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

- Ongoing regulatory research
- NHDES continuing to devote what limited resources are available, always interested in partnering with groups such as regional planning commissions, collaborate on grants, etc.
- Will break into respective subgroups, although NRRA pilot group opted not to meet today (planning to meet sometime TBD in December). Follow up on action items identified at September meeting

9:25 am Subgroups commence meeting separately

11:10 am Subgroups reconvene as larger group

Rules/Regulatory Subgroup:
Present: Pam H.D. (NHDES), Judy H. (NHDES), Michael N. (NHDES), Felicia M. (RMI), Kristen Simard (Star Island), Matt S. (UNH), Bob M. (Waste Management), Marc M. (City of Lebanon), Kim S. (Blue Farm), Vickie D. (UVLSRPC)

- Initial conversation touched on the importance of defining the goals driving this rules review.
- Develop rules based on research and science
- Important to also keep policies consistent with the economic, geographic and demographic characteristics of our region
- Outright ban probably not the "NH way"
- Identified need: dedicated technical assistance. NH lacks dedicated staff that can help train & guide facilities with startup and operations
    - ME has the Maine Compost Team, a cross-disciplinary group composed of individuals from DEP, Dept of Ag, UMaine Cooperative Extension
    - In NY the Cornell Co-Op extension serves similar role
    - UNH extension may be contemplating the addition of a new position for the purposes of compost outreach/training. Potential for future collaborations between state and UNH to mirror the ME model. Use MOU to codify roles?
- The group reviewed composting rules established by other states in region:
    - New York:
        - Considerable number of large scale CAFO farms. CAFO's are permitted and regulated by Dept. of Ag. NY has worked to modify regs over last several years to create compatibility between Ag and waste rules.
        - Have also increased language for AD and added a new CAFO permit class. AD is perhaps more relevant in NY due to quantity of sizeable farms

- 3 levels of facilities – exempt, registration, permit (generally anything above 10,000cy per year triggers need for a permit)
- No distinction for facilities processing meat & dairy vs. those without
- State utilizes SEQR decision-making framework (http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6208.html)

- Maine:
  - Residual categories based primarily on initial C:N of feedstocks (5 categories total)
  - Overall, suite of rules very performance-based
  - Seems to take a middle approach, emphasizing BMP's rather than regulating for worst-case scenarios
  - Specific management techniques not prescribed in rules. Instead state has separate BMP's document as supplement (this document does not appear to be specifically referenced by rule)
  - Standards for testing of finished product not specified explicitly in rules, would seem Maine DEP exercises discretion in deciding when testing is required, and defers to Dept of Ag standards for land application, or chapter 405 – rules for water quality monitoring, leachate monitoring, and waste characterization
  - Team-based approach; close coordination between DEP and Dept of Ag
  - No standards for persistent pesticides
    - Conversation highlighted that perhaps standards for contaminants will be dictated by market requirements/demand
- Vermont:
  - 3-tiered system based on volume: small, medium and large facilities.
  - Prescriptive testing before market of product
  - Training requirement
  - Act 148 is statutory backdrop – much more than a composting framework; establishes universal recycling standards and sustainable materials management goals. Emphasizes source reduction and preferential reuse (not just waste management)
  - Food waste diversion goals are phased in over time (by 2020 food scraps from *any* generator banned from disposal)
  - Issues with collection and processing capacity to meet demands of the law. Little funding available to bolster infrastructure
- Massachusetts:
  - Some similarity with NY in terms of structure of rules and parity between waste and Ag
  - Also pursuing a food waste ban, but unlike VT only affects commercial generators

- California:
  - Tiered based on feedstocks
  - Very specific facility scenarios that authorize acceptance of only certain types of wastes/residuals

- Where are we now?
  - Have established context for what some other states are doing
  - Next goal is to take a critical review of NH rules and discuss what exactly should be revised/updated
    - It was suggested that perhaps the group take a break for a while and allow DES to come forward with draft revisions for review
    - However, group seemed to think more critical review of NH's existing rules would be more appropriate at this point (identify specific needs/concerns)
  - What exactly is our goal in revising the rules?
    - Establish new diversion goals/conserve disposal capacity?
    - Remove regulatory barriers/inconsistencies? (i.e. look at compatibility issues between water rules or ag rules and waste rules)
    - Provide a more regulatory framework for handling meat and dairy?
    - Ultimately encourage development of more composting/organics mgmt. infrastructure in NH
    - Strike a balance between accommodation of current industry practices and proper regulatory oversight and engineering standards.
  - ACTION ITEM:
    - Review NH composting chapter (Env-Sw 600) along with the rules summaries previously compiled by NHDES. Identify "red flags" or other areas of concern. At next meeting we will compile a master list of areas for review
  - Meet again in January/Feb? TBD – just be conscious of Feb school break

Education & Outreach Subgroup:

Present: Tara Mae Albert (NHDES), Melissa Zych (NHDES), Cynthia Nelson (NHDES), Dave Jeffers (LRPC), Sarah McGraw (NRRA), Dave Morrill (Badger), Erin Daley (LRPC), Chris Behling (US EPA), Amy Janvier (Antioch University), Melanie Doiron (Scribe from NHDES)

Recap:

- 3 groups of things have been discussed in previous sessions of this workgroup
  - Who needs to be trained?
  - What are the resources?
  - What are the educational needs and deficiencies?
- There are a number of generators: small commercial, sw owners/operators
- There are already groups out there to do education – NERC/NEWMOA/NRRA/SWOT/P2/Universities/Agriculture/Communities/4-H/Food Recovery Network, etc.

What do we need?:

- Money, someone to coordinate (not Tara)?, who are the hosts of composting? Where are our feedstocks? What are the end markets? New regulations needed? What are the logistics?
- We need a plan? - What is it? How do I do it? Who is I? What is How? Permits, training, etc.
- Topics

Statements/Conversations after recap.

- Resource Library – who will house the resources?

- We have two I's – food waste reduction/composting (DM)

- Source Reduction/food recovery/composting next (CB)

- Composting is what we are working on now in this group. We need new rules. Food waste reduction should be a target. (TMA)

- Food waste reduction campaign aimed at hospitality and social media outreach is needed (MZ/CN)

- NEWMOA/Food work reduction funded through USDA Grant (TMA)

- We should work with stakeholders for food waste reduction (DJ/LRPC)

- NRRA – Schools are looking to reduce waste (SM)

- Project she is working on – model – municipal compost project with CSA component, compost at local farm – it is new and 2 learning experience – start small/scale down – (Marlborough) – opportunity for education (SM)

- Who runs the school project? Students leave. Staff at school can run program (ED)

- Common core standard for school. Needs to do waste reduction as part of it. (SM)

- Other states are doing work on food waste and have put together packages on donations, liability, etc. (CB)

- A webpage on "questions on compost" would be useful – e.g. homeowners – how do I compost? (TMA)

- Put together information/resources. Cooperative extension should be at the table. Borrow/exchange information for interactive set up. (DJ)

- Multiple sources of information can be confusing. There should be a gathering of funding, pooling of resources, of those that want to work on the same things (one grant) (DJ)

- There is a sustainability and agriculture education research grant that may be available. We are not ready for it now but may be in the future (TMA)

- Did research about what is out there and what can be utilized. It could be organized into a spreadsheet of information. (ED)

- Get back to Composting. Q. Do you see more composting at Transfer stations? What do you envision for the future? A. Yes, we see more TS and would like to see more commercial composting. Vt. Went backwards – implemented the ban but provided little education. Need for more education when implementing programs/bans. (TMA/SM)

- How do we get to generators? Y – has master composters that are a community voice. They have an infrastructure in place, where they use master gardeners etc. to education people. (SM)

- NRRA SM/VDavis – UVLSRPC/LRPC/all have USDA grants – they can all work together to do outreach and alter it to fit community (TMA)

- Community kitchen in the area. The program can get food to them through a CSA/donation system. Do they also compost? (AS)

- Bagel Works/Thai Restaurant works together to replace a cardboard dumpster with a compost dumpster (DM)

- P2 was trying to recruit 2 collection system in Common Ground. There were a lot of barriers. Food waste to farmers – the project was hard to get off the ground because of road blocks. – hard to make connections (MZ)

- Talk success, financial benefits, this is a sell. How do you measure success? Use case studies. (DJ)

- You have to measure your waste in order to manage it, in order to determine success (CN)

- Measures 4x 1 year – divert large percentage of waste. Yuck factor is issue who organize it is question. (DM)

- Small businesses are hard. Need labor, schools, university, large institution is easier (CB)

- There are companies out there that measure. But there is a cost involved (CB)

- NHLRA – You can go to the conference, but it is hard to get in. (MZ) At sustainability conference there was little talk about sustainability. Needs to focus on those that are interested. Successes will pull them in. (CN)

- "Common Ground" – Lakes Region – works with groups to education others about wastes (ED)

- Universities are isolated. They can have an event at the TS or community area and education people about how much food waste is thrown out. (TMA)

- Whole foods. What are they doing? They do food donations. (CB) Helping hands also do food donations. (CN)

- Helping hands also do food donations (CN)

- What about grants to purchase compost bins? (MZ)

- We need to hone in on all the groups that are doing different things. Concentrate on two areas – business/residential. Two separate focus areas (TMA)

- There are 200 schools in the NRRA "School Club" – there are active and not so active schools. Rural vs. large town. One funded a large scale compost area and it was successful. It is viable in rural areas. (SM)

- Somersworth did a compost program with Mr. Fox. It was a success. (SM)

- If a facility (composter) was available it would be easier. (SM) In the meantime, compost regulations need to revisited (TMA)

- We can start with food waste reduction, but still compost currently as the rules allow (TMA)

- Grocers can be a focus. Hannaford did some but currently let go of sustainability people (CB). P2 is no longer working with them (MZ)

- Transportation is a huge barrier to donating/composting/recycling. Huge cost. We want to do the right thing but it needs to be affordable and convenient. Communities need to work together (DJ)

- Why does it use more to transport compost? (DM) matter of scale (CB)

- We did dispel the myths of composting with education (SM)

- Penacook PAYT – drives people to reduce, reuse, recycle. Start with PAYT Towns (ED)

- For PR – use city television (DM) NHtB – school videos on various topics (SM) have a PR campaign – all ready others doing it. Reyclingworksma.com – look at this website. Lots of useful information. They can be useful in determining what needs to be done as far as technical assistance. (CB)

ACTION ITEMS

Members need to identify where they are going to focus their efforts from among the following areas:

- Education: Residential/localized composting – Backyard or Business
- Determine geographically where the composting infrastructure is
- Food recovery/reduction education as focus
- Pilots – figure out where the target should be for education
- Measures (waste audits – emphasis on usefulness)

Members agreed to the following:

- David M – Business/Institutes – build connections – what are they?

- Cynthia N – work on "packet of tools" gather information/food recovery challenge with EPA (work together)
- TMA – Operator class – Mark K – Maine Compost School & Athena – NERC – PAYT/Food Reduction
- Sarah McGraw – work with schools on food waste reduction/share table/resource documetns, connect with CB of EPA
- Amy – Antioch – tie in with pilot project, Mike Durfor – Sarah M will give her school curriculum.
- Side Note – one coordinator needed (NRRA?) DHHS (food safety?) to be composting person

Next Meeting to be determined after the holidays and TMA has time to marry the 11/29 notes and the original Education Plan discussed in August.