



Minutes of the February 15, 2024 Meeting

Zero Waste Sonoma met on February 15, 2024, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa, California.

Board Members Present:

City of Cloverdale – David Kelley
City of Cotati – Susan Harvey
City of Healdsburg – Larry Zimmer
City of Petaluma – Patrick Carter
City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

City of Santa Rosa – Renae Gundy
City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer
City of Sonoma – Jack Ding
County of Sonoma – Trish Pisenti
Town of Windsor – Debora Fudge

Staff Present:

Executive Director: Leslie Lukacs
Counsel: Ethan Walsh
Staff: Thora Collard, Katherine Cushwa, Courtney Scott, Xinci Tan, Amber Johnson
Agency Clerk: Amber Johnson

1. Call to Order Regular Meeting

Regular session was called to order at 9:00 a.m.
Introductions

2. Agenda Approval

3. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

4. Consent (w/attachments)

- 4.1 Minutes of the January 18, 2024 Meeting
- 4.2 January, February, and March 2024 Outreach Calendar

Board Comment:

None

Public Comments:

None

Motion: For approval of the consent calendar.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Cloverdale – David Kelley

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

Regular Calendar

5. Public Hearing for the Consideration of Organics Disposal Fee and Agency Surcharge Fee Increases [Collard]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- What is the current garbage gate rate fee at the County?
- Are these increases in line with the financial outlook while considering the HHW facility?

Public Comments:

None

Motion: To approve and adopt the increased organics disposal fee and Agency surcharge fee.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: Town of Windsor – Debora Fudge

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

6. Approval of the Fiscal Year 2024-25 ZWS Final Budget [Collard]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Do we need to change the unfunded liability reserve goal for the addition of an Admin Aide?

Public Comments:

None

Motion: For approval of the FY 24-25 Zero Waste Sonoma Final Budget.

First: City of Cotati – Susan Harvey

Second: City of Rohnert Park – Emily Sanborn

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

7. Discussion and Possible Action for Sponsorship of Marine Flare Producer Responsibility Senate Bill [Scott]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- By ZWS Sonoma board being a cosponsor is there any litigation possibilities?
- Have the producers of the marine flares voiced their feelings on this bill?
- What is the predicted life span of the alternate marine flare and what is the recyclability?
- Are there any other waste agencies that you are seeking to cosponsor this legislation?
- Voiced support for the co-sponsorship of bill SB 1066 and recognized staff for their efforts.

Public Comments:

Bob Adams – Voiced support of this legislation and co-sponsorship. Pointed out that the electronic handheld flare will not replace the aerial flare which can be seen from the horizon.

Liz Bortolotto – Voiced strong support for co-sponsorship of this bill. Mentioned that the public in general does not understand that not all products that producers produce are taken back, which then leads to the cost being put upon the public. It is important to head towards producer responsibility on all products.

Mathew Slusser – A recreational boater in support of the co-sponsorship of bill SB 1066. Relayed emails sent to Supervisor Lynda Hopkins in 2022 with frustrations for the lack of disposal options for marine flares. When questioning fellow boaters on how they are disposing of marine flares, they were disturbed to learn that the majority are soaking them in water, dumping the water down the drain or in the soil, and discarding of the flares in the garbage.

Motion: To approve the sponsorship of SB 1066, Marine Flare Producer Responsibility Act.

First: Town of Windsor – Debora Fudge

Second: City of Sebastopol – Sandra Maurer

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

8. Discussion and Possible Action for an HHW EPR Model Ordinance [Scott]

Board Comments/Action Items:

- Are other counties looking into introducing a HHW ordinance?
- Is there a disadvantage to waiting to see what happens with the HHW EPR State bill that was introduced?
- Why not include producer responsibility for e-waste?
- What do you see as an individual city's role in enforcement of an HHW EPR ordinance?
- What is the time frame for the ordinance?
- What was the outcome of Vermont's ordinance? Were there any concerns?
- Highlighted that the board needs to be extremely clear when adopting an ordinance.
- Noted the need to educate the cost to the public.
- Should the individual jurisdictions send a letter of support of the State bill that was introduced?
- Interested in seeing the feasibility study after a model ordinance is introduced.
- Do we have an estimate on staff costs, and was it included in the 24/25 final budget?
- Noted that the board is aware that a lot of HHW items are improperly disposed of in the landfill. Through an EPR model there would potentially be more convenient disposal options other than the HHW facility. This would reduce costs and make it more convenient for HHW to be handled appropriately.
- While an EPR program is a critical component of an overall solid waste program, the legal feasibility and the cost to the agency and County is concerning.
- It would be beneficial to hear the key financial, technical, and legal policy components that would comprise the ordinance.

Public Comments:

Liz Bortolotto – Offers strong support for pursuing the EPR ordinance. Wanted to highlight that with the State EPR for pharmaceuticals and sharps, so many jurisdictions were implementing the ordinances a little differently, which made it difficult for the bigger companies to change the EPR collection and regulations. It is important for the municipalities to show support and take on the model ordinance.

Marie Kneemeyer – Voiced support for ZWS staff to explore the HHW model ordinance. An EPR is strongly needed and it's a way to shift the responsibility to the producer of these materials. What is the timeline for the board to show support of this EPR model ordinance for the State bill?

Motion: To provide direction to staff to develop key financial, technical, and legal policy components for drafting an EPR model ordinance for additional review and consideration.

First: City of Cloverdale – David Kelley

Second: City of Sonoma – Jack Ding

Vote Count:

City of Cloverdale	AYE	City of Santa Rosa	AYE
City of Cotati	AYE	City of Sebastopol	AYE
City of Healdsburg	AYE	City of Sonoma	AYE
City of Petaluma	AYE	County of Sonoma	AYE
City of Rohnert Park	AYE	Town of Windsor	AYE

AYES -10- NOES -0- ABSENT -0- ABSTAIN -0-

Motion passed.

9. **Board Member Comments** – NO ACTION
10. **Executive Director Report** – VERBAL REPORT
11. **Staff Comments** – NO ACTION
Staff was asked to speak about the compost hubs.
12. **Next ZWS meeting:** March 21, 2024
13. **Adjourn:** 10:46 a.m.

Submitted by: Amber Johnson