

Summary of Meeting Recording
Indiana Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB)
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, May 6, 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), Representative Donna Schaibley, Representative Sue Errington, Senator Jean Breaux

IDEM staff included: Pat Daniel, Dora Fields, Deanna Garner, James (Michael) French, Alison Taylor, Kristen Koesters, Cameron Maschino, and Tom Leas

Other: Dan Graeter, GT Environmental; Allyson Mitchell, IRC; Bethany Schrock, Indiana House of Representatives; Heather Siesel, Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District; Jessie Biggerman, Johnson County Recycling District, Dr. Ken Miller

Chairman Bruce Burrow called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The summary for the RMDB meeting held on February 1, 2021, was approved.

3. IDEM UPDATE

Julia Wickard shared Office of Program Support (OPS) updates which included:

- Recognition of the board's legislators in support to the agency and its recycling efforts
- Community Recycling Grants are finalized.
- Continuing partnership with the Indiana Recycling Coalition
- OPS is in process of evaluating nominations for the Governor's Awards for Environmental Excellence for seven award categories. The awards will be announced at the Pollution Prevention conference on September 23rd.
- OPS has conducted several E101 Educational Webinars, including environmental spills and accidents and other outreach efforts with our Air, Land, and Water Divisions.
- Current event on May 19 in partnership with US EPA Region 5, regarding Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) update and Jennifer Collins will be discussing how TRI and Pollution Prevention work together.
- Finally, Julia yielded her time to Pat Daniel, Recycling, Education, and Quality Assurance Section Chief to introduce the recycling staff.

Pat Daniel introduced herself and her job duties and then introduced the recycling staff: Deanna Garner, Recycling Market Development Program (RMDP) Manager; Tom Leas, Reporting & RMDP Engineer; Alison Taylor, Community Recycling Grant Program and Recycling Outreach Manager; Kristen Koester, E-waste Manager; Cameron Maschino, E-waste Support

Alison Taylor provided an overview and report of the Community Recycling Grant Program. Established in 2019, the [Community Recycling Grant Program](#) aims to assist communities' efforts to increase recycling through projects that focus on:

- Education and promotion of recycling
- Processing of recyclable materials

- Waste reduction
- Household hazardous waste and organics management

Total grant funding was \$529,276 in 2020 for 34 projects and \$444,435 in 2021 for 21 projects.

Deanna Garner then gave an update to the board on the work she has been participating in as part the Public Sector Advisory Group regarding The Circular Economy Accelerator initiative by The Recycling Partnership. Considerations for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) are being discussed on a national level for a packaging and printed paper fee and a disposal surcharge to support the collection costs of recyclables. The funding could assist the infrastructure & education as well as advanced MRFs.

4. STATUS UPDATE OF EXISTING GRANTS

Deanna Garner provided the status update of existing grants. Two FY20 grants have grant term extensions. Growing Green’s term was extended by an additional year and CW Recycling’s grant term was extended by six months and will expire in October. The rest of FY20 grants have been completed and closed. FY21 grants have been executed and are approaching the time for the first progress reports.

5. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY UPDATE

Next, a grant update was provided by GT Recycling on the Recycling Infrastructure and Economic Impact Study. Top-down recommendations in the report will address recycling, sustainability, and the circular economy. Also, mapping of facilities include disposal (landfills, transfer stations, compost), curbside, drop-off, and MRFs. The state’s recycling industry for collection and processing has 8,535 employees with an estimated total economic impact of \$1.7 billion.

6. 2021 (FY22) GRANT ROUND

Deanna provided the proposed grant timeline, funding limits, and eligibility discussed in the last meeting. The board agreed to no additional changes.

7. DISCUSSION OF ADVANCED (CHEMICAL) RECYCLING

Dr. Ken Miller provided a presentation on advanced chemical recycling for plastics that provided an overview of the process and included advantages and disadvantages of the process. Comments included:

- The technology is complicated, capital intensive, and generally beyond the scope of the RMDB. A more reasonable focus would be helpful to identify the flow stream and assist with the infrastructure/supply side efforts.
- Mixed plastic waste has low value. Better outcomes are achieved in processing by using simpler and higher quality plastics as an input. Source separation of plastics is important on the supply side.
- Plastics do not like contamination. Virgin supply is low cost and high capacity. While the production originates from gas/oil feedstocks and may have 5-10 inputs, the supply chain gets more complex for outputs from monomers (1,000), formulations (100,000), applications (1,000,000) and consumers (7.7 billion). This makes it difficult for traditional recycling to supply markets without downcycling.

- Chemical recycling has a range of processing with sliding energy efficiency (monomer recovery, pyrolysis, gasification), which can supply markets with high quality plastics and feedstocks.

8. OTHER

Next meeting will be held August 5, 2021, and the remaining meeting for 2021 is scheduled for October 21.

9. ADJOURN

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