



Administrator/Controller Report August 2014

Strategic Goals

1. Maintain financial strength and stability
2. Strengthen and expand the County's use of technology
3. Address infrastructure needs
4. Continue community engagement and access to information
5. Ensure that County is viewed as a fair and equitable employer
6. Expand the capabilities of the Board of Commissioners
7. Advance the health and quality of life of the region
8. Protect and preserve County's water resources, forests, natural areas and scenic beauty

Boardman River Dams Project (8)

- The US Army Corps of Engineers held a well-attended public meeting at the Civic Center on August 7th on the Detailed Project Review and Environmental Assessment publications. Once the Corps evaluates the comments they've received, they will determine whether to issue a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for consideration by the County. The PPA would provide the terms for a 65% Corps / 35% County split of eligible dam removal activities, with a \$10 million maximum from the Corp.
- In late July, the county signed an MOU that allows for current expenditures to be charged against the 35% match if the PPA is eventually executed by the parties.

Administration (1)

- Released cooperative copier RFP on behalf of County departments and the City of Traverse City. Installation is anticipated in September.
- Entered lease agreement for and installed new equipment at the Law Enforcement Center providing monthly cost savings (under State of Michigan contract).
- Updated home page to include summer/Cherry Festival-themed photos.

Commission on Aging (7)

- Senior Center Renovation Project - Commission on Aging staff members, Lori Wells and Georgia Durga met with the Administrator/Controller on July 22, 2014 to discuss the Traverse City Senior Center renovation project. Lori updated the Board of Commissioners on the project and is moving forward with renovation planning on the city facility and continues to gather input from the Friends of the Senior Center Committee.

Also discussed was the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Traverse City and Grand Traverse County, and the upcoming Senior Center millage renewal.

- Senior Center Network Millage Proposition - The Commission on Aging Board has approved separate ballot propositions for the Senior Center Network and In Home Services as suggested by the BOC. Once a complete recommendation has been approved, it will be brought to the BOC for approval.

Equalization (1)

- Equalization hosted a class for staff and local assessors in July on the mapping feature found in the assessing software.
- Residential sales are up in number and value. The added volume has caused extra effort to the sales data input process, but will provide a better sub-set for sale valuation studies. September 30th is the end of the sales study period at which time preliminary conclusions will be available.

Finance (1)

- Staff prepared a current services analysis of the 2015 budget requests and prepared the proposed Parks and Recreation Fund budget request for review by the Parks and Rec Commission.
- Staff has requested information from the actuaries regarding the amortization schedule for the unfunded pension liability.

Health Department & Emergency Management (7)

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION

- 🍒 Cherry Festival- The health department had good representation (4 of its 5 divisions) at the Cherry Festival this year for its popular Baby Comfort Tent, Emergency Management Incident Command trailer and hosting some family fun and outreach for the Special Kids day. As always, environmental health staff were inspecting food establishments at the festival to ensure food safety and communicable disease and epidemiology staff were doing active surveillance for any outbreaks. See the programs with the 🍒 for more details.
- Medical Examiner- The health officer continues to work on current and future planning for the Medical Examiner's office. With the new deputy medical examiners in place, the office is stable, but the overall structure of the division and the policies and procedures need to be updated. Munson continues to explore the cost involved with expanding the morgue to meet the needs of the area and options for forensic autopsies that are more cost effective.
- Northwest Michigan Water Safety Network- In addition to the beach monitoring being conducted this summer, the 2% tribal funding secured by the health department was designated for beach safety equipment and signage. We have ordered the components for 40 rescue stations this week. We are meeting with the Coast Guard this week to finalize the wording on the signs, and proceed with building the rescue stations for installation. Our money went a lot further (40 stations versus 13 initially budgeted) than we anticipated and will allow us to make them more accessible to the public. We have identified the public beaches targeted for receiving rescue stations and will work with the various municipalities to get approval and to coordinate the actual installation. We also have a secondary list of other places that may not need complete stations, but need some components. We will retain 1 rescue station for presentations to various groups. We will actively be promoting the rescue stations, water safety education, beach quality messages and will begin looking for alternate sources of funding to continue our efforts. A challenge will be issued to local hotels/motels with beach front property to install at least one station per hotel and we will do a public as well as targeted corporate fundraising campaign. So far this summer, our county has experienced 1 drowning (Boardman Lake).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION



National Cherry Festival Food Vendors - The environmental health staff was busy throughout the week of the National Cherry Festival inspecting over 26 temporary food venues along with numerous Special Transitory Food Units (STFU's) to insure that foods being offered our thousands of visitors were being handled properly. Our staff was present at the festival throughout the festival doing additional spot checks of all food vendors, checking hot and cold food temperatures, observing food preparation, food handling, personal hygiene, etc.

- Public Swimming Pool, Campground and Children's Camp Annual Inspections - Environmental Health Staff is in the process of conducting annual inspections of our public swimming pools, campgrounds, and children's camps. With our region being a major tourist destination, it is critical that our public pools, campgrounds and children's camps are inspected to insure that these operations meet minimum State requirements to prevent potential injury and illness.
- Animal Control - Animal Control Officers have been responding to many calls regarding animals left in cars with inadequate ventilation. Everyone is reminded that on a warm day, the temperature in a car can exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit in a matter of minutes (even with the windows partly opened). Pets can suffer brain damage, or die from heat stroke or suffocation if left unattended in these situations. Play it safe and don't leave you pets in your vehicle unattended.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS DIVISION



Emergency Management – Staff spent over 130 hours from July 2nd - July 12th providing planning, preparedness, unified command and control coordination, as well as the incident command post for this year's National Cherry Fest. Additionally, 2 liaison and air monitoring / threat assessment specialists from the National Guard 51st Civil Support Team worked the entire event with Emergency Management providing chemical, biological, radiological scanning of all venues and parade routes before, during and after events. The 4th of July weekend and air shows brought well over 1 million visitors to the city for the 3 day total. The biggest challenge was the intermittent loss of all cellular phone services on July 5th during the air show, as well as an off-site, non-Cherry Fest related drowning in Boardman Lake. Many other challenges were presented to local law enforcement and EMS during the event, none of which proved serious.

- Horse Shows by the Bay began on July 5th in Williamsburg and will run through July 28th. Emergency Management provided coordination with organizers of the event to ensure preparedness and safety of all visitors and assets at that location.
- Engaged in planning activities in support of the Film Fest and the Northwest Michigan Fair.
- The Emergency Management Coordinator was recently notified of his selection to attend the Emergency Management Institute's newly-released course to train locals how to develop, lead, and instruct Incident Management Teams. He will be one of 20 who were nationally selected for this training that will take place during the 1st week of October in Emmitsburg, Maryland.
- Grand Traverse County has been selected by Louisiana State University's All Hazards Consortium to be a pilot location for a new Handling Food-Related Emergencies and Disasters for public safety management level. This class is the first of its kind that will end up being taught nationally for FEMA and the All Hazards Consortium. The 2 day class will occur in November.

➤ Emergency Preparedness

- Working with a private contractor on a pilot program to completely integrate local pharmacies into the Health Department Emergency Preparedness plans for pandemic events.



Assisted Emergency Management with pre-placement of the Acute Care Center Trailer and Mobile Command Post in support of National Cherry Festival.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION

DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS:



Communicable Disease Program - With the expertise of the regional epidemiologist housed at GTCHD, we conducted enhanced disease surveillance from July 3, 2014 – July 15, 2014. In the event of a large-scale, covert bioterrorist attack, emerging infection, or naturally-occurring epidemic, attendees would potentially visit a nearby Emergency Department (ED) to receive immediate healthcare. Syndromic surveillance allows for automated monitoring of participating facilities providing the potential for early event detection. Theoretically, a rise in ED admission prior to traditional physician diagnosis and disease reporting would lead to earlier public health recognition and intervention and ideally to lowered overall morbidity and mortality.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS:

➤ Children's Special Health Care Services

- With Munson's recent announcement of the DeVos Children's Hospital Pediatric Clinic 'It's All About the Kids' located on West Front Street, now open for pediatric orthopedics, gastroenterology, nephology, and neurosurgery, clients have expressed relief from the burden of traveling down to Helen DeVos Hospital.
- Completed strategic planning process for 2014-2017 based on the following categories, financial, quality, personnel, service/outreach, and growth. The entire time participated, identifying priorities such as, establishing a baseline productivity for the team, implementing monthly team huddles to improve communication and collaboration measures amongst team members to better serve client caseload, implementing a consistent record-keeping method for CSHCS charting, to name a few.

➤ Immunizations

- 2013-14 Flu Season wound up on June 30th with the HD still administering flu vaccine through the end of that month. Grand Traverse County ranked 4th in the state for flu vaccine coverage for children age 6 months through 18 years. MDCH asked that we share our Flu Best Practice ideas so that they could in turn be shared with other counties.



GTCHD Baby Comfort Station – National Cherry Festival – 2014

This Grand Traverse County Health Department service which is staffed by health department maternal and child health staff and volunteers had 330 more visitors in 2014 than 2013 and had a much greater number of folks using it for breastfeeding than in the past as well.

Date	# of Visitors
7/5	244
7/6	142
7/7	150

7/8	40
7/9	122
7/10	94
7/11	78
7/12	81

Grand Total – 951

Comments:

- "This is so awesome and my Mom felt supper comfortable and my baby brother was at ease."
- "So thankful for this tent!"
- "This is the best thing ever!"
- "This is a great thing."
- "This is so cool."
- "This is amazing ... I love Traverse City!"
- "This is the best."
- "This is an awesome tent."
- "This is a great set-up."
- "This is awesome."
- "What a blessing!"
- "This is a good idea."
- "More people should do this."
- "This is the best ever!"
- "I am obsessed with this tent."
- "Thanks for having this."
- "This is so nice – we really appreciate it."
- "Thank you. This is amazing!!!"
- "Stupendous."
- "Thank you so much!"
- "This is a welcome surprise. Thank you. –A Dad"
- "Wonderful Idea! Thank so much! – Ryan & Michelle, WA"
- "This is so wonderful! I've never seen anything like it!"
- "Wonderful – Thank you.!!!"
- "Amazing – Brooque Richards, Eric & Trisha Keller"
- "It is so nice that you have this."
- "Really glad that you do this. Thanks so much!"
- "Such a nice thing to have at the festival."
- "As a mother who is always trying to find a clean, private spot to feed and change her baby... this was a life saver. Thanks"
- "Wonderful spot. Thanks!"
- "Wonderful."
- "What a great idea."
- "I wish all festivals had one of these – thank you so much!"
- "Great Station!!"
- "Ridiculously convenient."
- "Never seen anything like this at any carnival or fair"
- "Cool idea. – Jackson, MI"
- "This is such a great idea – hard to change diapers in a stroller. – Michigan City, IN."
- "Great for breastfeeding Mom."
- "This is quite a system. – OH"
- "2nd year back – love the new location."
- "Love the changing space for bigger kids (cot)!"
- "Awesome. What a surprise to find this service."
- "Thank you for this space and for having it staffed so it stays clean!"
- "What a great idea this is!"
- "Thank you for having this! It is so nice!"
- "This is so nice to have a place for the babies! All festivals need this!"
- "Rockers?! Are you kidding me?! Perfect!"
- "Can I just hang out here all day?! – nursing mom"
- "Thank you for having this."
- "Wow. This is great. – a Dad"
- "This is such a wonderful service."
- "This is so great this is down here."
- "This is so nice."
- "This is so nice that you guys do this. We so appreciate this."
- "Thank you so very much. Greatly needed! Need a donation jar."
- "Soooo... amazing. THANK YOU!!! – xoxo a local"
- "Very much appreciated! Keep this station for years to come!"
- "Very helpful. Please come back every year!! Thanks again."
- "This is so helpful! Thank you!"
- "Thanks so much for providing this. My baby was much happier and so was momma!"
- "Thank you so very much. Greatly needed! Need a donation jar!"

Human Resources (5)

- The Wellness Team in cooperation with Priority Health conducted a survey of all Grand Traverse County employees on wellness programs and activities to be used in future planning. (7)

- Employee Recognition Team and the Resource Recovery's ARP program were highlighted in the last 3 weeks asking departments to clean out dead storage and recycle among other departments, dispose or resell. (4)
- Making a Difference Quarterly reception was held on Tuesday, July 22nd. The nominees were:
 - Vonnie Seidel/Health Department
 - Linda Nelson/Administration (left employment)
 - Joanne Tuck/HR
 - Cheri Tuller/HR
 - Laurie Johnston/Health Department
 - Al Clifford (left employment)
 - Butch Verschaeve and Casey Wise/Facilities
 - Ericca Hovie/Senior Center
 - Dean Bott/Finance Director
 - Tom Buss/Health Department

The winner this quarter was Tom Buss from the Health Department for his above and beyond handling of the water leak in the basement of the building on a Saturday night! Tom worked all night, and the Employee Recognition team awarded 4 hours of time-off with pay for being selected!! (5)

Information Technology (2)

- Implemented a new paperless electronic felony warrant process that allows officers to complete online requests, the jail to attach supplemental information, and the Prosecutor to complete and authorize the warrant.
- Installed a new 911/police LEIN server in the virtual server environment that is used for criminal history queries with upgraded LEIN software.
- Installed a new authentication server that is required by the State/Federal criminal justice code that uses an onscreen matrix as a second level logon for access to the LEIN system from any device in an unsecure location (mobile devices).
- Additional network storage was added to the onsite backup server to accommodate the continued growth of data by the County and City.
- A software module was added to Google Apps that allows individuals to share their contacts with others in their department for group mailings, etc.
- Seven new servers have been created in the virtual server environment for the New World Police system upgrade that will take place in September. The new servers were created with updated operating systems and resources that offer enhanced performance over the existing servers. Testing of the new servers is currently in progress.
- Work continues on upgrading the document imaging servers to provide a uniform client interface for all users with the latest software enhancements.

MSUE (7, 8)

- Extension Director promoted to Head of Operations at MSUE. Pat Cudney has accepted a new position at Michigan State University as the Head of Operations for the Extension Service. Pat will be updating the Board of Commissioners on the transition plan in the near future.
- Cooking Matters at the Store Summer Mini Grant: A store tour took place July 18th at Meijer in Traverse City. Eight participants from the Disability Network attended the two hour tour that discussed eating healthy on a budget. Each participant received up to \$10 dollars in take home groceries based on a tour challenge: to feed a family of four for one meal using ingredients from all five food groups, no processed foods, have at least one item usable for more than one meal, and come as close to 10 dollars as possible. Cooking Matters at the Store is a national program provided by MSU-Extension and Gleaners Community Food Bank.
- Sarah Eichberger MPH, RD, Chronic Disease & Management Extension Educator represented Michigan State University Health & Nutrition Institute programming at Health by the Bay on July 7. Health by the Bay is an annual health and wellness fair sponsored by Michigan Blue Care Network and organized by the National Cherry Festival. Sarah provided a wide range of information and publications representing the scope of programming within the Health & Nutrition Institute. Adult and youth attendants were engaged through a newly developed health and nutrition trivia board and a 'graffiti wall' for individuals to respond to two questions – “What do you do to stay healthy?” and “How can MSU Extension support your health and the health of your community?” Organizers of the event noted higher attendance at this event compared to previous years.
- The Grand Traverse MSUE office has a new .5 FTE MSU employee as of July 30. Jane Rapin, RD will be serving Grand Traverse County and overflow in other counties as a Nutrition Program Instructor. Jane has recently worked for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and has experience delivering nutrition education to SNAP-Ed eligible audiences.

Parks and Recreation (7)

➤ Power Island Update

On July 10, 2014, a seven-person SEEDS work crew groomed trails on Power Island.

As of July 28, 2014, there have been 21 reservations for 64 individuals made through the Parks and Recreation Office for the Power Island Shuttle, and a total of 57 have been transported to the island, the majority for day trips to geocache. Only one overnight camper has used the service.

➤ Easling Pool Update

○ American Red Cross Lessons and Scholarships

- 2014 Summer Swim Lesson Session 1, a four-week session, had 17 classes and 99 students enrolled. Revenue from Summer Swim Lesson Session 1 was \$5,872.
- 2014 Summer Swim Lesson Session 2, a two-week, accelerated session, offers 18 classes, with 69 students enrolled as of July 10, 2014 with a total of \$3,150 received as of July 10, 2014. Registrations continue, and there is potential for a total of \$4,866 in revenue from this session.

- American Red Cross (ARC) is offering scholarships to Easling Pool patrons for either 100 percent or 50 percent off of swim lessons, lifeguarding classes, or WSI training, if the ARC curriculum is used. Office manager will meet with Vickie Cooper, Chairperson of the ARC Be Water Safe Committee, for more details so that the offering can administratively be established in our Pool Business Office system.
- Friends of Easling Pool
 - This Friends group was recently established by Easling Pool patrons and supporters. The first meeting was held on Monday, June 23, 2014, in the Civic Center Conference Room. The group met again on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Civic Center Conference Room to share ideas about improving Easling Pool and its environment.
 - The group has offered to help support Easling Pool as a sustainable, viable alternative to the new YMCA pools. The group has discussed ideas for raising funds for needed equipment and repairs, and is volunteering to help with “shutdown tasks” while the pool is closed for cleaning and maintenance at the end of July.
- Pool Closure
 - Annual closing of Easling Pool took place from Saturday, July 26 until Monday, August 4, 2014. The pool was drained and cleaned thoroughly, then refilled. The pool deck, mechanical room, locker rooms, closets, and other areas of the facility were cleaned from top to bottom, and minor repairs and improvements were also made.

Planning/Brownfield/Economic Development/Housing (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)

- With recent County board approval of an administrative agent agreement with HomeStretch, department staff has started working to complete various MSHDA-funded HomeStretch projects. Reapplication for the MSHDA development grant for the Depot Neighborhood has been submitted. Grant approval is necessary to restart the project. In the meantime, staff is currently evaluating all financial information, agreements, and project management conditions.
- County and City officials approved a proposal for a housing task force of local elected leaders. Garfield Township and East Bay Township will also be considering joining the task force. The task force is intended to primarily focus on the urbanizing area where market demand for rental property far exceeds available housing stock. The 2013 County Housing Strategy shows demand may exist for 3,800 new multiple family units by 2035, nearly double the current amount.
- A community development agreement was approved by the Traverse City DDA and the County. The agreement provides an opportunity for the County, the DDA, and City of Traverse City, to work proactively together on economic development projects and ultimately lead to developing a County-wide economic strategy. Discussion by the City is expected soon.

Prosecuting Attorney (7)

- **PROSECUTION** As the County’s Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of crimes including juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses, protection of abused and neglected children, and establishment of child support for needy children. For the month of June, we engaged in the following:

- Authorized 189 misdemeanor warrants
- Authorized 18 felony warrants
- Authorized 13 juvenile warrants
- Initiated 0 neglect/abuse cases (Our office has 53 open neglect/abuse cases involving 86 children)
- Reviewed 29 referrals from the office of child support
- Handled the following matters in Family Court:
 - 9 paternity cases
 - 19 child support cases
 - Obtained 15 judgments of child support
 - 9 mentally ill commitment hearing

➤ **CIVIL COUNSEL**

- Contract Drafting and Review - As the County's civil counsel, we assist various County departments in reviewing and drafting contracts and other agreements. Our involvement ranges from reviewing a contract and approving it "as to form," to negotiating the terms and conditions of the contract with the other party. For the month of June, we reviewed four contracts for the following department:
 - Planning: One
 - Treasurer: One
 - Health: Two
- FOIA Coordination - In 1997, the County Board of Commissioners designated the Prosecuting Attorney as the FOIA coordinator for Grand Traverse County. As the coordinator, we ensure that the various county departments are complying with Michigan's FOIA law including determining whether the requested information should be exempt from disclosure. For the month of June, we reviewed seven FOIA requests, and provided advice and consultation to the following departments:
 - Central Dispatch: six
 - Prosecuting Attorney: one
- Board of Commissioners/ Staff Questions - Part of our duties as Civil Counsel involves answering questions and preparing opinion memoranda for the Board of Commissioners and County staff related to a wide variety of issues, ranging from compliance with state and federal statutes to advising on exposure to liability. For the month of June, we answered questions/prepared memos for the Board of Commissioners and various departments including:
 - Administration
 - Health Department
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Human Resources
- Ordinance Drafting - Under MCL 46.11, a county board of commissioners has the authority to adopt ordinances related to county affairs. One of our responsibilities

is to prepare, amend or repeal ordinances when requested by the Board of Commissioners. In June, we did not draft any ordinances. However, we did draft a proposed ban of e-cigarettes at the Civic Center, which was considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Litigation - We represent the County in civil actions filed in the Grand Traverse County District and Circuit Courts as well as the Federal District Courts. For the month of June, we represent the County in the following cases:
 - Grand Traverse County v. Joseph J. King et al. On May 7th, we filed with the Circuit Court a complaint seeking reimbursement from 12 current and former inmates housed in the County Jail. Under the Prisoner Reimbursement to the County Act, MCL 801.81 et. seq., a County is permitted to file a lawsuit in Circuit Court seeking reimbursement from inmates, who are obligated to pay housing, medical and other expenses during incarceration. In total, we are seeking \$25505.21 in reimbursement. In the future, we will plan on filing a lawsuit a month seeking inmate reimbursement.
 - Grand Traverse County v. Scott Reavely et al. On June 2nd, we filed another lawsuit seeking reimbursement from 18 current and former jail inmates housed at the County Jail. In total, we are seeking \$45,335.67 from all the inmates named in the suit.
 - Parcel 80 BIA Appeal – (12 acres) We continue to await a decision from the Regional Director.
 - Parcel 82 BIA Appeal - (158 acres) We continue to wait for an opinion from the appeals board.
- Board of Commissioners Meetings - We attend every Board meeting, committee meeting and any special meetings. For the month of June, Bob Cooney attended the public health and safety and the regular meeting. Chris Forsyth attended the resource management and administration meeting as well as the ways and means committees meetings.
- Miscellaneous - In addition to the items discussed above, we assist the Board of Commissioners and County Departments in other ways. Some items to note include:
 - We are working with the Facilities Management Department in renegotiating an easement for use of the First Baptist Church Parking Lot.
 - We are working with County staff and Garfield Township officials in developing a strategy to defend a tax appeal involving Grand Traverse Mall.
 - We have been having discussions with the Blair Township Assessor about the possibility of assisting Blair Township in the defense of a tax appeal involving Menard's.

- We have applied for a grant through the Treasury Department seeking approximately \$110,000 in funds to be used for the purpose of designing an update to OnBase, which would allow us to obtain police reports and other documents electronically, and thereby improve the efficiency of our office.
- On June 13, 2014, Chris Forsyth presented at a conference for the Michigan Association of Housing Officials. The topic presented was “Testifying in Court.”

Resource Recovery (8)

- Household Hazardous Waste Collections - The third Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event of 2014 is taking place August 14 and is anticipated to reach maximum capacity. The fourth and final Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event for Grand Traverse County will be taking place in Kingsley in early October. Resource Recovery staff book appointments on the RecycleSmart Hotline (231-941-5555) or online at RecycleSmart.info beginning approximately two weeks prior to each event. Residents and small businesses brought in more than 56,000 pounds of hazardous material to the first two HHW events for proper recycling and disposal.
- 2014 RecycleSmart Kids Garage Sale - Staff are continuing to book booth registrations for the 2014 RecycleSmart Kids Garage Sale event on Saturday, August 23, 2014. Kids ages 6-12 can bring all their unused toys, games, books, movies, etc. to sell to other kid or parent shoppers. The event will be held at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center – Howe Arena from 9:00am to noon, and the cost to reserve a booth is \$2.00. Goodwill will participate in the event and will be available to receive any donations of unsold items. Admission to buyers (both kids and parents/guardians) is FREE.
- Department staff attended the July meeting of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee on July 29. Members have agreed to partner with the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments to purchase a group license for recycling and waste volume tracking software, which will assist each Northern Michigan County to compile and report on data in a consistent format as well as allow for regional evaluation of recycling and waste volumes. Members were also briefed on the status of recycling initiatives at the state level, including recently awarded grant funds for benchmarking and measurement, planning for the Governor’s Recycling Summit, to be held in the spring of 2015, and news of the draft recycling reporting legislation that is currently being written for consideration by State legislators this fall.