

Organizational Meeting on Product Stewardship

March 29th, 2016 | 3:35 PM to 5:00PM

MASSRECYCLE R3 Conference

Boston Marriott Quincy

1000 Marriott Drive

Quincy, MA 02169

In Attendance:

Meryl Brott, Cambridge

Scott Cassel, PSI

Irene Congdon, MassDEP

Carolyn Dann, MassDEP

Vivian Futran Fuhrman, PSI

Claire Galkowski, SSRC/MAPSC

Phil Goddard, MassRecycle/Bourne/SWANA

Edward Hsieh, MassRecycle

Alison Keane, ACA

Sharon Kishida, MassDEP

Mike Maguire, Barnstable County

Piper Mlsna, Thermostat Recycling Corp.

Fritzie Nace, Winchester DPW

Dawn Quirk, MassDEP

Jefferson Smith, MassRecycle

Waneta Trabert, PSI

Suzy Whalen, PSI

Brief Summary:

1. Scott Cassel moderated the session, starting with a brief presentation on how other state product stewardship councils are organized, including structure, voting rights and funding
 - a. Refer to attached PPT
 - b. Covered brief history of the MAPSC and PSI-facilitated calls over the past year that focused mostly on rallying support for the paint stewardship bill, but also electronics and other possible product priorities
 - c. Emphasized that local governments must be the prime driver of the MA product stewardship council (MA PSC), even if it is multi-stakeholder including companies and environmental groups
 - d. **Funding for PSI-facilitated calls has been expended**
 - i. Previous funding provided by Barnstable County, SSRC and City of Lowell
2. Discussion on structure and voting
 - a. Other states have varying models; although most are formed as independent organizations, three hosted state product stewardship councils under the umbrella of the state recycling organization

- b. General consensus was that there are already many competing sustainability groups, and it would be good to host MAPSC under MassRecycle's banner
 - c. Pros and cons
 - i. MassRecycle has full-time staff and 501c3 status
 - ii. MassRecycle already has all the municipalities under its umbrella via the MassDEP subsidy
 - 1. Taking on MAPSC would allow MassRecycle to increase its fundraising push to the municipalities to provide additional funding sustainability for MassRecycle
 - iii. MassRecycle is a coalition, so does represent corporations as well as municipalities
 - 1. This is both a pro and con, as corporate viewpoints must be considered during discussions, although most PSCs remain independent so that they are not influenced by corporate positions that might run counter to the interests of local governments
 - 2. MassRecycle Board of Director members follow strict governance rules against corporate and profit-related conflicts of interest, and regularly abstain from pertinent votes that may trigger those issues
 - 3. Voting rules can be setup to minimize any concern
 - iv. Other states that house the psc under the recycling coalition have not been particularly effective
 - 1. Scott Cassel states that MassRecycle/MAPSC could be the exception
 - d. Co-chairs could be one person from MassRecycle and one municipal representative
 - i. Claire Galkowski stated that she is not restricted from being a co-chair and is willing
 - e. Although many PSCs are set up as only for local governments, models that include corporate members on the psc generally limit voting to municipal members
3. Discussion on funding
- a. Intent of funding would be to continue to contract with PSI to provide subject matter expertise, advocacy guidance, and organization/administration as needed
 - i. MassRecycle/PSC/PSI will explore the suite of services and resulting contract price
 - ii. MassRecycle could alleviate some of the more rote administrative burden from PSI, such as scheduling and administering calls
 - b. MassDEP cannot increase the subsidy or use SMRP monies to cover this
 - c. MACs believe an outright ask for increased memberships may be a hard sale
 - d. MACs suggested exploring the ask as an "other acceptable expenditure" under the Recycling Dividends Program grants
 - i. About a third of the municipalities already have RDP funds that they need to spend
 - ii. The ask, \$50 to \$150, is fairly insignificant compared to the size of most RDP grants
 - iii. MAPSC's primary work will be focused on education; any advocacy work performed by MAPSC will not use RDP funds.

4. Action Items

- a. MassRecycle/MAPSC/PSI will have follow-up call to draft up a more solid coalition plan
- b. MACs will research RDP funding