



**SSRC MSW Manager/Board Notes**  
**Thursday, November 12, Hingham Town Hall**

Attendance: **Cohasset:** Mary Snow\*; **Hingham:** Randy Sylvester\*, Brenda Black; **Kingston:** Paul Basler \*, Gene Wyatt\*; **Norwell:** Vicky Spillane\*

Guests: **MassDEP** Greg Cooper, Janine Delaney; **SSRC:** Claire Galkowski

\*appointed Board representatives

9:15 no quorum, Ms. Snow called to order.

**Greg Cooper**, MassDEP Division Director - BAW Business Compliance & Recycling: Glass markets and regulations. DEP is seeking input on where it should focus attention, assistance.

Glass has been banned from disposal since 1995 because it is highly recyclable. Its use in making new glass results in reduced energy, economic benefits (a Milford plant makes glass bottles with 95% recycled content). The largest regional processor is Strategic Materials (SMI) in Franklin, which converts to cullet. Optical equipment sorts by color, cleans out contaminants.

Volume declined fast 1995-2000, with much packaging switched to plastic. Beer bottles are a big component of the glass stream, steady.

Glass makes up 20-25% of incoming material at MRFs. Down market across the board due to the commodity cycle, China impact, low oil prices. A ton of discards looks different now: glass is larger component due to less paper, lighter plastic. Is still important to divert, rather than pay to dispose.

2008-2012 recycling rate held steady, with trash down 18% due to Lightweighting in packaging, less newspaper.

DEP met with processors in September; glass is problem for them. SMI is inundated, can't manage all the supply in early fall. 2 issues:

1: 30% contamination in the glass stream coming out of MRFs. Dirt, stone, food, ceramics, shredded paper, misc. Source separated glass is much cleaner.

2: To recycle back to containers, need color sorted. Optical sorters need >1/2" to read. Up to 40% of what comes out of MRF is <1/2". Separate heavies first through screen, 2 steps. Fines come out of 1/2" screen. Still needs to be cleaned, some MRFs are adding equipment to clean better. There is no market for <1/2" fines, need to find other outlet, figure out how to clean. BUD for 3/8" minus road base, ADC, drainage. Still requires <5% contamination. Organic content is a particular problem.

DEP is issuing grant for processors, end markets for equipment to clean glass. Best and highest use is still goal. Reflective paint, concrete, blasting media.

Bigger issue is CONTAMINATION. Messaging issue has been lacking. Consumer survey indicated that half respondents think plastic bags are ok for recycle bin. Food waste is a huge problem.

DEP is doing a pilot with The Recycling Partnership on education on how to recycle right. Testing messaging methods, will create a toolkit to offer through grant program. Start mid 2016. Working with 2 towns in Springfield area, seeking volunteers in SSRC towns to test, one curbside, one drop off.

Mr. Basler: need a body to talk to people directly. Papers, signs ineffective. Every day for a month would make a difference. Pay \$70 to SEMASS, \$25 for commingle.

Springfield had huge contamination problems, tagged with curbside Oops tags for 2-3 weeks, left noncompliant setouts at curb. Made a huge difference.

What is the best way to communicate? World has changed. DEP stopped funding consumer ed mailings in 2003. Do people look at their mail? Put with water bills? Social media? on container?

Q: What is DEP doing about cost of glass recycling? Hingham is paying \$400/haul, \$15/ton for glass. SMI shuts down for 1-2 months/year, causes glut, is the only outlet in whole region. Can DEP provide incentive for competition?

A: oil prices are impacting all commodities. DEP is helping processors produce a cleaner product, investigating market improvement for fines, i.e. concrete. Working with users of aggregate material, to get them to use it. DEP is providing resources to industry (i.e. to get fiberglass plant to locate here), and to munis. A regional group could propose a pilot program, i.e. processed glass aggregate.

Ms. Snow: Cohasset separates by color, got grant for crusher, pays for staff to monitor, no net cost for glass. Value of clear offsets cost of brown and green.

Q: why doesn't MassHighway use PGA?

A: they are resistant, sub it out, no consistent supply. Aggregate is not that valuable, there is a glut right now. Also a problem with perception of using glass in roads.

DEP also addressing and providing resources to recycle mattresses, carpet, plastics.

Q: eliminate glass from banned materials?

A: try to make cost neutral at a minimum to recycle. Disposal costs are down 20%. Don't want to take it out, then have to bring back when disposal costs go back up. Cost avoidance is important.

Q: Deposit on wine, liquor bottles? A: Would be great.

Q: Need permit to aggregate glass?

A: No, as long as not overly contaminated. General permit (low bar), sign off on knowing rules.

Approve **October [minutes](#)** – Tabled, no quorum

**Grind-screen contract evaluation** – extend, re-bid, other? Tabled, no quorum. Cohasset, Kingston use Lion's Head. Does a good job, difficult to reach.

**Ewaste RFQ results.** EIC is less expensive than bids, do a good job.

**Legislation overview** (see [handout](#)) – committee? Tabled, no quorum

## **Executive Director's Report**

Review [SSRC Updates](#)

HHW fall summary (provided) - new contract, 10% reduction in per car cost.

**New business :** Hingham RC learned the AG disallowed home rule petition by a town to require charge for paper bags. Can't change relationship between business and customer (Williamstown suit).

Next meetings: Dec 17, Duxbury; Jan 21? 28? Whitman? Scituate? No decision.

Adjourn 10:40