Draft Notes: Composting Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting
September 27, 2017
Scribe: Lauren Noether

9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks by Pam Hoyt-Denison

- Review the previous minutes. No revisions were suggested for the prior meeting's notes.
- Plan for morning is to break up into individual work groups: Rules/Regulatory, Education/Outreach and NRRA Pilot Project. We will reconvene around 11 am to report out and determine next steps.

9:20 am Focus groups commence meeting separately.

11:15am Focus Groups reconvene. Each group provided progress reports to the full group, as follows.

NRRA Group : Melanie reported out. Other members of that group present are Mike Durfor, Bob Kelley, Linda Birmingham, Laura Filiau

The members of the group reviewed the notes from the last meeting including the previously identified 16 locations that would be possible locations for each of the pilot study sites.

- The permit status of each of the locations was discussed.
- Looking for a small town, possibly already recycling – regional presence, good sized community to divert food waste but no capability to do it themselves.
- Looking for a hub – place to collect from other locations, either a municipal or commercial operation.
- Another factor was whether the facility is ready or not ready to begin the project. Those that are ready will begin in the Spring of 2018.

The group narrowed it down to 4 target sites out of 16: Lebanon Landfill, Sunapee TS, Derry TS and a hub.

Next Steps:

- Economics to figure the full cost accounting for the pilot
- Test and verify alternative methods of economically viable food waste diversion for effective reuse. This would be using the BMPs and…
- Start small, food waste for the first 12 months.
- In the Fall of 2017 specific proposals for each of the 4 potential sites will be submitted to NHDES in order to determine what will be required in terms of permitting, waivers, etc. – workgroup will put together proposal(s) with NRRA being the lead.
- If these are successful, the group would like to go further with the project.

HOMEWORK: Ensure proper proposals are submitted to NHDES in October so that the project can get off the ground.

Rules/Regulatory Group: Pam Hoyt-Denison reported out.

The group determined that there were a variety of issues within the rules that need to be addressed; however, as a whole there are very few things that are "broken". There are some aspects of the rules that could be confusing to "the man on the street" but not completely unworkable. Some things that need some tweaking and clarification include:

- The wording and packaging need to be user-friendly
- Meat and dairy is the biggest issue – focus on thoughtful rule revisions pertaining to this

- Review existing permit exemptions
- Tiered permit system – there will be permits!
- Address the topic of end markets/uses.

Topic Discussions in subcommittee:

- End markets. What is happening with this finished compost? Is there a need for the compost that would be created?
- Why are there not more facilities composting? Economics? Rules? Centralized compost infrastructure not logistically viable? The committee will be looking to the NRRA projects for some answers on this.
- We need to discuss concerns about nutrient loading and equity with biosolids regs. Key issue for later discussion – we need to show attention to this effort beyond food waste
- Farm Exemptions – potential operator for receipt from off-site. Need to discuss nutrient management. Farms have a responsibility for nutrient management…this is not a condition of the NHDES rules for now. Dept. of Ag and NRCS have the standards and farms generally police themselves. Is this responsible or not?

HOMEWORK: For the next meeting (November 29, 2017), focus group members will be assigned to review a surrounding state's composting rules and regulations and prepare to present a summary to focus group members.

Education & Outreach Group: Tara Albert reported out. Those in attendance were Tara Mae Albert of SWMB, Sarah McGraw of NRRA , Dave Jeffers of Lakes Region Planning Commission, Christine Beling of EPA and Lauren Noether, SWMB (scribe).

Review the action items from the last meeting.
Educational Materials: Tara has been sent some educational materials. She will send the materials to the subcommittee electronically.

Resources: There was lots of discussion regarding the resources that we have currently and what resources we may need. We need a subcommittee volunteer to be the "collector" of information regarding the existing resources. As Tara had discussed previously, NHDES does not have the resources to be the only way this work will be completed.

Specific resources that were mentioned in this discussion: USDA Grant through NRRA, LRPC, EPA Sharetables

- **Action Item**: Sub-Committee members to identify what resources are actually available. An example of this could be:
    - **Who**: NEWMOA (New England Waste Management Officials' Association), Jennifer Griffith. (Include a specific contact person and information, if available)
    - **What**: Small USDA Grant to assist a stakeholder in promoting food reduction/composting in rural NH towns. This grant time frame is from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2017. (Include time constraints if there are any.)
    - **Deliverables**: If this is a grant driven endeavor, what is the group supposed to deliver at the end of the time frame? If not a grant, what can the resource deliver/offer to the Subcommittee whether it is expertise, funding, time, location to host training or

information.

- Throw out any and all ideas to the group. This should include things other than monetary resources such as master gardeners, farm associations.

- **Action Item**: Sub-Committee member to volunteer to collect the information regarding the existing resources available to the workgroup. This can be warehoused in an Excel spreadsheet using the information provided to the volunteer.

Roles of the Subcommittee Members: Sub-Committee members need to choose where their area of expertise could be best utilized.

- **Action Item**: Sub-Committee members identify whether they would like to work with E&O towards 1) Big Institutions, 2) Backyard/Small TSs/Schools (K-12), or on the 3) Food Waste Reduction efforts.
- Within those three groups the focus needs to be:
  - Why should we do this?
  - How do we do this? Where do we do this? (Use what we know; Facebook; Conferences/Workshops; SWOT; Farmers' markets; nurseries)
  - What are the actual education topics?

Education Plan:

- Branded Logos. Take a look at Vt model. No reason to reinvent the wheel.
- We need to get a better grasp on what can be done and who are examples of folks doing composting already-what community gardens, what schools? What transfer stations can be tapped into?
- We need to dispel myths on odors, pests and then teach people how to properly compost rather than let food rot.
- Social media uses: YouTube, Facebook, etc.
- Rack cards for why to compost and reduce food waste to disseminate to schools, libraries, TSs, Grocery stores – use a NH centric image, a pyramid and the VT logos.
- **Action Item**: Education plan in place for when the rules are in effect. We want to be able to hit the ground running for those facilities that have permits and for those residents who use those facilities. In addition, we need to have a united message for other education opportunities.

Online Host: Discussions were had as to who should host all of this information. Is it NHDES? Dept of Ag.? Cooperative Extension?

- The ideas of an interactive website that would provide people with information pertinent to their purpose would be helpful rather than just throwing everything on the page and calling it good. Does anyone know of a web designer that could help with this?
- Other information available such as list of markets for compost, composting manuals that already exist

Other Action Items

- **Action Item**: Does the E&O subcommittee need to add some members from statewide educational associations and from a statewide agriculture entity such as farm to table group or Dept. Agriculture?
- **Action Item:** Endorsing the EPA Food reduction initiative