna Garner shared that grants are moving forward from FY20. FY21 grants are being finalized.

Next, a grant update was provided by GT Recycling on the Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study. He reviewed the planning and stakeholder work along with the work with IUPUI students to gather data. Additional information was provided on the maps that GT plans to produce and provided an example of Indiana's recycling infrastructure. Next, Mr. Greater addressed the steps for continued work and the next steps including additional surveying of communities, recyclers, and end users; and work on the economic impact results with IU.

Deanna then highlighted a specific grant from Smith Creek and introduced Matt Smith, owner. Mr. Smith provided an overview of the grant funded wood grinder and how it has helped increase diversion of wood waste at their facility. The project has met and exceeded expectations.

Next, Deanna introduced Fred Read, manager at Plastic Recycling, Inc. who gave an update on their grant project to expand their plastic processing line. Mr. Read shared information on Plastic Recycling, Inc, their history, capabilities, current use for grant funded equipment, and a recent expansion to process plastic electronic waste.

6. 2021 (FY22) GRANT ROUND

Deanna provided the proposed grant timeline, funding limits, and eligibility. Discussion followed around to funding chemical recycling, 'waste-to-fuel' projects. The board agreed that these projects would be considered. However, traditional energy from waste (incineration) and landfill gas to energy projects will not be considered. Additional discussion ensued regarding raising the minimum grant funding amount from \$10,000 to \$50,000. The consensus was the increase reflects the goal to target funding of larger impact projects. The board approved all proposed changes with continued discussion of chemical recycling and waste to energy projects.

7. OTHER

Next meeting will be held May 6, 2021 and the remaining meetings for 2021 are scheduled for August 5, and October 21.

8. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made. The meeting concluded at 11:43 p.m.