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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Robert M. Hitt III**  
Secretary

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**10:00 AM – 12:00PM**

**Meeting ID: 959 5365 5639**  
**<https://zoom.us/j/95953655639>**  
**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, BMW  
Kristen Brown, WasteZero  
Tina Huskey, Mumford Industries  
Norman Chandler, Republic Services  
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling  
Allison Brockman, City of Greenville  
Chris Fisher, GlassWRX SC  
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers  
Joseph McMillin, Atlas Organics  
Bill Laursen, Universal Environmental Services  
Angel Lara, Southeast Recycling Resources

**ABSENT**

Dr. Andy Spicer, USC Darla Moore School of Business  
Tyler Smith, Michelin  
Chad Prescott, Mid Carolina Steel  
Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Retired  
Ronnie Grant, Retired  
Cynthia Davis, SC Department of Commerce  
Rich Simon, The Recycling Partnership  
Bernie Hawkins, Nelson Mullins  
Mandy Barnett, Pratt Recycling  
Cindy Carter, Beaufort County  
Sandi Martini, Pratt Recycling  
Matthew Coppedge, Pratt Recycling  
Leslie Hatchell, York County Recycling  
Alysen Woodruff, Your County Recycling  
Shawn State, Pratt Recycling



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## **STAFF**

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce  
April Chaffins, SC Department of Commerce  
Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Wes Westbrooks motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

## **MINUTES**

The November 2020 RMDAC meeting minutes were approved.

**Wes Westbrooks** welcomed the guest and congratulated Atlas Organics for being the first composter to join Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) as part of its Stakeholder Membership program.

### **Rich Simon presented information on The Recycling Partnership Polypropylene grant.**

Rich: Presented a presentation about MRFs acquiring grant funding to increase Polypropylene (PP) sortation infrastructure. The Recycling Partnership (TRP) completed the 2020 State of Curbside Recycling report: <https://recyclingpartnership.org/stateofcurbside/>

From the report, TRP found out that current data does not separate PP, MRFs focus on capturing PET & HDPE, and PP generation capture could be higher than both natural and colored HDPE. PP is a valuable commodity, and there are domestic end markets.

In December 2020, TRP announced its first four recipients of the PP grant (Round 1). Currently, TRP is in Round 2 in the evaluation and will announce the award recipients in February 2021. The next deadline for PP grant applications is due March 31, 2021, and then June 2021.

The grant is available for private, public, and non-profit MRFs. The RFP and information on the selection process (the items that will score high in evaluation) is on the website:

<https://recyclingpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/The-Recycling-Partnerships-Polypropylene-MRF-Grant-RFP-Final.pdf>

Only one MRF in SC expressing interest in the PP grant opportunity. Round 1 grantees were Cogle's Recycling (Hamburg, PA), Mazza Recycling (Tinton Falls, NJ), Rumpke Recycling (Cincinnati, OH/Columbus, OH), Winters Bros (Brookhaven, NY).

Contact Rich Simon, Director of MRF Advancement, for questions.

Email: [rsimon@recyclingpartnership.org](mailto:rsimon@recyclingpartnership.org)



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Glenn: PRET (Johnsonville, SC), formerly Wellman, is expanding their PP program. They are reusing PP in their compound products. There is a demand for PP in SC.

### **Bernie Hawkins presented on C&D Legislation.**

Bernie: Presented a presentation discussing how DHEC provided a draft of proposed regulation R.61-107.20 for C&D processing and recycling facilities in August 2020. The regulation indicated that these facilities would require a Solid Waste processing permit unless they met certain conditions. One of the conditions has to be “at least seventy-five (75) percent of the total weight of each separated material type receiving during a calendar year and remaining at the facility a previous calendar year is used, reused, recycled, or transferred to a different site for use, reuse, or recycling.”

The 75% language appears in recovered materials definition, which many SC facilities rely upon when processing anything from 3rd parties to avoid being classified as solid waste. The description states, “at least seventy-five (75) percent by weight of the material relieved during a calendar year must be used, reused, recycled, or transferred to a different site for use, reuse, or recycling in order to qualify as recovered material.”

Why is this critical in SC? It’s vital for recycling operations in SC because the definition for Solid Waste (SW) is other discarded material, and these terms don’t include recovered materials. The only way to avoid being an SW processing facility is to fall into the exempt category. One of the exceptions is recovered material. As a result, many legitimate recycling activities could be placed in jeopardy under the improper reading of the terms at issue. Thus the significance of the meaning of the 75 percent language in the definition of recovered material becomes apparent.

The 75% language originated from hazardous waste requirements, and the goal was to avoid speculation accumulation of that material. The permit was designed for you to process and recycle 75% of the material within a calendar year. Many organizations are involved in getting a decision out of DHEC to recognize that the language needs clarification. Changes will likely be needed to the SWPMA before DHEC can draft appropriate regulations for C&D facilities.

In the latter part of 2020, a facility proposes to locate an operation in SC where the company would be recovering valuable material from automobile shredder material. Representatives of organizations already engaged with DHEC in an ongoing discussion concerning the 75 percent question and reviewed the proposed operation with DHEC regarding the more general recycling operations regulation.

As for the remaining question of the meaning of the 75 percent language, DHEC has indicated that its present impression is that 75 percent provision can be applied as a processing/turnover rate instead of yield requirement. DHEC intends to review this interpretation with additional stakeholders. After completing this review, DHEC will provide a more definitive indication of



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where it stands on reading this language. It's critical to monitor and get clarification on the processing requirements.

## **RMDAC UPDATES**

Ashley Jenkins: Started with SC Commerce on December 2, 2020, and is the new Recycling Program Coordinator. She was formerly employed for Beaufort County as the Recycling Coordinator. She is a board member of the Carolina Recycling Association, and she is glad to be part of team SC Commerce.

Anna DeLage: Thanked Rich and the MRF representatives for being apart of the conversation. TRP is offering an unprecedented amount of financial support for equipment and marketing to capture the #5 material. There is a potential of 5 grant awards. Rich: Yes, at least five and hopefully more.

Anna DeLage: Thanked Bernie for his presentation. RMDAC could potentially lay a role in how the 75% rule works with the work you do. This is a conversation for metal recyclers. Julie Blalock has been evolved.

DHEC Annual Report: A report explicitly looking at the deliverables that DHEC requires from RMDAC based on a 5-year contract. November started a new contract for 5-years. Using customer management software tools, we are moving forward to make the report a little easier in acquiring the information. The goal is to consolidate the information to save time on the backend. The report is all-inclusive and has valuable information, like launching the SC Recycling Markets Directory Tool.

Plans are to look at how we can better engage with companies. In 2020, there was no shortage of recycling requests or assistance. There was a great need to help support manufacturers or recyclers themselves. Will submit DHEC report.

RMDAC Annual Report: The report must be completed **on March 15, 2021**. Ashley will reach out with your commodity area that each board member represents—viewed, RMDAC recommendation from last year. The recycling rate was previously added. The report will be sent to the board members for additions or updates.

Best Management Practices: April takes the lead and looks at this by commodity-by commodity bases to see if we can consolidate from our national organization. We are reaching out to the board members in the next few months to get recommendations.



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## DISCUSSION

2021 RMDAC Meetings: Dr. Spicer can't attend the meeting due to his teaching schedule. Should we consider another date and time to accommodate Dr. Spicer? Kristen: Open to changing the meeting date/time. Tina: Open to changing the meeting date/time. Wes: Open to changing the meeting date/time. RMDAC: Board members are willing to adjust time and date. A Doodle Poll will be sent out to acquire a new meeting date/time.

Address Market Needs in New Environment: We discussed market needs in what do businesses need, want, and how can we help? Anna: How do we support the 300 businesses across the state? Tina: We may not be able to make that decision at the moment because we don't know what the new administration will require. We must keep our ears to the ground and pay attention to new requirements under the new administration. The key is to be well-versed in delivering the new policies to the recycling companies, so companies can see the opportunities to grow their businesses. Wes: Agreed with Tina. Also, based upon the new administration, they will rescind some things from the previous administration. Kristen: Anna, when you are talking to companies, what questions are you asking? Do you have a set standard of questions you ask? How do you get information from them? Anna: Yes, we do. The Existing Industry team has a format. When they are talking to an industry, they have a list to reference from. Typically, when we go in as recyclers, we will have our own set of information. A recycling questionnaire/template was formalized to help guide the conversation. Every question is not asked; the purpose is to have a conversation. The 1st page is asking about the company and gathering information to place in the Recycling Markets Directory. We asked about pain points. We ask about challenges and how can we support you better? We ask about goals and what do you want to recycle? Kristen: You have a great checklist. Can you add a question about feedback on policy or what policies they feel will help them? Do you have facilities in other locations that might do something differently? Anna: I like the idea of asking the question; about do they have facilities in other locations that we can learn from, learning the best practices of how it is done all across the world, and having a conversation about policies.

Anna: Another question I have is about outreach. The CRA is moving their conference to virtual. Since we have been pushed to the virtual platforms, should we host some webinars, should we partner with other organizations, and do you want to sit in an hour-long webinar? Do we get more bang for our buck in having more one-on-one conversations with companies? Wes: Both are productive, and we are bombarded with webinars/workshops. Keep the webinars to an hour would be ideal. Partnering with an organization will not be a bad thing. Kristen: Agrees with Wes. Keep webinars to an hour, and partnering will not be a bad thing. COVID has presented an interesting way to learn. One-on-one conversation is still useful because a lot of innovative ideas come from the conversation. Tina: Add to the recycling questionnaire whether their material has been rejected in the past and why. Many of the calls you receive I have already gotten; the businesses do not tell you why the material is not accepted. Another question to ask: are you



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separating the materials? Do you consider your materials to be 10% clean? They give them responsibility for the next steps to clean up the recycling materials. Wes: I echo the words of Kristen, one-on-one are great, and partnering is better. Kristen: A thought for speakers. Have someone speak on the innovation of tackling the hard to recycle plastics. Topics- film, multi-layered plastics, plastic railroad ties, plastics in the roads, chemical recycling, and see how far they are getting in their innovations. Brad: I can get the fillers out to find speakers. Glenn: Speaker idea, the work we did at NC State - take PET recycled carpet.

Bill: Universal is handling hazardous waste, and will take a look at anything. We handle different waste streams.

Anna: On a webinar, and a senator wants to make a National Bottle Bill program. The National Bottle Bill still on the table and looking at becoming a reality. Karen: What was the other senator? Anna: Jeff Merkley, Senator from Oregon. Anna: I will send information with the minutes. [Senators Merkley & Wyden – National Bottle Bill](#)

Anna: Tentatively, we will mark the calendars for an in-person fall retreat at Glass WRX (Beaufort, SC).

## **MARKET UPDATES**

Metals: Prices increase to \$80/ton and another increase to \$80/ton in January. Shredders may reduce the price at the scale due to the Chinese New Year coming. Shortage of containers to sell scraps overseas. China is now starting to take certain ferrous scraps grade. Steel mill capacity is up 75%.

Aluminum: LME has dropped below 2000. Aluminum cans are up .66 cents lbs. delivered to the mills.

Paper: OCC went from \$80/ton to \$85/ton and mixed paper holding at \$35. SOP went up to \$80/ton to \$90/ton. The export markets are up, but difficult to book and get the material to the destination. The domestic mills are running pretty strong. They are starting to fill up and looking for the market to hold for next month. The market may start to decrease in general because COVID the Mills didn't take downtime. Mills are forced to take downtime, and this will possibly drive the markets down a little.

Petroleum: Oil has been trending upward for the last few weeks. Open up today at \$52.50 a barrel, and oil will continue to increase.

Plastics: Prices are up, and fewer imports coming in. Import costs have gone from \$3000 a container to \$13,000 a container. Raw material cost has gone up due to oil prices and due to domestic production of certain PET products are tight. Therefore, supply and demand are pushing prices up. Shipments are good, and markets are strong.



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Recycling Industry: Markets are a little better. Shipments are hard, and I haven't heard of anyone getting out. People are holding on to see what is going to be the temperature moving into the New Year.

Solid Waste: Landfill volumes increase. I am working closely with the City/County of Greenville and helping them keep up with the produced volumes. Due to volume increase, some landfill facilities may reach a cap. Wes: Do we know why volumes are going up? Norman: No, because small businesses are closing and tonnages are going up. Not sure why.

General Public: What's interesting, the MRF pricing has been going up, and in some cases, I have seen competitive bids where they are not as high. Norman, do you have any thoughts as to why this is happening? Norman: The recycling facilities began charging for processing about a year in a half, which pushed some material out. The rate on a per-ton-processing vs. per-ton-disposal charge is getting comparable. Wes: Anna, have we had any report of any recycling programs being cut or eliminated? Anna: We have not. Allison: I haven't heard of any recycling programs being cut. Greater Greenville is back in operation. Seeing a heavy increase at our drop-off centers and don't have the workforce to handle it. Carol: Had calls from a couple of local governments asking if they have seen recycling participation drop or go away. MRFs and recycling plants are going strong.

Carpet: Nylon 66 is still strong and in high demand. Nylon 6 is still weak. Polypropylene is up, and the demand is increasing. Wes: Can you use EPP in carpeting? Tina: I Will check to see if anything has changed on any new markets for EPP. Wes: BMW has been cleared for a densifier, and EPP is easy to get rid of in Germany. Glenn: Offered to get an analysis done for the EPP.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURN**

The RMDAC board meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

The next RMDAC meeting TBD.