

Meeting Minutes
AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 12, 2023
12:30 P.M. to 2:00 P.M.
2300 County Center Drive, La Plaza A, Room A212
Santa Rosa, California 95404

Zoom link:

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

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

Item
<p>I. Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>II. Approval of draft minutes from August 10, 2023 meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve- Mike Anderson • Seconded- Celia Furber • Motion passed

III. Presentation: Glenn Morelli, Landfill Expansion:

Presentation notes

- Natural disasters apart of waste planning
- Capacity study completed. Board approved the findings and directed staff to engage with strategic partners, stakeholders, and outreach related to the study.
- They are setting forth the following goals for negotiations- expansion project, assume liabilities for the expansion project.
- The process of developing our term sheet is underway and will be presented to the LTF and they are seeking input from others.
- They have also hired a third party consultant to establish a fair gate rate. They are anticipating that the gate rate should stay the same or go down.

Question:

- *The expansion area: does it stay in the area or exceed Hamilton road? We have the west canyon area and looking to build on top of what the republic has done.*
- *Is a green waste transfer station being looked at: this is on our list to try and do at the future*
- *Leech aid pipeline issue being fixed: recently there was an issue with this and it has been identified and they are going through the process of addressing.*
- *Is redwood landfill also coming at the end of life: we are looking at that and as part of the regional study to see if it is feasible, this is the one landfill that has accepted regional waste that has a short life. They have about 8 years left. It is possible they could get an expansion, but absent that they would not be able to support Sonoma County waste.*
- *The last bullet point on the slide- is there some definition of "equitably shared"- what we are looking at is we see some major benefits for what this cost people now. They do collect some fees, but there probably other things we use the fees for (e.g. to address issues that impact solid waste but don't have funding for). Aiming to direct this money back to the county.*
- *Regarding the projection, does that take into consideration SB1383- the roll out has been slower than we hoped for, but the benefits should be more and this should take into account our programs and what they will be used for.*
- *Are any alternative options being talked about besides expanding or hauling outside the county? Is trash to energy being discussed at any level- there is always a balance is to take things out of the waste stream, but taking things out of the landfill is likely the cleanest in terms of minimizing the waste stream.*

IV. Guest presentation: Closed Loop Partners, Reuseables pilot

Presentation:

- **Several competitive collaborations, the take out food waste packaging is one of the challenges. We have been working on this project since 2018, today we will talk about reuse.**
- **Partnered with multiple corporations to address**
- **Theme of today is reuse: bring all brands to test reusables in market in Petaluma. Why are these brands thinking of replacing single use with reusable cups? The climate crisis and sustainability commitments. They are also feeling the pressure of regulation. They see it as growing a consumer appetite for reusable solutions.**
- **Difficult to deploy in isolation, so excited to pilot this in collaboration. it is hard to recover the reusable in isolation/ by themselves. It is such a big risk and novel concept/ When piloted together it is more distributed cost and risk across brand.**
- **Launching in 2024 in Petaluma. The goal is to have 20-40 shops to replace with reusable, no additional cost for participating restaurants, they are encouraged to return bins to wide spread collection bins. Cups would then be collected and redistributed to participating locations.**

- **Goal is to create a baseline, with the convenience and right communication, what is the highest return rate we can get to (first time a project/pilot like this implemented in the US).**
- **The baseline collected will help when designing reuse for the future and bring unique data to the table. For our brands, it will inform to pilots moving forward.**
- **Implementation: Looking a variety of factors when identifying Petaluma for the region for the pilot. There will be 3 zones in Petaluma to implement pilot. More on the go areas, downtown, and more satellite returns that could help engage customers. Across different zones, have 17 partner locations but will also look at other partners and local partners. This includes community areas that can have return bins.**
- **Timeline: we have the summer through to the end of the year to design the cup and select the funders. They will be ready to test for next summer- looking at recruitment in the fall.**
- **LTF and pilot partnership: asking for help to identify where the bins are in the community, help with local business outreach, potentially have informal collection of cups. Dedicating liaisons from groups or organizations to connect with.**

Questions:

- Is this the first pilot you ever ran like this- *the scale and brands is unprecedented, but pilots on reusable has been run for years (just not this unique)*
- Are all the cups the same? With the public having the cups and proper bins- can you talk about troubleshooting around this: this is the code we are trying to crack. We are starting with mostly standardized cups, but working on the cups and focusing on signaling returnability. Still we are very aware and size of the challenge. Mostly standardized but we do give the brands an option to do branded cups if they want.
- What are the cups going to be made of and will they include lids and straws? *The cups are going to be made of polypropylene and will be 100% recyclable at end of life. As far as the lids and straws go, they will still be single use for the pilot. Difficult at this time to convert the lids as well. Still working with vendor so no specs yet on the cups, but looking at trying to include at least some recycled content in the creation of the cups.*
- Is there a plan for oversight for the hygiene for collection and washing? Where will they be doing a rewash- a centralized washing facility near/in Petaluma. This is still being finalized.
- Is there any goal setting for how many times the cups are reused through this pilot: they did not set a target, but this is the baseline exercise. The driver of reuse cycles is return rates. If we can get higher return rates then this will be used more. The main learning objective is learning the feasibility of this kind of system
- Is there kind of tracking on the cups themselves: there will be a QR code to inform them. Their plan is to scan cups at certain points before initial distribution but then they will be scanned again when collected to assess trends.
- How does this come about bring your own cup rates- but the national rates is very low for people bringing own cups due to multiple barriers. Extra work put on the consumer.
- Do you anticipate the % of people who take these cups and keep them as their own personal cup- curious to know what percentage and who will use it. Collecting baseline.
- In order for us to encourage people to bring it back, how will we incentivize returning: they are not as nice and this is a good thing. If the cup is too nice then they are keeping it. The other thing that is intentional is how many cycles can this going through. They are looking at incentives for the program. Monetary incentives can help, but they don't move the needle all that much. This will help us isolate convenience as a factor.

V. Infrastructure Committee update – Terry Taylor/ Sloane

Presentation:

- **We have visited a number of business and thought to make them available at community events where they want speakers.**
- **Trying to create speaker bureau list related to waste issues and climate issues.**

- **Now live page on zero waste website (still some searching would be needed). Referrals are also an option on this page**
- **If people have suggestions or would like to volunteer as a speaker, they are welcome.**
- **Guess is we will be live by the next meeting.**
- **We will also look at direct outreach to share regarding this resources.**
- **More updates to come during the next meeting**

Questions:

- **No questions**

VI. Update on Compost Council of Sonoma County - Dan Noble

Presentation:

- **Report on compost coalition**
- **Restarting this as an ad hoc committee- only one meeting so far, but planning to meet monthly. Open to anyone who is interested in bringing composting back to Sonoma County.**
- **Most members involved in composting/fertilizer**
- **Every county have their own process to go through. That is part of what the permitting committee is about. The other composter at the table is in the permitting process.**
- **Explored that there is a lot of ways to manage organics and discovered many new terms and processes.**
- **Reporting back to the committee next month and how to support each other in building more compost facilities in the state.**
- **The goal is to implement for the composting community go through the LTF to help get these things done.**

Question:

- **What are your ideas to overcome birds: enclosed and cover pile. This is still a process and a diverse group is working on addressing these challenges.**

VII. Artificial Turf Moratorium subcommittee update – Liz Bortolotto

Presentation:

- **Proposed action, subcommittee to determine whether to make a recommendation. Will come back with more information later and**

VIII: State Legislation Update - Alyssa Messer

Brief overview and a few bills have been vetoed by the governor, but many of the bills discussed in April are still in committee and will be visited next year. Long fight to get this bill here.

IX. Public Comments*

No public comments.

X. Member Announcements

Dan- two events happening, one outside of Sonoma county to do a demonstration project and doing an equipment demonstration. November 9th (further info to be sent out. 18th annual CA bio resource symposium.

How do we manage bioresource- also trying to bring different types of composters into this symposium.

Sloane: Nov 4th, next reuse fair Petaluma library from 1-4. On Zero waste calendar.

XI. Next Regular Meeting Date/Suggestions for Agenda Items -

Dec 14, 2023

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Mike Anderson

Motion seconded. Stu Clark

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.