

SCRAP TIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 10, 2008
 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Lansing, Constitution Hall, Atrium North
 Rachel Carson Conference Room

MEETING SUMMARY

Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	E-mail Address
Participants			
Alan Huffman	Huffman Rubber	517-568-3353	
Bud Dingus	Environmental Rubber	810-789-1222	bud@fortistar.com
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Don Adams	Viking Energy	231-775-2772	dadams@mcbainpower.com
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Matt Romanoski	Geocycle	734-625-1698	matt.romanoski@geocycle.com
Michael Blumenthal (on phone)	Rubber Manufacturers Association	202-682-4882	Michael@rma.org
Mike Bengelink	Park of the Lakes	231-775-3542	mbengelink@yahoo.com
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Steve Essling	MWIA		
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Tom Frazier	Michigan Townships Association	517-321-6467	tom@michigantownships.org
DEQ Staff			
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Welcome by Rhonda Zimmerman and introduction of participants, George Bruchmann commented on the current budget status.

Approval of April 9, 2008 draft meeting summary: no comments on the meeting summary. It will be posted on the website as a final draft.

Scrap Tire Cleanup and Market Development Grants: Julie and Becky provided an update on the Scrap Tire Cleanup and Market Development Grants: *Scrap Tire Cleanup Grants:* Most of the Scrap Tire Cleanup Grants are nearing completion, with the exception of a handful of grant sites that have been extended to the end of November. FY 2009 Grant applications will be available Monday, September 15 and will be due Friday, October 31, 2008. *Market Development Grants:* Staff has met with Entech, the 2008 Market Development Grant recipient, for their first quarterly status report. Staff will also visit Entech to view equipment installed in early October. FY 09 Market Development Grant applications will be available in the next couple of weeks.

Biomass Issues: Don Adams provided an update on the energy bills and biomass tax credits at the state level. There are two energy bills that are currently in conference committee but should head to the floor soon, the renewable portfolio standard is the major hang-up in the progress of the bills. TDF is still a viable fuel under the bills although it does not qualify as a biomass, but is still eligible, TDF will be discounted as a non-biomass renewable source (similar to what the IRS has agreed to on production tax credits at the national level). There shouldn't be an impact on TDF as a result of energy policy in Michigan.

Beneficial Reuse/Industrial Resources Council presentation: Michael Blumenthal also provided an update on the Industrial Resources Council and the Green Highways Initiative's plans to hold a beneficial reuse conference in Michigan concerning high volume industrial materials (including tires). A similar conference will be held in Alabama on November 5, 2008 and other conferences will be held around the country. A meeting to discuss a potential conference in Michigan next spring will be held in October in Ann Arbor.

RMA Tire Survey Update: Michigan was one of the first states to submit complete information for the tire survey. Many states find it difficult to submit information as they do not know where they are with tires and many agencies have cut back staff. Overall it appears numbers have gone up for TDF (155 million tires in 2005 to 189 million in 2007) and ground rubber (up 20% from 37 million tires in 2005 to 47 million tires in 2007), although civil engineering applications are down nearly 20%. This is showing that the demand is increasing for the "higher" end-use material. The full report does not have an estimated release date, but it should be near the end of October.

Used Tire Retailers Discussion: Ann Vogen posed the question to the group regarding the registration of used tire retailers. The concern is that used tire retailers are opening up shop in areas of SE Michigan and closing very quickly-unsure of what is happening to the tires at these stores. It would be difficult to register used tire retailers as this is not specified in Part 169. Including more retailer inspections in district work plans may be a solution.

Scrap Tire Hauler Issues: An increase in tire dumping and “cherry picking” of used tires has also been increasing. The committee discussed possible solutions to this problem: one idea was to write a strongly worded letter to tire retailers and car dealerships reminding them to lock up their tires at night and to only use registered haulers. It was also noted that there should be some sort of car retailers association, we could possibly work with them to remind members to only use registered haulers. It was also noted that national chains have contracts with haulers that are volume based which may be lower than regional rates. If these national contract haulers paid the “going rate” it would discourage “cherry picking.”

Tim Gentner also discussed the possibility of bonding haulers or charging a registration fee for scrap tire haulers which may help the problem of illegal dumping. It was noted that larger companies would be able to afford bonding or a registration fee, but smaller less established companies may not be able to afford this extra fee. It was also pointed out that bonding or charging a fee may hurt legitimate operators as illegal operators still won't register and/or bond. Another option may be to increase penalties for illegal dumping, which would require legislative action. If haulers were bonded the bond would be seized if the company was discovered to dump illegally. The department may need to enforce current laws better to prevent dumping. These hauler and used tire retailer issues will be discussed at the next Scrap Tire staff meeting and will be reported back at the next STAC meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2009 from 9am- 12pm, in the Rachel Carson Conference room, Constitution Hall.