

**Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the
Monmouth County Solid Waste Advisory Council
Thursday, May 17, 2018
Monmouth County Reclamation Center
6000 Asbury Ave. Tinton Falls, NJ**

I. Meeting Opening – Attendance

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by Chairman Johnson. It was announced the meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

Members Present: Boodey, Branch, Johnson, Rainforth, Straus, Posten, Throckmorton

Members Absent: Lomangino, David, McArthur

Counsel Present: Jodi Howlett, Esq.

I. Old Business

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Posten seconded by Throckmorton and approved unanimously, the minutes for the March 15, 2018 meeting was approved.

No other old business to report.

II. New Business – No business to report

III. Regular Business –

Metzger reported we are seeing now how much impact the Chinese officials have on the operational realities of recycling programs throughout North America. The fallout from the latest restrictions called National Sword and Blue Sky 2018 has made its way down to the consumer level.

Recycling issues started back in 2013, when China first began tightened quality controls on the material sent to their ports. Green Fence crackdown in 2013, launched intensive inspections of incoming scrap metal material. In 2017, China announced National Sword; their specific focus was to find illegal permits to import materials where they checked bales of low grade plastics as well as paper with high moisture

content. This crackdown was also being used to assess overall material quality. Custom officials were checking every container entering the country at certain ports; this caused delays for material shippers. Officials in China were contemplating a ban on solid waste imports by category. At this time, exporters were facing fees doubling over a very short time and it was getting difficult to move materials into China. By the summer of 2017, China was banning post - consumer plastics, unsorted mixed paper and some metals and set a contamination level of 0.3 percent for imported loads of recyclables. By the end of the summer US exporters reported that their Chinese buyers have not received new import permits for any recyclable materials since May. This begins a dramatic slowing of shipments to China. By late September 2017, the fallout from the restrictions reached municipal programs and MRF's. Some recycling companies started stockpiling materials without a downstream outlet. In the fall of 2017, prices for old corrugated cardboard dropped dramatically due to the lack of import permits. Cardboard always had strong values this is a major upset for commodity prices. China wants pristine quality material and the single-stream is dirty.

China putting all these restrictions on quality control, exporters are looking for other Asian markets especially for plastics. In mid - March 2018, custom officials in China announced Blue Sky 2018, aimed at enforcing the import restrictions.

The climate of recycling today in Monmouth County is partly about the limited companies we have in the County that accept recyclables. Recycling problems are across the country experiencing major difficulty moving the recyclables because of China's quality control restrictions. Without having a processing facility in our County municipalities are paying more to dispose of the curbside recycling. Tipping fees are as high as \$55.00 per ton fluctuating from month to month. Approximately \$30.00 per ton is transportation costs. The County generates over 10,000 tons of recyclables each month.

On May 3, 2018, the Chinese government suspended China Certification and Inspection Group (CCIC) in North America for one month. They halted inspections and certificate issuance from May 4 through June 4, 2018. Chinese government will continue to accept shipments sent before May 3, 2018 that contain CCIC certificates, but without guarantee of entry. Those shipments will be subject to 100% inspection at the receiving port.

This is China's latest crackdown on the scrap trade since 2017. This action affects only the scrap recycling industry and only shipments from the United States.

The NJDEP has not commented on the potential crisis regarding the disposition of recyclable materials. The law states that Class A recyclable materials (glass bottles/jars, pourable plastic bottles, tin/steel cans, newspaper, mixed paper and corrugated cardboard) MAY NOT be disposed at any disposal site of any type (landfills and incinerators either inside or outside of NJ). Unless or until the State makes a legally binding decision that contradicts the current law, we have NO options. Until we hear otherwise from the facilities that accept these materials, nothing has changed for Monmouth County. Nothing has been interrupted, all municipal recycling programs are in operation, and all the currently approved Class A recycling facilities that receive Monmouth County generated recyclables are in operation; no municipality has been rejected to date.

Boodey commented that the trucking costs kill recycling and with the contamination it becomes an enormous cost. Johnson said the way to go is waste to energy. Most were in agreement with that statement.

Throckmorton reported that his retirement will be June 1, 2018. He has not received word whether he will be appointed to stay on as a SWAC member. He did report that the MCRC is working with the NJDEP on the valley fill and the landfill is projected to bring in 400,000 tons of trash this year.

In attendance was DJ Mazza, he reported he is having difficulty finding truck drivers because of the new standards; they have to do E-logs which gives accountability.

There being no further business there was a motion by Straus seconded by Throckmorton for adjournment at 7:57 pm.