

Interagency Pollution Prevention Advisory Team (IPPAT)

Meeting Summary

October 23, 2008

The meeting opened with approval of the agenda and meeting notes from July 24.

Updates from all Agency Representatives

Ken Auer, Department of Military Affairs, worked with Steve Bragg of the U. S. Army Reserve on a new joint force regarding how to handle hazardous waste, spills, etc.

Mark Vogel, Department of Transportation (MNDOT), reported they recently hired two new people; one of the new employees or Mark will be attending the IPPAT meetings regularly.

Mike Nevala, Metropolitan Council, said he learned that gas prices are going down because of conservation. He and other IPPAT folks attended a conference hosted by the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (CHMM). Held in Minneapolis, September 7–10, 2008, over 800 attended from around the world. He and others reported on this conference later in the meeting.

Jackie Deneen, MNDOT was introduced as one of the new employees just hired at MNDOT. Jackie formerly worked at the MPCA.

Madalyn Cioci, MPCA, works on Resource Management Contracting (RMC), an alternative waste hauling model that helps customers haul less trash. The MPCA is hosting an RMC workshop on 10/24 for county staff. Staff are also working with Administration on incorporating RMC into small waste hauling contracts.

Ed Burkholtz, Metro Transit reported that despite gas prices decreasing, Metro Transit hasn't seen ridership decrease yet. They haven't seen ridership data since the fare increase took effect, so he cannot report whether there are any impacts from that yet.

Mark Wacek, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) said that over the last year their environmental initiatives included purchasing policies, alternative energy and energy efficiency (this has been worked on for ten years). MAC has also developed the Stewards of Tomorrow's Airport Resources (STAR). This group is putting together recommendations and conducting a cost-benefit analysis, but they need commission approval before proceeding with initiatives. MAC received a national award for the STAR program. The airlines have their own programs, but part of the STAR program is to quantify emissions (this is in draft form).

Chris Gilchrist, Department of Commerce--Office of Energy Security, reports that they formed an internal group to look at energy consumption issues (plugging computers in watt meters, measuring light levels in work spaces, etc.).

Bill Droessler, Minnesota Environmental Initiative (MEI), explained MEI is a non-profit and although it is not an official IPPAT member, but they work on related initiatives and collaborates on some initiatives.

Dave Fielding, Department of Administration. Plant Management set four goals related to energy conservation/pollution prevention –

- 1) Ten percent total reduction in energy consumption (this goal is related to an executive order):
 - first quarter results show total consumption down 5%; been aggressive in changing operating systems, building HVAC systems, addressing unnecessary consumption after hours and on weekends
 - found parking lots are too illuminated; Administration ramp removed high pressure sodium lamps and replaced these with high efficiency T5 lamps on sensors; energy savings projected to be 85%; plan to extend to Centennial Building for even more savings
 - Walmart energy visit this week: learned that in any outdoor application, cycling on fluorescents will be problematic due to cold temperatures; looking at induction lighting (similar to fluorescents); Phillips

and Sylvania have induction products; very energy efficient, long lamp life of over 100,000 hours; cost is less than LEDs but greater than fluorescents)

- Human Services agreed to drop light levels; decreased electricity bill by 3.5%
 - Minnesota History Center: represents 50% of Administration's natural gas consumption; completed control upgrade.
- 2) Vehicles
- promoting E85 use was last year's focus; now, focusing on battery/electric vehicles and compressed natural gas powered vehicles
 - DNR loaning GEM vehicle to Administration in off season
 - working on compressed natural gas retrofits (staffer being trained on the process)
 - moratorium on new vehicle purchases.
- 3) Disposed Waste
- last year's focus was to recycle everything that could be recycled; this year, focusing on reducing waste
 - food recycling in cafeterias (food to hogs program)
 - disposed waste down 11% so far
 - successfully tested roll towels, moving forward with the transition from c-fold to roll towels
 - Dyson hand dryers will be installed as electric hand dryers need to be replaced plus installed in all new construction.
- 4) Irrigation
- capital campus investment for irrigation monitoring
 - goal to reduce water use by ten percent
 - have used 4.2 million gallons in the first quarter of the year.

Phillip Muessig, MPCA Sustainable Communities unit, produces the NextStep web page and newsletter (<http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/>). He's working with Chris Gilchrist on a Green Star Cities assistance program. It challenges cities to encourage businesses to locate in cities. To earn "Green Star" certification cities must focus on reducing greenhouse gases and come up with standout innovations like improved water quality. For more information on the program, visit <http://www.greeninstitute.org/programs/community-energy.htm>

Mike Nevala asked what the difference is between Green Star Cities and Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT). Phil and Chris responded that CERTs goes beyond city administration and consists of networks of public and private entities working on clean energy. Green Star Cities will likely consist of about 75 best management practices and will incorporate greenhouse gas reductions and other environmental actions (not all related to clean energy). For example, these could include using the MNDOT "Safe Routes to Schools" program to reduce school bus use and amount to a quantifiable decrease in greenhouse gases.

Ken Oas, MNSCU, announced it is mostly working with energy efficient, capital programs. They're developing an RFP for benchmarking in all schools. He will bring information on college sustainability issues to a future meeting. MNSCU is looking at obtaining renewable energy through the Department of Commerce's grants, but this is hard for heating. MNSCU has done a lot of re-commissioning. Members offered to give Ken names and leads on what other campuses have or are doing regarding sustainability.

Johanna Kertesz, MPCA. The October issue of the Buying Green newsletter is available (<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/oea/epp/newsletter.cfm>). She is working with Materials Management Division on an RFP for compostable bags, so any agency with an organics collection program (or any agency hoping to start an organics collection program) will have the opportunity to purchases bags through a state contract. Also, the Eastside Food Coop in northeast Minneapolis is conducting a year-long pilot to determine the available markets for plastics not collected in curbside recycling programs. The MPCA's in-house waste reduction and recycling group is sponsoring quarterly collections of these plastics. If other agencies are interested in hosting an inter-agency collection and/or setting up a collection at their own agency, please contact Johanna: Johanna.kertesz@state.mn.us or (651) 297-5518.

Highlights of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers Conference

Mike Nevala reported that this was a conference hosted by the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (CHMMs), held in Minneapolis shortly after the Republican National Convention. Highlights include:

- keynote speaker was Christine Todd Whitman (former EPA Administrator)
- other speakers included Ed Foulke (current Director of OSHA), Todd Conklin (Los Alamos National Laboratory), John Howard (medical doctor with a special interest in follow-up to 9/11 building collapse health effects)
- IPPAT members in attendance were Mike Nevala, Steve Bragg and Mark Vogel.

Mark Vogel added that he gave a presentation on 35W bridge collapse; homeland security officials in attendance.

He also explained that MNDOT received several MPCA violations in the past and determined that testing was not conducted properly, especially when buildings and bridges had to be assessed for demolition. Now MNDOT requires CHMM personnel for contractors and as a result maintains an internal certified/approved list of contractors that is updated every two years. Mark is willing to share this list with other agencies. Linda agreed to send this list to the IPPAT email list.

Steve added that the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) is the organization that issues CHMM identification numbers. For more information see www.achmm.org. The local North Star chapter is at <http://www.achmm-nsc.org/>.

Small Group Reports & Group Discussion

Promote Policy (Small Group #3) – Phyllis Strong

(Note: handouts on proposed final products were provided)

The group decided on the approach of having a “one stop” place on IPPAT webpage with resources for addressing relevant statutes and executive orders. They created two documents:

1. resources by topic; and 2. resources by statute, policy, or order.

These are living documents and were designed to be easily updated. The whole group then compared the short and long versions of the documents, and selected shortest version entitled “IPPAT Resources by Statute, Policy or Order.” This will be posted on the IPPAT web page and Linda will be responsible for the page and updates. She will see if the longer, more detailed documents could be posted for members only, or be password-protected for their access. They also looked long term and wondered if there were ways to support IPPAT agencies and direct non-IPPAT people to an external source (i.e. Green Gatherings website). It was suggested that there be a quarterly review of the web page where IPPAT is asked if anything needs to be updated, then the group would adopt a short list of items to be placed on the web page as soon as possible.

Fuel & Energy Efficiency (Small Group #2) – Chris Gilchrist

(Note: small group meeting notes provided)

There has not been much activity since July meeting. The group concluded that statewide energy use goal is not the way to go. Dave Fielding mentioned that there is no evidence of agencies reporting energy use progress.

Streamline Reporting (Small Group #4) – Linda Countryman

(Note: small group meeting notes provided)

The group did not meet after July, but many inconsistencies in reporting were pointed out by Roger Wirrkunen in an email to the small group. Some items were how to deal with energy load creep, utility bills might be hard to compare, paper reduction and recycled content can't be compared, and the calculators are challenging.

Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group (MCCAG) Recommendations - Cathy Moeger

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Cathy is now serving as the MPCA's Sustainability Manager. She noted that an overview of the MCCAG process was provided by David Thorton (MPCA) a few meetings back; Bill Sierks (MPCA) helped support the process, but that state agencies were not allowed to participate ; and that Bill Droessler (MEI) participated in process and will be an important resource for the group. She then turned to a brief power-point presentation to address where IPPAT has been named in the final Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group's final report and noted areas where MCCAG's cost-effective recommendations offer opportunities for future IPPAT agency actions:

- Buildings (green buildings/energy efficiency)
- Fleet
- Purchasing/Contracting
- Renewable Fuels
- Source reduction/recycling/composting

-The relevant section of the MCCAG report is Chapter 7-4 CC#3 ; Next recommended step in developing strategies should be to talk to key members of the MCCAG group that created recommendation CC#3.



CrossCutting
chapterMCCAG.pdf

- The MPCA joined the Climate Registry which includes a commitment to an audited reporting protocol; reporting will allow the MPCA to exchange carbon credits in the future;
 - MPCA, DNR, Metropolitan Council, and 12 other entities in Minnesota have become Climate Registry members;
 - Cathy asked the group if any of their agencies were aware of the Climate Registry and if any of them were considering joining (DOT--probably aware, not sure about joining; MNSCU--some colleges may have joined, but not as formal group; Military Affairs--already reporting due to Federal requirement);
 - Annual reporting collects data on an agency's individual footprint, which somewhat mimics IPPAT reporting requirements;
 - MPCA, Administration, and Commerce are looking at current IPPAT reporting requirements and discussing how to streamline the reporting; The Climate Registry reporting might be a good surrogate for IPPAT reporting; IPPAT will be consulted as the discussion moves forward;
- (A copy of this slide show will be emailed to IPPAT, as well as a link to the Climate Registry protocol.)

Bill Droessler commented that this type of reporting will allow agencies to be ahead of the game since reporting may be required in the future, and can bring consistency to the reporting process.

Next Steps:

1. Meet with original "cross-cutting" issues group.
2. Identify areas where the Executive Orders or policies already impact climate change.
3. Combine Executive Orders to eliminate overlap/duplication; clarify where necessary.
4. Streamline reporting system – Climate Registry state protocol.

The goal is to have a draft of the new Executive Order out in December for a preview by IPPAT.

Cathy explained that this will not plow new ground and won't go beyond what we already have now. She asked if IPPAT is okay with being a sounding board for reviewing the draft, etc., and she welcomed emails with ideas from IPPAT.

Mike Nevala responded that IPPAT began with hazardous waste minimization and has changed issues over time. This is just another new direction. He then posed two questions:

1. Can we get a commitment from our own commissioners?
2. Can we get a commitment for resources from the PCA to accomplish this effort?

NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2009. Discuss draft Executive Order and progress on state agency meetings. Marilyn Jordahl Larson will report on other states' involvement in the Climate Registry following her attendance at a national conference.

Attendees

Auer	Ken (DMA)	Nevala	Mike (MCES)
Bragg	Steve (US Army Reserve)	Oas	Ken (MnSCU)
Birkholz	Ed (Metro Transit)	Strong	Phyllis (PCA)
Cavadini	Wayne (DNR)	Sulbach	Mark (PCA)
Cioci	Madalyn (PCA)	Vogel	Mark (MNDOT)
Countryman	Linda (PCA/IPPAT coordinator)	Wacek	Mark (MAC)
Deneen	Jackie (MNDOT)		
Droessler	Bill (MEI)		
Ebert	John (Dept. Military Affairs)		
Fielding	Dave (Admin.)		
Gilchrist	Chris (Commerce)		
Jordahl	Marilyn (MnDOT)		
Larson			
Kertesz	Johanna (PCA)		
Moeger	Cathy (PCA)		