

Summary of Meeting

Indiana Recycling Market Development Board (RMDB)
IDEM Indianapolis Shadeland Office
2525 N. Shadeland Ave.
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219

January 25, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members present: Chairman Bruce Burrow, Terry Guerin, Debbie Hackman, Craig Lutz, Vice-Chairman Kelly Weger, and Sandy Whitehead

Members on Zoom: Tara Wesseler-Henry, Andrew Nunan, Matt Gratz

DEM staff included: Pat Daniel, Deanna Garner, Tom Leas, James French, Jennifer Helrigel (Zoom), Carl Wodrich, Parvoney Stover, Hilary Aldrete, and Aiden Whitney

Other: Jason Donati, Muncie Sanitary District, and Jeremy Troutwine, Alpek Polyester/DAK Americas (Zoom)

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2023, RMDB MEETING SUMMARY

The summary for the RMDB meeting held on October 26, 2023, was approved.

3. IDEM UPDATE

Parvoney Stover, IDEM Chief of Staff shared her priorities for IDEM and passed along the commissioner's appreciation to the work the board does. The priorities include:

- Staff development and training
- Streamlining database management processes
- U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: phase 1 to do planning, greenhouse gas inventory and identify reduction measures, create a state plan that will be used for phase 2 to fund implementation of the plan.

4. RMDP FINANCE UPDATE

Hilary Aldrete, IDEM Chief Financial Officer provide an update of the RMDP funds and trends. The fiscal year (FY) 2023 revenue for the Recycling Promotion and Assistance Fund (RPAF) which funds the RMDP grants was \$2,633,097. The cash balance at the end of FY 22 for the RPAF was \$18,191,804.

5. IDEM, OFFICE OF PROGRAM SUPPORT UPDATE

Carl Wodrich, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Office of Program Support shared current IDEM projects:

- OPS is also working with the new staff and development coordinator on team building, communication, and leadership skills.
- OPS is undergoing staffing changes in compliance and technical assistance and health and safety sections.
- Clean Community has relaunched, and communities can now apply for membership.
- Governor Awards for Environmental Excellence is now accepting applications through March 1st.

Craig Lutz followed the update by asking if there are opportunities for industry to partner with IDEM to help facilitate and support staff training. Carl replied that he will pass the question along to the new staff and development coordinator.

STATUS UPDATE OF EXISTING GRANTS

Deanna Garner provided the following updates on existing grants:

- Fiscal year 2024 grants are all in stages of being executed, except GDC which withdrew.
- Fiscal year 2023 has four grants closed including Muncie, Orange County Solid Waste Management District, RecycleForce, and Rumpke. Three grants are near expiration with Entech requesting a 6-month extension, and both Knox County Solid Waste Management District and ERI preparing the final reimbursement request and final reports. The final grantee, Petoskey Plastics, has until April to close out the grant.
- Fiscal year 2022 has all grants closed except for Plus 5/Revive which has been extended for an additional year.

Deanna then introduced Jason Donati, Superintendent of Sanitation and Recycling for the Muncie Sanitary District to provide an update and overview of their grant project. Muncie Sanitary District received \$468,798 to purchase automatic arm bodies for two recycling trucks and 7,000 96- gallon recycling totes. As a result of the grant, Jason shared that Muncie was also able to get additional funding from The Recycling Partnership for education and outreach of the new recycling program. The grant project has exceeded expectations and project goals with significantly less contamination and over 10,226 (41%) households subscribed for services in the first 7 months.

Next, Deanna introduced Jeremy Troutwine, Operations Excellence Manager for DAK Americas/Alpek Polyester to provide their update to the board of their grant project. DAK Americas/Alpek Polyester received \$300,000 to purchase two Tomra Autosort Bottle Presorters to increase recovery of PET bottles for recycling. Jeremy shared that the project yielded significant improvements in respect to both material type and color of the recovered material providing higher quality material.

Last, Deanna shared that GDC, Inc withdrew from their grant project forfeiting the \$98,992 awarded to them. In order to not let the funding revert to fund, Deanna recommended awarding the additional funds to one or more of the grantees from the last round that did not receive the full amount of funding they requested. The board made a motion to split the amount equally and award \$49,496 to both CT Polymers and Indiana Shingle Recycling. The motion was approved.

6. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- HB 1026 changes the expiration date of board member terms, clarifies language for per diem, mileage and travel expenses, and states the board meetings will take place at the offices of the chairperson. We have let our legislative liaison know about the concerns of having the meetings at the offices of the chairperson.
- HB 1278 repeals, in the Indiana Code, the chapter governing the Indiana recycling market development board (board), a provision that authorizes the office to establish and administer a revolving loan program to make low interest loans for energy efficiency or recycling market development projects.

7. CENTRAL INDIANA WASTE DIVERSION PROJECT (CIWDP) UPDATE

Deanna explained that no changes were made during this legislative session to resolve conflicting language in the Indiana Code. Therefore, the board would need to determine, based on existing language, the amount of funding and the timeframe for the second round of funding.

The board agreed to continue the same timeframe as the first round as is written in the code.

Applications would be accepted July- Oct, IDEM will provide recommendations to the board in December and the board would award funding at the first quarterly meeting of 2025. The board also agreed to award two million dollars in addition to the funds allocated, but not used in the previous round of funding.

8. OTHER

In addition to the RMDP grant guidelines, the board will need to approve the CIWDP guidelines and application form at the next meeting. Deanna has asked the board for any feedback for any thoughts on improvement prior to the meeting.

Deanna provided a brief update on the EPA SWIFR Grant. She shared that IDEM is working with the Department of Administration to solicit requests for proposals for a contractor to develop a statewide materials management plan.

Remaining 2024 Schedule (Quarterly on 4th Thursday of the Month)

Thursday April 25, 2024

Thursday July 25, 2024

Thursday October 24, 2024

9. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made. The meeting concluded at 12:02 p.m.