Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting Thursday November 9, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

Purpose: Quarterly Meeting of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC)

Attendees:

GPC Membership			
Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS (Chair)	Present	Carla Thompson, **DOIT**	
Sam Linton, DGS (Staff)	Present	Blessing Gunden, **DNR**	
Joseph Consoli, **DBM**		Joseph Sedtal, **DPSCS**	
Brenda Lee, **Commerce**		Cissy Blasi, **Treasurer's Office**	Present
Frank Conway, **MSDE**		Eddie Lukemire, **MDOT**	Present
Amanda Hutchison, **MDE**		Tom Hickey, **USM**	Present
Dionne Washington, **MDH**	Present		

Other Participants:

Danielle Adams, SDAT
Alibek Bekenov, Univ. of Maryland
Paul Bruce, MDTA
Saubhagya Budhathoki, DGS
Shawn Campbell, Seaboard Asphalt
Deborah Cook-Slade, DHS
Hilal Efe, DGS
Sabrina Fields, MDH
Chanel Franze, Towson University
Kate Gibeson
Thomas Hickey, USM
Carroll Hicks, MDTA
Victoria Howard, IAC
Nakia Howell, MDH
Tim Kerr, MDE
Christian Kramer, PSC
Hugo Lam, MDOT
Toni Latimore, DHS
Arhea Lazzelle, BISM
Natalia Luis, MLC
Luis Luna, DGS
Eddie Lukemire, MDOT
Pam Malech, DGS
Kimberly McAllister, DGS
Ryan McAlpine, MDOT
Shannon McDonald, MDE
Victoria Nellis, Judiciary
Kim Pezza, Comptroller
Tina Quinichette, MDOT
Ellen Robertson, DGS
Marsha Rowe, DGS
Ike Rudd
Gennadiy Shoykhedbrod, DGS
Martha Shrader, Univ. of Maryland
Jo Ellen Sines
Emmanuel Smith, DGS
David St. Jean, DGS
Patricia Watson, Towson University
Yolanda Waugh, DHS
Tammie Wells, MDH
Akia Wheeler, MDH
David Whitehurst, MLC

Minutes:

I. Welcome and Introductions.

- Emily Soontornsaratool welcomed Committee members and attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda.

II. Presentation: *Setting the Stage for Sustainable Recycling and Reuse Markets: Developing Maryland's statewide infrastructure plan,* Shannon McDonald, MDE.

- Shannon McDonald gave an overview of the statewide master plan for recycling and reuse markets. MDE received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct an organics assessment and implement circular economy and reuse markets in the state. MDE will be hosting virtual and in-person stakeholder meetings throughout the 3-year grant period. Announcements will be posted on their Recycling Marketing Development website page. To participate in these stakeholder meetings, send an email to WDD.LMA[at]maryland.gov.
    - Emily asked if the Green Purchasing Committee can do anything to support this plan. *Answer:* Green Purchasing can help by identifying any agencies buying products for which a reuse market is available, but did not include recycled content or reuse requirements in their procurement.
    - Shawn Campbell with Seaboard Asphalt asked if MDE has data on the annual tonnage of organic biomass generated in the state. *Answer:* Roughly 4 million tons of organic biomass annual. Right now the capacity is not meeting that number for diversion.
    - Martha Shrader with the University of Maryland asked if the plan focuses on developing markets for construction material reuse from construction and demolition projects. *Answer:* MDE is looking to identify those local construction reuse companies in their assessment plan.

III. Presentation: *Offshore Wind Energy Procurement for State Agencie*s, David St. Jean, DGS

- David St. Jean gave a presentation on the State's energy procurement. Following the passage of the Power Act of 2023, DGS will be issuing a solicitation to procure up to 5 million megawatt hours (MWh) of offshore wind power. This act is mandated for the next 20 years.
- Martha Shrader asked what impact this procurement would have on decarbonizing the electric grid. *Answer:* State government is responsible for approximately 3% of the entire state's electricity usage.
- Patricia Watson with Towson University asked if the state will be purchasing any additional power to the 3.5 million MWh of energy excess. *Answer:* The state will contract for the amount of electricity the state is currently using annually. DGS will be selling more excess power initially until the usage of offshore wind power increases over time.

IV. GPC Business & Activities Update - provided by Emily Soontornsaratool.

- Approval of Meeting Minutes

    - The two sets of GPC meeting minutes for August and September were motioned to approve by Dionne Washington with the Maryland Department of Health. Cissy Blasi with the Treasurer's Office seconded the motion, and the meeting minutes were approved.
- GPC Staffing Updates
    - The GPC is currently hiring for a Green Purchasing Program Manager. The new staff member will be introduced in the next GPC quarterly meeting.
- Annual Report Update - provided by Sam Linton
    - The GPC currently received data for green spend from 13 agencies. The final due date to send agency green purchasing reports is Friday, November 17.
    - 19 out of the 20 vendors have sent their data for reporting.
- Outreach and Training
    - The GPC recently attended outreach events and conducted trainings:
        - Business Opportunities Summit on September 28. The GPC gave a presentation for Doing Green Business with Maryland.
        - Procurement Academy lecture for procurement officers held bi-monthly
        - Green purchasing 101 training for Howard County Public Schools on October 25.

V. Specifications - provided by Sam Linton.

- Integrated Pest Management (Outdoor)
    - One update that includes permit requirements for IPM services conducted in waterways.
        - Thomas Hickey with the University System of Maryland motioned to approve the specification. Cissy Blasi seconded the motion and the specification was approved.
- Integrated Pest Management (Indoor)
    - No new updates for this specification
        - Thomas Hickey with the University System of Maryland motioned to approve the specification. Dionne Washington seconded the motion and the specification was approved.

For more details on these specifications, view the August 10, 2023 GPC Meeting Minutes.

VI. New Green Purchasing Resources - provided by Sam Linton.

- Specifications
    - The GPC has 4 new specifications available for use on their website:
        - Compost
        - Mulch
        - Soil Amendments
        - Aggregate
- Green Purchasing Guides
    - The GPC developed 2 new green purchasing guides for state agencies:
        - BPW Agenda Items Guidance
            - Emily requested that GPC designees forward this guidance document to members of their agency.
            - Martha Shrader mentioned that University of Maryland is making adjustments to their RFP template to have sustainability requirements.
            - Shawn Campbell added that MDOT's past specifications contain an approved product list for asphalt and roadway products that may no longer be compliant with current regulations.
        - Buy Recycled Guide

VII. Member Announcements - provided by Emily Soontornsaratool.

- Department of Health
    - Dionne attended a National Contract Management Association (NCMA) symposium in

Bethesda. She mentioned there was a lot of engagement on the topic of sustainability and greening contracts.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

Date	**Time**	**Meeting Type**
January 11, 2024	1:00 - 3:00 pm	GPC Working Meeting
February 8, 2024	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting
April 11, 2024	1:00 - 3:00 pm	GPC Working Meeting
May 9, 2024	10:00 am - 12:00 pm	GPC Quarterly Meeting

IX. Conclusion

- Emily thanked all the attendees and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam Linton,
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee