

State of Connecticut  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 3900  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
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Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. by Chairman, Sen. Norm Needleman.

The following members were present:

Katie Dykes, Joanna Wozniak-Brown, Taren O'Connor, Sen. Christine Cohen, Rep. Joseph Gresko, Sen. Craig Miner, Rep. Stephen Harding, Sen. Norman Needleman, Rep. Raghieb Allie-Brennan, Sen. Paul Formica, Rep. Charles Ferraro, Brian Paganini, David Steuber, Donald Stein, Seth Bahler, James Cosgrove, Mark Van Weelden, Joan Nichols, Frank Antonacci, Jason Manafort.

Sen. Needleman greeted the members of the Solid Waste Working Group. He opened with a statement that the focus of the working group is on potential legislation that provides more direction for Connecticut in terms of how solid waste is managed. Sen. Needleman asked for a motion for he and Rep. Gresko to co-chair the working group.

Don Stein motioned for Sen. Needleman to co-chair the Solid Waste Working Group.

Second: James Cosgrove

Voice Vote: All Approved. None opposed. No abstention.

Don Stein motioned for Rep. Gresko to be co-chairs of the Working Group.

Seconded: Sen. Christine Cohen

Voice Vote: All Approved. None opposed. No abstention.

Subgroup: Diversion, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Chairman Needleman asked if Sen. Cohen would volunteer to chair which she agreed.

Subgroup: Combustion, Gasification Pyrolyzation, Landfill, Gas Recovery, Facility Location

Rep. Gresko agreed to chair.

#### Subgroup: Energy Recovery

Sen. Needleman stated he was willing to chair barring anyone else's interest in chairing. No further interest was expressed.

Sen. Needleman stated the next steps would be the subgroup chairs setting up meetings for their groups and stressed the members of the group was not all-inclusive as the working group is seeking discussion and participation. It was stated that meetings would begin to be set up this month.

Sen. Cohen emphasized that the working group and subgroups are not necessarily representative of all the stakeholders in the process and stressed making sure avenues were in place to bring all voices to the table through the larger working group or smaller subgroups and asked for the chairman's thoughts. Chairman Needleman was in full agreement.

Rep. Gresko listed the members of the group (listed at end of minutes) and requested other members of the subgroup, specifically with environment background, to point to other individuals who would care to participate in the subgroups. Rep. Gresko will request John Marsilio from Fairfield who served on the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority board (CRRA) to share his expertise and experience on the subgroup Combustion, Gasification Pyrolyzation, Landfill, Gas Recovery, Facility Location.

Rep. Gresko stated the first subgroup meeting on Combustion, Gasification Pyrolyzation, Landfill, Gas Recovery, Facility Location would be on Zoom with CT Gasification and the technology they could potentially provide. He requested other participants with expertise to reach out to Rep. Gresko so he can schedule a meeting with the subgroup and see options going forward.

Sen. Miner inquired about agendas for the subcommittee meetings so as to attend most of the subgroups and requested to be a member of all three subgroups which was approved.

Sen. Formica expressed appreciation for Sen. Needleman's willingness to co-chair the Solid Waste Working Group and an interest in moving forward with an outline of the subgroups presentations and providing outside input for consideration.

Seth Bahler requested data on how big of a problem solid waste is to be solved.

Sen. Needleman stated the Working Group was looking to gather data from DEEP on how much tonnage in total is generated and how much burning and how much shipping. He acknowledged it was a significant amount and out-of-state shipping didn't seem like the right solution.

Seth Bahler stated his dairy farm produces 50% of the milk in state and 50% of the milk is shipped in from out-of-state along with other food products and would like to figure out what we're up against.

Sen. Needleman discussed DEEP having some data that could be obtained for the working group. DEEP has permitting on in and out of state. Farm based is different in that it's not Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) but that it is waste and hopes farm-waste is digested and used effectively which will come with permitting and valuing the out product. Sen. Needleman also mentioned the value of the energy and incentivizing more farmers to do farm-based digestion.

Jeff Martirano shared that the Environmental Business Council Solid Waste Management Committee is hosting a webinar on September 28 on alternative technologies. The webinar will cover gasification and mixed waste processing and other alternative technology vendors.

Commissioner Dykes mentioned a webinar through Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management (CCSMM) which is DEEP's engagement with municipalities on waste issues.

DEEP is also hosting a webinar on regional waste authorities, which is something that some municipalities and Connecticut Council of Governments (COG) expressed interest in exploring models for regional and multi-municipal collaboration.

Commissioner Dykes also discussed an integrated resources plan that the DEEP energy team produces for mapping out strategy for Connecticut to ensure that CT has affordable, reliable, clean electricity supply over the next 10 years.

DEEP is required to issue a schedule of procurements associated with offshore wind when the legislature enacted the offshore wind authority three years ago. DEEP has expanded to also include other procurements. The Commissioner stated that DEEP has existing authority to support investments in anaerobic digestion, commercial scale and digestion, as well as, On-Farm Value Add. They are looking to engage with stakeholders on utilizing the existing authority in ways that provide greater infrastructure access across the state.

DEEP is continuing to work with municipalities around the state through the sustainable materials management grant program to provide funding and support different pilots that municipalities have proposed for testing out things such as food scrap collection.

Sen. Needleman mentioned one of the subgroups on energy recovery will discuss some enhanced procurement authority with timetables that will hopefully incentivize and for the private sector and state to come up with some more solutions. Sen. Needleman noted the procurement authority for anaerobic digestion is very small, in terms of megawatts, but these are all things that are on the table to make the whole picture work.

Frank Antonacci stated he thinks this working group is very important and hopes there is a deep dive into these issues to allow time to collect and correct information and validate information to make educated choices and decisions. Mr. Antonacci acknowledged outreach to industry stakeholders and regional authorities is the tip of the iceberg of an industry that is incredibly complex. Mr. Antonacci suggested that first tasks each subgroup tackle is to list data requests from the department, the state or the industry that would help inform them as they evaluate those areas.

Sen. Needleman requested information from DEEP to LCO regarding the question about how much waste is generated, how much is shipped out-of-state, how much is practically digestible and other best information in order to help make decisions.

John Mitchell (LCO, Energy & Technology) stated that subcommittee should notice their meetings, have agendas available to the public and meeting minutes as well.

Sen. Needleman re-emphasized Frank Antonacci's comments that this is a big project that will not be solved in a few months and will take years. He also highlighted that MIRA closing has changed how waste management is going forward which is different than what might have been tackled a decade ago. Sen. Needleman reiterated that he sees this as a moral question the idea of accepting food from other states and we send them our garbage.

Sen. Needleman said the full committee would meet after all the subgroups meet. Notice for the full committee group should go out in early October in order for subcommittees to report back.

Rep. Gresko agreed to finalize dates for the subgroup he chairs as there were conflicts with a webinar meeting.

Subgroup: Diversion, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – CHAIR SEN. COHEN, Rep. Gresko, Sen. Miner, Rep. Harding, Rep. Allie-Brennan, Commissioner Katie Dykes, Rebecca Augur, James Cosgrove, Joan Nichols, Seth Bahler, Brian Paganini

Subgroup: Combustion, Gasification, Pyrolization, Landfill, Gas Recovery and Facility Location – CHAIR REP. GRESKO, Sen. Formica, Commissioner Dykes, Don Stein, David Stuber, Frank Antonacci, Jason Manafort, Mark van Weelden, Brian Paganini, Anthony Farina, Jeff Martirano, Sen. Miner

Subgroup: Energy Recovery – SEN. NEEDLEMAN, Sen. Formica, Sen. Miner, Rep. Ferraro, Commissioner Katie Dykes, Chairperson Marissa Gillett, Dave Steuber