

## Minutes

### AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Public Zoom Video Meeting and Call-in Option

Meeting Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/UK6w2esuPQQHBDfVpMI8KAmJ4HMdGtiSh7Q96jd7DIIVmlP2dDLZGM9rdwXI9MwL.281tkP1PSUkx36o-> Passcode: 6Q#6sr#=#

## I. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:31

Liz Bortolotto – Chair  
Max Bridges – League of Women Voters  
Patty Moore – President of PRCC  
Dan Noble – Association of Compost Producers  
Jennifer Lyle – LEA Sonoma County  
Joseph Essig – Republic Services  
Sloane Pagal – Zero Waste Sonoma  
Joey Hejnowicz – City of Santa Rosa  
Tasha Wright – City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept)  
Arthur Deicke – Science Advisor  
Michael Siminitus – Waste Busters  
Sunny Galbraith – City of Sebastopol  
Carla Duncan – City of Petaluma  
Celia Furber – Recology  
Trish Pimenti – County of Sonoma - TPW  
Brandon Hart - TPW  
Glenn Moreilli - TPW  
Leslie Lukacs – Zero Waste Sonoma  
Portia Sinnott – Zero Waste USA  
Mike Anderson – Marketing and Recycling Historian  
Chris Nottechamper – Republic Operations Mgr  
Brian Bauer - ReSynergi  
Will Bakx – Renewable Sonoma  
Guy Tillotson - SRJC

## II. Approval of draft minutes from June 10, 2021 meeting

Motion made by Max Bridges. Seconded by Celia. Passed unanimously; those who were not in attendance abstained.

## III. Presentation: Plastic Recycling Corporation of CA (PRCC) – Patty Moore

- PRCC promotes PET beverage container recycling in CA

- Nonprofit member organization (no staff), SMM of CA has been hired to manage the organization
  - Members include: Coke, Pepsi, Niagara, Snapple, PET Bottle Manufacturers, other beverage companies that use PET
  - Board of Directors made up of reps from membership
- Working to provide PET beverage container recyclability by improving bale quality, reducing cost of systems and processing, reducing risk of market interruption
- Throughout green sword, PRC was aware of this issue ahead of time and helped recyclers find markets for PET
- Currently working on a modernization of the bottle bill to increase the access for consumers
- Actively work in PET marketplace
- Vast majority of what they purchase stays in CA
- Handle about 60% of PET in CA (270 million pounds in 2020) – various quality control methods
- Ensure fair pricing for bales based on quality (grade A, grade B, thermoform only PET bales). Material is recycled into food and beverage containers and some fiber is used mostly in carpeting
- Most of recycled PET is going back into new packaging
  - Grade A – 6 PET reclaimers in CA \*convert into raw material. Half of the supply of grade A bales are being made into new bottles
  - Two types of Grade B PET bales – ones that have thermoforms (about 19-30%), one that don't (hand sorted – less than 1%)
  - Grade B – these bales can also go into new bottles
  - Grade B with thermoforms – these bales are used to make into new thermoforms
  - Thermoforms only – these are going back into thermoforms
  - Carbonated beverage bottles need higher quality, higher IV (intrinsic viscosity)
    - Recycling process lowers the IV intrinsically so it makes it harder to get it to the level of IV
- PRCC helps manage the recycled PET flow- purchases from suppliers (certified processors) and sells to reclaimers, and has relationships with stakeholders in and outside of CA
- PRCC acts as a marketing arm for suppliers to ensure the best price on a long-term basis and facilitates supply contracts with reclaimers; they deal with the money and logistics but don't move the physical product
- Legislation
  - AB 1454 Bloom/O'Donnell – with CAW; in support; review and provide feedback
  - AB 458 (Ting) → working with them on this to improve it
  - Next leg session – looking at working with Ting on a new bill to charge manufacturers of problematic packaging (i.e. not compatible with recycling) and give money to reclaimers to cover extra costs for dealing with these materials
- Certified Processor makes primary income from the scrap and admin fee – and they also act as a bank (pay out funds to customers and then get reimbursed by State)
- PRCC buys the scrap from the processors
  - Grade A is around 30 cents a pound (deposit is around \$1.60 per pound)
- Who are certified processors? Largest in Northern CA is Ming's in Sacramento, in SO Cal – Allen Company, etc.

- PRCC is headquartered in Sonoma County but operates throughout the state
- CA has not exported PET at a significant level in about 6 years – what does go out of the country is going to Mexico and Germany
- Full wrap labels on beverage containers are not near infrared auto-sort compatible because the beam can't see the bottle to be sorted properly,
- Recycled polypropylene:
  - The problem with PP and food grade is that unlike PET, not all PP that is manufactured is food grade, so the only way you can recycle back into food grade PP is to start with a food grade only material
  - There is no mechanical grade way to sort/segregate food grade from non-food grade
  - More challenging to go from food grade to food grade – may be difficult to find recycled food grade pp
  - KW Plastics is biggest PP recycler in the country but they make their own products and go to the end market
  - 3 companies that reclaim PP in CA right now, and a couple more may be coming online soon
- HDPE natural prices are off the charts right now
- PET Film mostly goes back to the store and it gets mixed with the pallet wrap and recycled. The market has improved lately. Some of this material gets made back into bags
- Recycled content laws, economy, more states passing EPR bills are leading to the hot markets currently

#### IV. Update on Disposable Foodware Ordinances – Sloane Pagal, Joey Hejnowicz

To summarize:

- The ZWS model ordinance:
  - Prohibits polystyrene foam food ware distributed by food and beverage providers.
  - Prohibits polystyrene foam food ware and specified polystyrene foam products sold by retail stores.
  - Requires food/beverage providers and special events to use of unlined, fiber only compostable products or recyclable food service ware.
  - Requires food/beverage providers to provide single-use straws, lids, cutlery and to-go condiment packages only upon request
  - Requires food/beverage providers to provide service ware products without added fluorinated chemicals (PFAS)
  - Encourages use of reusables.

Status

- Model adopted fully in Healdsburg, Sonoma, Windsor (July 21)
- Cotati (expected to adopt Aug 24)
- Santa Rosa – August 3; Joey can provide the details

- Sebastopol needs to schedule the PFAS amendment hearing; may add in reusable for dine-in requirement
- Petaluma has only prohibited sale and use of polystyrene foam, DOES NOT require locally recyclable/compostable, PFAS free options, or accessories on request – will add reusable for dine-in as an alternative and seek direction from Council; expected early November
- County will vote on Model 8/24 – affects unincorporated County businesses/events
- Santa Rosa ordinance:
  - All points in Model Ordinance, plus:
  - Food Facilities shall not provide Takeout Bags composed of plastic and shall only provide Natural Fiber bags. Customers are strongly encouraged to bring their own Reusable bags
  - Reusables required for dine-in
  - 3 bin containers for customer use in front of house
  - Reusables for city-staffed facilities
  - \*Delivery and takeout can provide cup lids, spill plugs, sleeves automatically (all accessories are required to be on request in model)
- [ZWS Reusable Foodware Grant](#) offers up to \$250 per business on a first come, first served basis to reimburse the cost of reusables

#### V. SoCo Bioresources Management Council, update and call for participants – Dan Noble

- This item will be rescheduled to the ZWNB meeting

#### VI. Legislative Update – Liz Bortolotto

- Will provide an update at the next meeting

#### VII. Update pm ZWNB Adopt-A-Roadway Project – Terry Taylor

- 4.5 miles needed for the cleanup; let Terry know if you would like to help participate
- Cleanup date is September 1, details will be forthcoming via email

#### VIII. Update on Organics Issues (SB 1383, Compost topics)

- SB 1383 letters and info booklet are going out to all commercial businesses in the County this month. If anyone has not seen the booklet, it's on our [website](#).
- Procurement is the last thing that we have yet to figure out with SB 1383 implementation. You can tell the group about the compost/mulch rebate program that we are exploring if you feel comfortable explaining it, but otherwise, no need to get into the weeds. Everything else with SB 1383 is either done or has a plan to be completed in the next few months. All 10 member jurisdictions will be amending their franchise agreements, if they haven't already, to prepare for contamination monitoring (route reviews) starting next year. They will also need to pass a SB 1383 enforcement ordinance.
- At this point, we've presented or been present for a meeting with all city councils and the board of supervisors to discuss SB 1383, so all the elected officials know what's coming.
- Leslie and I have been getting solicitations almost every week from different companies interested in building an organics facility in-county. Most of them have been proposing anaerobic digestion. We've told them all the same thing: right now our Agency is undecided

how we shall move forward because we have not had a public meeting to discuss next steps with our board. We do anticipate this topic will be included in our September board meeting.

- Due to our new contract with Napa as the third composting facility taking residential green cart organic material, we now have more compost for giveaway! Liz is planning to organize an event for Santa Rosa, and there is a group planning an event for Sebastopol, but if anyone else is interested to do so for their city, ask them to email me to coordinate. Please note that I don't have the capacity to organize these events, so whoever is interested will have to take the lead, and I will only assist.

## IX. Public Comments

None

## X. Member Announcements

None

## XI. Next Regular Meeting Date – October 14, 2021

- Next ZWNB Meeting is September 1<sup>st</sup> – for a mini meeting at 3pm followed by the cleanup

## XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.