

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)

Meeting Summary

April 24, 2008

The current agenda and notes from January 24th were approved.

Updates from IPPAT members include:

Colleen Hetzel, MPCA

Customer research on MNGREAT awards is complete and final recommendations were made to the MPCA Prevention and Assistance Division Director. IPPAT voted to have same criteria, with a two-tiered system: 1) above and beyond submittals can earn an award plus video of the organization and its winning activity; and 2) others get award without video. MNGREAT has been made a partnership program to the Governor's Awards

Research results:

-external customer research results indicated that awards ceremony was good; confusion about which program to apply for; website should be easier to find; unclear how government awards are different.

-internal customer research results found names too long; website updates are difficult

-IPPAT customer research found that the PCA should be in charge of programs and ceremony; IPPAT's role should be to promote and judge; liked the new ceremony; past judges should get new judges involved; IPPAT needs to solicit projects from within their agencies

Recommended changes: 1) MNGREAT categorized under Governor's Awards 2) provide honorable mentions in all three categories 3) make website easier to find.

Ed Johnson, Finance and Chris Gilchrist, Energy/Commerce

Energy Savings Report found six barriers. It includes some generalities and requires that the state try to save 1.5% energy/year. Dave Fielding, Dept. of Administration, noted there was no specific action and timetables are lacking; no process currently in place to go in after the fact and validate savings; architects unable to design systems to achieve savings. We should go back further in the process to determine whether we are training architects properly and put teeth into design and construction contracts. Meanwhile, the University of Minnesota and Xcel made a strong point of saying that they can reach the 1.5% energy savings.

Linda Countryman noted that RETAP did assessments in an EPA project with schools and found that building electricity and energy systems were still being over designed, even in LEED-certified buildings. Fielding commented that the state must be more aggressive with standards and design and set limits.

Dave Fielding, Dept. of Administration

Department P2 Update: Resource Recovery Office recycling rates have decreased because waste generation is down. This is partly because the Dept. of Revenue is scanning files and storing files electronically; legislators have undertaken an aggressive plan to reduce paper. Waste is down 50,000 pounds for the first three quarters of the fiscal year. Waste generated has decreased by a couple of tons.

The department is testing concepts that, if successful, will bring waste down:

-Dyson Blade air hand dryer was installed in the state office building which uses 80% less energy and reduces paper towel use.

-Testing alternative touchless single sheet paper towel dispensers to see how much paper is used.

- Improved about as far as they can with lighting; some incandescents must stay due to the historical nature of the capitol building--high-intensity lights in parking lots; sourcing LEDs for parking ramp at Administration. NOTE: LEDs consume about one tenth the amount of energy relative to sodium lamps; LED rated life is 15 years, sodium life is 12-15 months.
- All-electric vehicle used by grounds crew replaced internal combustion vehicle
- Twelve E85 vehicles--79% compliance in FY 2008.
- New project involving Personal Computer (PC) monitor power where all are shutdown at 6:00 p.m. Energy savings are great. Software patches are being installed that will shut down PCs at a certain time.

A suggestion from the group was that Dave should sit down with IT folks from other agencies. Dave suggested that Bob Olsen could meet with the IT folks.

Gordy Dormanen, Iron Range Resources

Replanting of abandoned mine fields - IRR is using bigger a cup size this year to allow trees to develop a bigger root system to help deal with drought conditions. 82,000 trees were planted recently--1.5 millions trees planted since 1981. Overall, there's a 60-80% average survival rate in field; 98% survival rate in greenhouse. In addition, he's bringing trees up to Gunflint to be planted and so brought some white spruce and red pine for IPPAT members as Earth Day/Arbor Day gifts.

Their greenhouse contains 26 metal halide fixtures that heat in-floor water so there is no need for heat subsidy.

Mike Nevala, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Minnesota Conservation Corps (MCC) - Mike announced that the MCC hires 15-18 year olds for a summer program. Eighteen to 25 year olds are hired for a year long program. An event on June 8th at Lake Phalen in St. Paul will celebrate 75th anniversary MCC.

IPPAT Vision Meeting (Continued from January) – Further Refining Priorities for Action
(Refer to slides in email with this attachment)

Linda Countryman slides showing progress by IPPAT to date.

- After 10 years, need to consider vision and purpose
- Many executive orders pertain to IPPAT
- IPPAT work overlaps with others work related to the executive orders:
 - Building Energy, Smart Fleet, Clean Air MN; and MN Climate Change efforts to reduce carbon footprint
- Next Steps: Survey response roll up review and work in small groups.

Roger Wirkkunen looked through statutes, executive orders, etc. that mention pollution, including Minn. Stat. Sec. 116D.02 on the State's Environmental Policy; IPPAT executive order to communicate to agency employees; and Admin has mandate and website on energy savings. The document summarizing this research will be used in each small group for checking on whether our recommendations are already being addressed and may be redundant. (Refer to this document attached in email along with these notes)

The top four priorities have been spelled out in the roll up:

Objective 1 - Create a team mission and goals; develop and champion achievable objectives (short-term)

Objective 2 - Develop concrete initiatives for encouraging use of bio-fuels, fuel and energy efficiency, and reduction of greenhouse gases

(short-term)

Objective 3 - Promote policy and coordinate ideas to cut hazardous waste and pollution (long-term)

Objective 4 - Streamline and consolidate reports; and Simplify data collection and analysis (short-term)

For Objective 1, Gene Christensen noted that we look at IPPAT mission and determine what we'd like to have included when this executive order is renewed.

A new member commented that a bio-fuels initiative seems very targeted; are we sure that is the biggest impact area for IPPAT at this time? Linda explained that the selection was based on consensus survey of this group. It is focused, so we might see measurable success. Another member noted that many groups work on this and we are constantly inundated with information on this topic. When asked if we should we strike the word "bio-fuels" because it is so specific, Linda suggested that this be decided by the small group.

MNCCAG Report - presented by David Thornton, MPCA

Mr. Thornton was present to discuss how the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group report will impact agencies and IPPAT:

- The report is still out for public comment until Sunday 4/27/08.
- The legislature passed a Next Generation Energy Act which set ambitious energy goals for Minnesota.
- In advance of that, the governor asked the PCA and Dept. of Commerce to develop MNCCAG; with goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 30% in 2025 and 80% in 2050
- Fifty-six people participated in the group--not the usual environmental folks, but this included regular citizens
- MCCAG met for a year; started with a list of 350 ideas and whittled this down to 60 ideas; spent the last eight months thinking about these, the impacts they would have; analyzing the impacts of things already required by law (but not necessarily enforced)
- Group discovered that half of the 2025 goal will be achieved through things already required but not implemented
- The remaining half will be more challenging; the group identified Forestry and Land Management, Biofuels (full picture, not just ethanol), and Waste Management (recycling more) as the big impact areas
- A "cross-cutting issues" group looked at all technical areas; state and local governments leading the way
(IPPAT should start digging into report to determine what can be done)
- Minnesota is a member of The Climate Registry and volunteered to be on Board of Directors
- Preference would be that all administrations, departments, etc. join (Bill Sierks is the PCA contact)

Mike Nevala commented that his city joined ICLEI and that there are several other climate change groups. He asked if other groups feed into the Climate Registry. Thornton was not sure how compatible the different groups are.

He explained that agencies are taking on different tasks, developing emissions inventories, making changes in purchasing (purchasing has a huge impact), and developing low carbon fuel standard. (To review the full final report, see <http://www.mnclimatechange.us/MCCAG.cfm>)

Small groups to discuss top priorities – Members broke into three groups to focus on the three top objectives (besides revisiting the mission): Objective 2 - Develop concrete initiatives for encouraging use of bio-fuels, fuel and energy efficiency, and reduction of greenhouse gases; or Objective 3 - Promote policy and coordinate ideas to cut hazardous waste and pollution; or Objective 4 - Streamline and consolidate reports; and Simplify data collection and analysis (45 minutes).

Next steps – Small group leaders would convene their groups for further development of their objectives in the interim between the April and July meetings. Groups will report on progress at the July meeting, discuss with the whole group and get direction for refining their plans.

Ideas for next meeting's location:

- Lebanon Hills Learning Center (Eagan)
- Green Institute
- Brainerd (Camp Ripley)

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 24, 2008. [Ultimately re-located to the MPCA office in St. Paul due to budget cuts and travel restrictions.]