

## **NOTES OF WORKING GROUP MEETING, MAY 9, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by T. Gray, co-chair.

Members present: Carole Bell; Clayton Carlisle; Geoffrey DiCenso; Patrick Fingliss; Tom Getz; Terry Gray; Susanne Greschner; Dante Ionata; Robert Lamoureux; Jamie M. Magnani; Mike McGonagle; Steven Mutter; John O'Brien; Chris Ratcliffe; Timothy Reagan; Barry Schiller; Jeanne Tracey-McAreavey; John Trevor; Harold Ward;

Observers; Atiyah Curmally and Nick Bayard.

The initial draft revision of Section 1 of the Plan had been distributed too late to allow for comments during the meeting. Mr. Ionata advised members to file any comments on the Section 1 revision later.

Mr. Regan, chair of the Disposal and Capacity Subcommittee, presented the subcommittee's draft recommendations, expanding upon and explaining the subcommittee's report in detail, section by section.

The first section of the subcommittee's report addressed the out-of-state waste (OOSW) problem and recommended that regulations be promulgated to enforce the statutory prohibition against the disposal of OOSW at Central Landfill. An extended discussion followed. Mr. Ionata said enforcement of the prohibition is extremely difficult and he distributed a memo from Patrick McQueeney, Chief of Security for RIRRC, outlining RIRRC'S enforcement of the OOSW law which resulted in a fine of more than \$40,000 against a single firm for violating the prohibition. Mr. Gray said enforcement is made more difficult because waste generated out of state is often shredded before being transported to the landfill. Mr. Ward said regulations to implement the OOSW prohibition should be developed and he said one method of improving enforcement would be to follow trucks. Mr. Carlisle suggested that publicizing RIRRC'S enforcement actions may serve to deter potential violators. Mr. Mutter said trash collection routes that go back and forth across state lines add to the difficulty. Mr. Gray suggested a regularly audited certification system to protect against OOSW.

The second section of the Disposal and Capacity Subcommittee report addressed the municipal solid waste tonnage cap and how to use the cap to divert material from disposal to recycling. There was an extended general discussion of the issue. Mr. Schiller, Ms. McAreavey and other members agreed that the recycling factor should be increased across the board thereby decreasing the municipal cap for each municipality, which, in turn, should serve to encourage municipalities to increase their diversion of materials shipped to the landfill for disposal.

Working Group members participated in a lively discussion of Section 3 of the subcommittee's report, which addressed the issue of Enhanced Capacity Management. Landfill operation methodologies and technologies were discussed, including the use of GPS systems to measure landfill compaction rates, the utilization of bonus compensation systems to incentivize landfill heavy equipment operators to strive to increase compaction, the development of a bio-reactor landfill that would result in enhanced compaction of waste in the landfill. Skepticism was expressed concerning the possibility or potentiality of recovering landfill capacity by mining Central Landfill.

This was followed by a general discussion of Section 4 of the subcommittee's report which recommended that the RIRRC consider the rail-hauling of waste to out of state disposal sites and the development of waste incineration as a disposal option. Mr. Ionata said waste incineration would not be considered by the RIRRC. Mr. Schiller expressed concern about the economics of out-of-state disposal of Rhode Island waste. Mr. Ionata said waste can, at the present time, be rail hauled to out-of-state landfills for total, all-in, per-ton disposal costs comparable to the RIRRC'S current tipping fees. He described the BFI solid waste rail transfer station in Boston. Mr. McGonagle said that regardless of the economic attractiveness of out-of-state rail hauling, the least expensive method of disposing of solid waste is in Central Landfill. Ms. Bell cautioned that New York City, which several years ago closed its Fresh Kills Landfill and shipped all its waste beyond its borders, is now seeking to site a new landfill in the city. Mr. Carlisle said Rhode Island should not become the hostage of an out-of-state solid waste disposal facility.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.