

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality**  
**Highlights of TCEQ Municipal Solid Waste Management & Resource Recovery Advisory Council (MSWRRAC)**  
**Meeting, Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**Attendance**

**Members Present**

Mr. David Yanke  
Mr. Scott Trebus  
Ms. Risa Weinberger  
Mr. Steve Shannon  
Mr. Frank Pugsley  
Mr. Charles (Chuck) Rivette  
Mr. Scott Pasternak  
Ms. Cheryl Mergo  
Mr. Jeffrey Mayfield  
Judge David Dillard  
Ms. Jennifer Lutz  
Mr. Brocke Lively  
Mr. Richard Abramowitz

**Members Absent**

Mayor Ralph Gutierrez  
Judge Hoppy Haden

**TCEQ Staff Present**

Ms. Charly Fritz  
Ms. Megan Henson  
Ms. Savannah Rains

Ms. Madison Howard  
Mr. Santos Olivarez  
Ms. Alison Owen

**Archived Webcast of the Meeting**

The meeting was held online using MS Teams Webinar. The archived webcast of the meeting is available at [MSW Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council –January 11, 2024 - YouTube](#).

**Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests—Mr. David Yanke, Council President**

- Council members and TCEQ staff introduced themselves.
- Ms. Rains took roll for the council members.

## **Waste Permits Division (WPD) Update—Ms. Charly Fritz, Deputy Director**

- Kelly Keel was named Executive Director after six months of serving as Interim Executive Director.
- Sunset Implementation
  - Waste Permits Division (WPD) will begin posting new applications online starting around May. Notice documents will provide links to TCEQ uploaded documents rather than to applicant provided webpages.
  - All regulated entities will report annually on operational status. This will mostly effect recyclers with a Notice of Intent.
  - The agency is working on Chapter 39 revisions regarding public meetings. This may change the comment period end date. WPD is not managing the rulemaking project.
- Account 5000 was merged into Account 549. Where there used to be different line items for waste permitting expenditures and COG grant programs, there will now be one line item for both. The agency will continue to ask for COG grant funding.

## **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Permits Section Update— Ms. Megan Henson, Section Manager**

- Staffing & Projects
  - Two MSW vacancies; one geoscientist and one engineering position.
  - 26 permit and three registration applications are currently under review.
- MSW is working on updates to both the soil liner evaluation and geomembrane/geosynthetic evaluation report forms. An estimated timeframe for completion is six months.
- MSW will hold a webinar over data sources related to MSW Permits. The webinar's aim is to promote resources available to the public and how to use those resources.
- Trade Fair is in May 2024. MSW will have two case study presentations: the first is related to landfill gas exceedances, the second is related to waste acceptance plans and prohibited waste removal. MSW will also have presentations on composting, activities over closed landfills, and tire projects covered through the solid waste grant.
- Rule changes are being made to address HB3060, the advanced recycling bill. MSW is working on the rule revision which will also include general cleanup of rule citations and continue to work on the mass balance attribution section. WPD will present the rule proposal to the commissioners in late spring of this year. The public comment period will follow in the summer. WPD plans to adopt the rules in fall of 2024.

## **Business & Program Services Section Update – Mr. Santos Olivarez, Manager, Business and Program Services Section**

- Scrap tire annual reports are due to WPD by March 1, 2024, for the 2023 calendar year.
- No nominations were accepted for the Advisory Council over the past two months. The agency continues to work on filling all positions.
- SWIFR Grant Update  
The Environmental Protection Agency approved the workplan. The grant ends on August 31, 2025. The grant will fund projects from five councils of governments. Each of the five projects is replicable.

## **Recycling System Initiatives and Grant Funding Opportunities – Ms. Charlotte Pitt, The Recycling Partnership**

The Recycling Partnership is a national nonprofit focusing on system change for recycling as part of climate and natural resource solutions. The nonprofit is making efforts to look at opportunities and offerings in Texas. The System Optimization team focuses on system change for recycling, specifically for easy to recyclable materials, such as cans, bottles, and paper. The Recycling Partnership awards grants to municipalities and COGs to focus on new access to recycling and adding new tons to the recycling stream.

Data has shown that 800 pounds of recyclables may be lost to the waste stream per year if recycling carts and recycling education are not provided to a household. The Recycling Partnership will focus on changing behaviors towards recycling, providing access to communities, and encouraging recycling facilities to capture 90% of all recyclables accepted.

## **Groundwater eReport System – Ms. Alison Owen, MSW Section Work Leader**

The current groundwater reporting system poses some challenges including inconsistencies in style and formatting and difficulty to access old data. To streamline review and address the challenges, the TCEQ has created an electronic reporting system.

The new electronic system will require the same information as current reports with more structure. MSW will continue developing the STEERS reporting form through the fall. MSW is requesting stakeholder involvement for external testing once the form is developed. Implementation of the new system will include creating guidance documents, holding webinars, and notification to facilities.

## **Approval of October 12, 2023, Meeting Highlights**

Judge Dillard made a motion to accept the meeting highlights. Mr. Brocke Lively seconded the motion, and the highlights were approved by the council.

## **Action Items**

No action items.

## **Public Comments**

Ms. Barbara Coombs provided 2023 garbage per capita data for distribution to the council members.

## **Next Meeting**

April 11, 2024