

Minutes

AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, June 9, 2022

1:30 to 3:00 PM

Public Zoom Video Meeting and Call-in Option

I. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting called to order at 1:30

- Joey Hejnowicz, Zero Waste Coordinator - City of Santa Rosa
- Jennifer Lyle, Sonoma County
- Alyssa Messer – 3rd District Rep
- Max Bridges- League of Women Voters
- Liz Bortolotto – Chair
- Glen Morelli – TPW – Integrated Waste
- Terry Taylor - We Act
- Sloane Pagal- Zero Waste Sonoma
- Dan Nobel- Association of Compost Producers
- Tasha Wright- City of Santa Rosa (Water Dept)
- Timothy Wilcox- Director of food beverage river rock
- Trish Pisenti- Sonoma County
- Mark Soiland- City of Cotati Representative
- Kristen Sales- Zero Waster
- Kermit Harris- Regreen technologies
- Douglas Hampton- Regreen technologies
- Brian Bauer- Resynergi
- Sunny Galbraith – 350 Sonoma County

II. Approval of draft minutes from April 14, 2021 meeting

Passed unanimously; those that were not in attendance abstained.

III. Update on Zero Waste at River Rock Casino, Tim Wilcox

Updates on actions taken by the Casino

- Moved away from Styrofoam since 2019 with compostable coffee cups.
- Ongoing recycling effort for comingle products and cardboard.
- Removed use of single plastic bowls and replaced with washable bowls. Changed in 2012 and 1/2 million units reduced.
- Since 2019 rescued 17,000 pounds of local produce and delivered to redwood empire foodbank. Was impacted by the pandemic.

Next steps:

- Goal to improve the compliance rate of recycling for Healdsburg.
- Continuing work on highway cleanup

IV. Presentation from Astra Energy, Doug Hampton, Kermit Harris

- They are currently in agreement with a material recovery company and deploying a unit in the next 60 days to take MSW and process it further to turn it into green commodities. This material recovery will be the first in California and the country to not send MSW materials to the landfill.
- They will invite LTF and attendees to come down and see the operation and what we do.
- They recently took on a new opportunity for pistachio waste and harvest waste- looking to turn this into clean synthetic gas, high quality biochar for filtration.
- Their system takes these waste materials and extract 7 tons of water from the material and produce 8 tons of clean pellets that do not have that smell and biochar. If it is MSW then they make high quality pyro oil that can be turned over to larger oil company that is testing that oil. The good part about the oil is to use that as a blending agent that could be used to clean the contaminants of current fossil fuel. They are able to produce clean electricity through turbine system that has a closed loop oil system. On top of the commodities, they are able to generate clean electricity.
- Clean tech conference in Egypt, invited by US and Commerce to provide that support. Willing to put money into projects to implement. There is a trip in DC to meet with the Saudi delegation to meet with the delegation to address this crisis.
- Their patented technology addresses trash, what they do with it, and ideally not sending anything back to the landfill. There will be a pilot project (dealing primarily in MSW) down in Hesperia, CA and identified land further down to put together a "six pack" where they put down 6- 15 ton machines (looking at production for an alternative to oil and need on a commercial scale- 6 of the six packs would take care of all of this).
- They are interested in working in Sonoma for another pilot as well, but they want to look at the gross and mass tonnage of waste within the county. To give some idea about the flexibility in the system, the experience in EGYPT they are not handling the sewage or water treatment waste. They are looking at creating soil from the sewage because in the grand scheme this plays a large role in the total environmental health and ultimately national security (i.e. water security).
- Questions from the group regarding.
 - Are they selling an energy technology or technology to make things go away
 - Not selling the technology, but trying to deploy technology for joint ventures in both a energy and waste solutions platform.
 - Are you cheaper than the landfill and how will that effect the tipping fee
 - Cheaper than the landfill and they will take 50% of the tipping fee. A 15 ton system and operations takes about 40k square feet. The equipment is expensive, but they are able to deploy the equipment.
 - Is there a byproduct of the technology
 - There is no identified byproduct because they are not combusting anything. That is part of the proprietary nature of the system.
 - With those feed stock commitments, can it de-incentivize recycling or composting?
 - Encouraging to keep recycling as it has been.
 - Trying to avoid fees or economic efficiencies of the logistics associated with it. What is different about what they do than recycling alone, because all of the non-recyclable plastics can be shredded down to the same milage and the information is the processed to a decontaminated material that can be converted.
 - The timeframe for this to be up would be roughly 90 days.
 - There are more questions and the committee will follow up.

V. Food Recovery Capacity Study report, SB 1383 Grant Funds, Guide for Zero Waste Events, Sloane Pagal

- Applied for a grant and received funding for resources to support being in compliance with 1383 that will be sent out. Doing bulk buying of compost bins for the home, advertisement and other resources.
- Food recovery capacity study
 - Received a second draft of the report that is looking pretty good and possible they will present at the next board meeting.
- Is there interest in spearheading the effort of putting together a best practice guide for event organizers.
- The city of Sebastopol is currently developing a similar guide.
- Alyssa put her hat in to help with putting together a guide and Dan can also help with the resources and secondary research.
- Sloane, Dan, Liz, and Alyssa to start an email thread.
- If folks have received the email, the Zero Waste Sonoma meeting will be on the 23rd of this month instead of the 16th. Upcoming Event Announcement, Sunny Galbraith

VI. Zero Waste Week, Sloane Pagal, Liz Bortolotto

- This is happening July 24th-30th and centered around the symposium and a range of different activities and events.
- Recology will be leading a sustainability circle to promote the event and they will be hosting another fixit ticket and re-use fair. 10-1 pm.
- Zero Waste Week will also have English and Spanish workshops and events.
- Zerowastenorthbay.org under the zero waste tab for events
- LTF will be sending out information for Zero Waste Week and all kinds of topics around this topic and keynote speakers to discuss regenerative agriculture and reusable bottle project, and more. LTF will be sending out information on the symposium.
- Representatives from a number of the refill stores will be present.
- We are still open for sponsorship- you can reach out to sponsor to Liz or Leslie

VII. Infrastructure Fund Subcommittee Update, Terry Taylor

- The subcommittee was developed as means of bringing new ideas into the task force to try locally or learn globally.
- The subcommittee is trying to do is identify what is going on in the county that can have wider impact, bring that information to the local task force, bring it to zero waste Sonoma and rekindle what is possible for supporting waste management and related interest and keep inspiration level moving.
- One of the things discovered was a project in old world winery that is on river road, the owner of that winery uses inoculation that uses woodchips and compost, we will find ways of supporting.
- One of the goals is to find similar places to go, investigate, and invite anyone to the local task force to bring back to the larger crew and see where we want to take it and bring meaning to the local task force.
- The subcommittee is currently looking at Oliver's market and would maybe be interested in supporting and a site visit to this. They are finding lunch places to meet up and debrief for the site visit. These time frames can be reversed to any given meeting.

- Questions:
 - Who is on the committee?
 - Stuart, Leslie, Alyssa, Terry.
 - Dan would be open to joining and he is developing a circular economy that these communities could use and refine it based on the work that we are doing. He would like to be included on the committee.
 - Brian Bauer would also love to see this as well.

VIII. SoCo Bioresource Management Collaborative, Dan Noble

- **Healthy Soil Summit report and next steps** with the California Healthy Soil Network
 - The state chapter of the US composting council- held the first inaugural resource healthy soil summit on May 3rd.
 - The next "Healthy Soil Summit" will be World Soil Day, Dec 5
 - Relationship development, vision alignment, and program coordination between HS Network members.
 - ACP Healthy Soil Workgroup bringing together STA Certified Compost and "Biologically complete compost" via SoilFoodWeb.com
- **ACP Compost Marketing and Application Network** collaboration with ZeroFoodprint
 - Included NRCS, CDFA, CalRecycle, UC ANR, LASAN, Association of Compost Producers, 2 NGOs (Zero Food print & ReSCape).
 - Connecting Jurisdictions with composters (especially large counties)
 - Developing a "Compost Application Network."
- Dan would like to host one of these in Sonoma County and SB1383 working group to see what we can do as a community of composters to more effectively catalyze and make efficient Article 12. This process goes well beyond the composters and includes the community.
- Mark Soiland expressed interest in collaboration.
- We don't have a compost working group, but perhaps this can be a follow up item for the next meeting.

IX. Public Comments

- No public comments

X. Member Announcements

- No member announcements

XI. Next Regular Meeting Date – August 11, 2022

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.