

Minutes

AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING Thursday, April 8, 2021 Public Zoom Video Meeting and Call-in Option

Meeting Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/rec/share/EN6nWW4trzrB1kdwg98nTJyXnjDEPMWZbpbSwhf4lcLaxCZL-U4MD1ixlPyB7t-c.9Dg6oT5cJXqjdQUG>

I. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:31

Danielle Wilcox – Healdsburg
Kristyn Byrne – 3rd District
Arthur Deicke – Science
Greg Carr – 1st District
Mike Anderson – Marketing / Recycling historian
Theresa Ryan – Sierra Club / 3rd District
Liz Bortolotto – Chair
Max Bridges – league of women voters
Stu Clark – 4th district
Sloane Pagal – ZWS – will take notes for this meeting
Xinci Tan - ZWS
Brian Bauer - Resynergi
Glenn Morelli – SoCo TPW
Brandon Hart – SoCo TPW
Kyle LaRue – CCNB
Celia Furber – Recology / Vice Chair
Anita - Recology
Caren McNamara – Conscious Container
Diana Ramirez – City of Petaluma

II. Approval of draft minutes from February 11 meeting

Mike Anderson moved to approve and Greg Carr seconded. All who attended February meeting approved.

III. Presentation: Resynergi – Converting Waste Plastic to Valuable Products, Brian Bauer

- This technology takes plastic from Recology’s “Reject Mountain” and turns into in 90% useful product
- No incineration or burning of any sorts; this is a pyrolysis system
- Only 8% of plastic is currently recycled, ocean plastic growing, China no longer taking plastic waste

- Resynergi aims to answer “what would it be like if we could remove all the plastic waste from our planet and convert it to valuable products”
- System is compact, modular, all electric
- Microwave gasifies waste; catalyst reformulates it; refinery separates and condenses the liquid
- 15-25% gases – can be used for cogeneration to power the onsite system – can also be compressed and sold
- Plant 1 – site is right next to the Recology MRF in Santa Rosa
 - 1 ton per day system operational today
 - 5 ton per day system is under construction
 - 20 ton per day system is possible in the future
- Pilot Operation – proof of flexible deployment
 - Material coming from Recology MRF as well as private companies (CannaCraft, Milwright, Redwood Toxicology), and Ocean Voyages Institute in Marin
 - Waste plastic comes in → transportation fuels (diesel) is the output
 - Tech partners include Trevi Systems (Petaluma), Rieke (Rohnert Park), SomoVillage / Community Fuels (biofuels) (Rohnert Park), CEWAY testing (Sebastopol)
- Alliance to End Plastic Waste is working with Resynergi on chemical recycling
- If they can get 50%+ good material coming in, that’s a success
- This pyrolysis process is a 60-80% reduction on GHG emissions compared to virgin petroleum
- Verra is a private company coming up with Plastic Credits similar to Carbon Credits, with whom Resynergi is working
- Focusing on plastics with resin codes 2, 4, and 5 + separate system for 6 – PVC is difficult to do because of the chlorine that needs to be scrubbed
- Other promising applications:
 - Forest Floor fuel cleanup for fire prevention
 - Ag biomass waste to fuel (Vine/hemp waste)
 - Sludge to fuel
 - Hydrogen generation
- End products are oil (Chevron) and chemical companies (BASF & Dow) – which will make more sense when they are achieving larger volumes. Currently selling to entities with many diesel generators

IV. Update on Bottle Refill Project – Conscious Container, Caren McNamara

Bringing Refillable Bottles into US market through the Anheuser Busch pilot which just concluded. Caren encourages all LTF participants to fill out the survey –

<https://www.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=Mr5ekfgvzbw%3D>

The AB partners want to bring refillable glass back into the US economy. In this business model, they sell, collect, wash/sanitize, and reuse for beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages.

Bill to support refillables going to Natural Resources committee in state legislature AB 962 (Kamlager); encouraging folks to submit letters of support for this bill. Conscious Container is a strategic processor. Currently refillables are not allowed in existing legislation.

Conscious Container has been awarded a 500,000 CalRecycle Reuse Grant (2 year grant period) for a returnable tote/refillable bottle/ e-commerce program for wine bottles. Later down the line, there will be more opportunities for retail. Bottles in this pilot will be contract washed for this program until the funds are raised for Conscious Container to purchase a standalone wine/beer bottle washing system more locally. This is an extremely expensive infrastructure investment.

Coca Cola just made a commitment in Germany to bring back refillable glass bottles in that region.

V. Update on Renewable Sonoma, Will Bakx

Will not available to provide and update.

VI. Establish LTF Committee to Review Bylaws; Discuss Membership Mike

Anderson has been involved in previous conversations about Bylaws. He is advocating for a shortened name for the LTF group, and some other changes.

Liz and Mike will take on this new subcommittee.

Liz motioned to create an ad-hoc committee with Mike as the chair, to bring back the recommended bylaw revisions to the full LTF committee. Stu Clark seconded. All in attendance approved the motion.

Greg said he doesn't want this ad-hoc committee to take on recruitment of new members and term limits discussion, so that the full LTF group can help with that over the next several months.

VII. Legislative Update, Liz Bortolotto

Slides attached separately.

Sloane added two bills:

- SB 38 (Wieckowski) which is also a bottle bill overhaul. Requires distributors of beverage containers to form a stewardship organization to develop and submit a plan and budget for the recovery and recycling of empty beverage containers similar to that described in the Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act, and would require a stewardship fee be paid by distributor members of the organization, to assist in covering the costs of implementing the program, reimburse the department for the department's costs of enforcement, and face administrative civil penalties for a violation. **Current status:** Referred to Committee on Appropriations to be heard April 5, 2021.
- SB 451 (Dodd) This bill would postpone to January 1, 2023, the date by which the department may approve recycling pilot projects. The bill would increase the maximum number of pilot projects from 5 to 10. By increasing expenditures from a continuously appropriated fund for these extensions, the bill would make an appropriation. This bill

would make the provisions related to the pilot projects inoperative on July 1, 2023, and would repeal them as of January 1, 2024. This bill would make other conforming and nonsubstantive changes. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute. **Current status:** Referred to Committee on Environmental Quality to be heard April 26, 2021.

- The Sonoma County CRV Pilot is confirmed at two locations in Santa Rosa, one location in Healdsburg, and one location in Sebastopol. Next step is waiting for “notice to proceed” from Calrecycle and permitting at these sites.

VIII. Public Comments

No public comments.

IX. Member Announcements

Mike Anderson commented that this is the first Zoom meeting he has ever participated in.

X. Next Regular Meeting Date – June 10, 2021

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.