

**AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, August 10, 2023**

**1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

**Advanced Energy Center**

**741 4<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Santa Rosa, California 95404**

**Zoom link:**

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/95452631348?pwd=amRpWng4Ykc4YkhCRWV3WEtEb2RxZz09>

<b><u>Absent (In alphabetical order)</u></b>	<b><u>In attendance (In alphabetical order)</u></b>
<p>Caren McNamara- Conscious Container</p> <p>Catherine Dodd- families advocating for chemical and toxic safety fact</p> <p>Ellen Hathaway- Sierra Club Redwood Chapter</p> <p>Francie Finn- cow shades</p> <p>Hugo Mata- SOS and LatinX Hub</p> <p>J. Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste</p> <p>Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County</p> <p>Joey Hejnowicz, Zero Waste Coordinator - City of Santa Rosa</p> <p>Katie Cushwa- Zero Waste Sonoma</p> <p>Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma</p> <p>Leslye Choate- LEA</p> <p>Max Bridges- League of Women Voters</p> <p>Michael Anderson- Marketing and Recycling Historian</p> <p>Michael LeRusso</p> <p>Patti Moore- PRCC</p> <p>Portia Sinnot, Zero Waste USA</p> <p>Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County, city of Sebastopol</p> <p>Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept)</p> <p>Xinci Tan – Zero Waste Sonoma (by phone)</p>	<p>Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep</p> <p>Arthur Deicke</p> <p>Aryam Blanco- Sonoma County Environmental Health</p> <p>Brandon Hart – TPW – Integrated Waste/ Sonoma</p> <p>Brian Bauer- Resynergi</p> <p>Celia Furber- Recology</p> <p>Casey Fritz- Zero Waste by Sonoma County</p> <p>Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers</p> <p>Emily Harris- Recycology</p> <p>Greg Carr- 1st district rep</p> <p>Kristen Sales- Zero waste</p> <p>Kyle LaRue- Director of Zero Waste and Compliance</p> <p>Luana Pinasco</p> <p>Liz Bortolotto – Chair</p> <p>Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative</p> <p>Madee Brandt</p> <p>Pheobe Schenker- Reuse Alliance</p> <p>Samantha Stevens- County of Sonoma/LEA</p> <p>Sloan Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma</p> <p>Stephen Zollman- Sebastapol city</p> <p>Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County</p> <p>Stu Clark – 4th District Rep</p> <p>Terry Taylor- town of Windsor</p>

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

**II. Approval of draft minutes from June 8, 2023 meeting**

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- Motion to approve- Alyssa messer
  - Seconded- Stu Clark
  - Motion passed

**III. Guest presentation, Phoebe Schenker, Reuse Alliance**

**About the organization:**

501c3 to support diverting waste by supporting enterprises throughout Sonoma county

Focus on circular economy & reuse (reuse, resale, repurpose, refill)

The resale sector is a small sector and we are working for this to be a bigger slice of the pie

### **Goal of organization:**

Make local model of reuse in Sonoma county that is replicable nationwide

Central hub for reuse/ repaired/ reupholstered

Goal is maximizing diversion through collaboration

We could increase efficiency and data collection & a circular economy.

Also skilled workers

### **Examples internationally (see slide)**

#### **Our programs:**

- Reuse/repair fairs
  - Amazing way to prototype the hub
  - Goal to have it monthly in the county
- reuse campaign 2024
  - Nearly half of people get the order wrong- reuse better alternative to recycle
- reuse research/metrics
  - Not a lot of data to determine what this means or job creation
  - Economic, awareness, and waste diversion metrics needed

#### **How to help:**

- Sponsorship
  - Reuse/repair fair- \$5k
  - Reuse campaign 2024- 10k to design, 2.5k a month to promote
  - Reuse research- 24k for survey
- Volunteer team
  - Communications
  - Outreach
  - Research
  - Fundraising
  - Programs
- Join by emailing [volunteer@resuseslliance.org](mailto:volunteer@resuseslliance.org)
- Donate: [www.reusealliance.org/donate](http://www.reusealliance.org/donate)

#### **Questions:**

- *What is the expense in the res-use and repair?*
  - There is a lot of logistical expenses to organize these people, we want to support this labor.
- *The places that were model of the res-use center/ integrated center. How do they prioritize and network people with the specific skills for specialized repair. How do those work and can she speak to the economics.*
  - In Sweden- there is a shopping mall where each store was taken over by a reuses enterprise.
  - In Manchester- more like a centralized warehouse space and supporting repair within a giant thrift-store like space
  - Trying to find out what is the model that works best here. Working on a feasibility study to figure out the right scale and method.
  - Part of what reuse alliance is doing is working on enterprise across the country to make sure people are not reinventing the wheel.
- *Are there places in the country that have success like this.*
  - There are some places across the country that has some space and there are components of this model that are happening in other places, but not aware of places that are exactly like this.
- *Looks like this is coming when right to repair is making some headway in some states. Not dead yet in California.*
- *Have you considered being for profit or in a private/public partnership*
  - We do consider ourselves in that partnership.
- *Is the reuse a fix it shop or a return/repair/resale*

- Our goal is to bring together these businesses and provide things the businesses cannot provide.
- *Are there experienced retail people and manufacturers on the board?*
  - Yes
- *Comment: looking at whether there is an investment opportunity as well since what we are competing against (throw away culture).*
  -
- *Can you give us a background about the alliance?*
  - Came out of NY and incorporated in 2014.
  - This spun off some state and local chapters.
- *One of the goals is doing research- is there enough research that has been done yet to define the magnitude of the benefit of the things we are talking about (green house gas, waste reduction, etc.)*
  - No- this is something that is still being explored and researched further. There is a lot of life cycle analysis of one object, but have not scaled that up to the economy as a whole.

#### IV. Regulatory Barriers Subcommittee update – Stu Clark

##### **Updates:**

- After last meeting there was a presentation at Zero Waste Sonoma
- Next steps:
  - Offered to present to other districts, but no takers
  - Not clear if this is a lack of interest or indicative of not interest in this moment
  - Will potentially wait and see

##### **questions**

- *No questions*

#### V. Infrastructure Committee update – Terry Taylor

##### **Update:**

Working with group of people on infrastructure and innovation  
 Looking at organizations in community to do work necessary for sustainability  
 Came across one consistent issue for all of them- **lack of visibility and the people not knowing about what they can offer.**  
 Why not put together a speakers bureau that can be managed by zero waste Sonoma to talk to people about topics and introduce ways it can be connected.  
 Put together a number of speakers on the list and will be talking with zero waste Sonoma to see how to introduce this on their website and align this with their interest.  
 Looking for speakers or presenters on topics of interest

##### **questions**

- *How do you recommend someone to get on the list*
  - Just reach out to Terry with the recommendation.
- *There is a lot of organizations in Sonoma County that are looking for speakers routinely to come out and talk about these topics*
  - There is an opp to make this resource available.

#### VI. Update on Zero Waste Week – Sloane Pagal

##### **Update:**

37 events over the whole week- we had around 30 different partner organizations.  
 Hosted tours of different facilities and skill workshops.  
 Recology had a fun event on the Wednesday night market.  
 Estimated 1300 participants and increased outreach compared to previous year.  
 The city of Rohnert park sponsored them for the electronic billboard  
 Moving forward- hoping these activities can be done in coordination with reuse alliance  
 This was a huge success and looking to be more present in the community, to be engaged and more outreach around zero waste topics  
 Looking at more holistic approach to sustainability and resiliency  
 Got good feedback and looking to make this bigger and better in the future.

Looking to create a recap and open to feedback to share next year.

Fix it clinic

This is the third one we have been involved in organizing in the maker's space. This one had 75 preregistration and over 20 walk ins.

Zero waste has data on what was repaired, how much, and what was not fixed.

### Question

*Where was the compost tour?*

At waste management facility

VII. Formation of a Sonoma County Compost Council, Dan Noble

### About/background:

Looking at reforming this council and was originally formed several years ago to try and get facilities in the county.

We put together with Zero Waste Sonoma (not the name of the org at the time) but did not materialize further

We are back at it again- looking at building variety of facilities within the county.

Council will be oriented toward forming a proposal and working with zero waste Sonoma.

Currently Dan, Mark, & Darek Trowbridge. Currently looking for other members.

Looking at having ad hoc meetings- potentially once a month

*Comment- Leslie will likely be interested*

### Questions

- *Normally ad hoc committee will form for a specific period of time and goal, you mentioned building a composting facility- do you mean that literally?*
  - Big proponent of compost. We want to help encourage and support a site being built.
- *Suggestion that this is not an ad hoc committee, perhaps instead keep people posted and just keep this as a separate working group/ informal committee until they get to a certain point where they have a goal / specific task for the LTF (then create an ad hoc committee).*
  - There is an online portal to check on the status for the RFP that they want to help develop. Work we can do to register or get access.
- *Contact Dan and they will come back during the next meeting with a proposal on action steps.*

VIII. Artificial Turf [turf] Moratorium subcommittee update – Liz Bortolotto

### Update:

This is getting underway.

This is 4 acres of new field across from saint Eugene's

The crumb rubber was along the sidewalks and was already in the live field next to it- that type of turf is not limited to where this is put down in the park and is spreading in the environment.

Artificial turf is not being recycled here and we are not aware of specific request/ there is a potential storm water pollution with the crumb rubber.

This is currently in with Resynergi and looking at the recycling process.

We will be following up next time and have a clearer idea of what we (the ad hoc sub committee formed in June) are proposing.

People are paying to have it recycled, but there is not a recycling process being used (this is not a widely recycled item).

In the NFL- there was a push for natural turf in lieu of artificial.

### Question

*This seems similar to the issue with carpet, but curious if we can look at models (like with mattresses) for recycling. We have to work with industry if we are going to move toward zero waste- ongoing work is needed.*

IX. Public Comments\*

- **No public comments**

X. Member Announcements

\*Arthur- **Apple fair this weekend- they need people still for Saturday/Sunday.** Arthur can help connect people to volunteering.

- We are going to see more solar panels come into the waste stream for their recycling- could we have a topic to discuss this and be better prepared when the amounts of solar panels increase (especially commercial use).
- Habitat for humanity and cow shades (an org) may be open to taking it.

\*California resource recycling association conference this weekend

\* Resynergi - there is very little medical waste being recycled. They are doing a study with this association that is showing that recycling works and can be done. The medical industry overall has gone in on zero waste- everything is throw away (part of the issue is sterilization and zero use). Other buyers are not open to using recycled materials that have had bodily waste on them.

\*Celia- MERF upgrade- this has been under construction since August of last year. We have doubled capacity and expecting this to be done in November. There will be an opportunity for a tour. Number 5 plastics will have seven designated bunkers. This will be more automated, but not entirely automated.

**Question:** whether bottle cap should stay on during recycling- *it can be kept on. CalRecycle changed guidance to ask people to keep lid on.*

XI. Next Regular Meeting Date/Suggestions for Agenda Items -  
Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

XII. Adjournment  
Motion- stu  
Seconded  
Motion passed

\*PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public desiring to speak on items that are within the jurisdiction of the Local Task Force shall have an opportunity during each regular meeting of the Local Task Force. When recognized by the Chair, each person should give his/her name and address and limit comments to 3 minutes, with the discretion of the Chair to modify that time limit.