

Minutes
AB 939 LOCAL TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 13, 2023

1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Sonoma County Infrastructure Department
(formerly Transportation and Public Works)
2300 County Center Drive, Suite B-100, Main Conference Room
Santa Rosa, California 95403

Call in Conference Number: 707-565-2283

I. Welcome & Introductions

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

II. Approval of draft minutes from December 8, 2022 meeting
Motion to approve minutes passed

III. Election-
○ Chair- Liz Bortolotto

- Vice chair- Dan Noble
- Chair Pro-tem- Celia Furber

IV. Announce changes to LTF; Additions & Resignations

- Kylie LaRue new member of LTF.
- Greg Carr term extended on April 4th.

V. Update on Zero Waste Symposium/Zero Waste Week – Sloane Pagal

- Thursday May 11th from 8-5, registration open.
- There will be 3 keynote speakers on different topics, policy updates from Heidi Sandborn, session on reuse, policy at the state level, and things happening locally.
- There will be over 20 speakers and there is a model of recycling updates and waste diversion.
- Inviting community to participate and there will be a happy hour and raffle.
- They are still accepting sponsorship.
- Zero waste week from July 23rd-29th, partnership with the Sonoma Recology center, master food preservers will do educational demonstrations at the advanced energy center, tours of waste management compost facilities, pig farm up in Windsor, this is still in the planning process.
- By the next meeting there will be more finalized and to update

VI. Infrastructure Committee update – Terry Taylor, Dan Noble

- *We have visited 7 local institutions, agencies that have been visiting for these kinds of innovations.*
- *We have met regularly to discuss and debrief.*
- **Issue:** *Almost all of these visits and enterprises have in common is lack of visibility and the public not being aware of them and what they do. Action that would like to be proposed is to start a local speaker bureau (perhaps through zero waste Sonoma) and invite those people to be on call to speak to local groups, businesses, and entities who would like to learn more. The agency that is speaking will have a platform for networking, community members will be informed of places that they otherwise would not know exist, and they would like to entertain a motion/action for moving that forward. Something that would help our local entrepreneurs get a toehold with the public.*
- **Group discussion-**
- *There is a fair number of organizations that invite members who don't know of a lot of these resources. Perhaps with a bit of outreach for those who exist, perhaps people pull from a list to talk about what these businesses are doing.*
- *This is an ongoing issue so we can be in touch with them and some of that outreach being successful*
- *Who would manage that list:*
 - **Answer:** *this would take several aspects of management. This was something considered to be listed on the zero waste Sonoma page and some of the initial work to establish these groups and community organizations that would require these speakers.*
 - *Creating the structure of this group- this could be as simple as a few group meetings (perhaps offer this to the larger group). Liz is thinking the infrastructure committee could get together to think of some structure and bring this back. They could bring some proposals and LTF can then hold darts*

for these speakers. We would need to suss out details and screen potential speakers. There are some details that the infrastructure committee to have a zero waste speakers bureau. Perhaps make this resource available to local city counsels, the list people want to talk to could be rather big. This presentation could be helpful to the presentation. Zero waste has this on their strategic plan for presentations and can also fill this need. We can talk about this in our strategic plan for our processes. Getting together with the economic development board, we can also explore how we will support the shift towards the circular economy. There is a lot of opportunities for collaboration in other agencies/ task force where there is overlap / impacted by current LTF measures who may not be part of the Zero waste strategic planning.

- **Request:** *can the committee inform the LTF as a hold of site visits so there is the opportunity to join? Answer: yes.*
- **Question:** *regarding if these speakers would be recorded and how that information would be hosted for those who are not able to be present.*
- **Invite:** *any members of the LTG are welcome to join the group. They are going to waylay the site visits until the questions and considerations are taken here.*
- **Action:** *committee to reconvene and consider the information and feedback provided here.*

VII. Extension of Regulatory Barriers Subcommittee – Stu Clark

- **Background:** *the permitting issues subcommittee (around 2019), enjoyed working with the group and this was built on the consensus of a diversion at LTF, comments have come back asking if the work is still relevant. They have these zero waste goals ad SB 1383, but when we look at what is going to be taken to get there. The need is recognized that there needs to be more facilities and there are a lot of barriers for permitting diversion facilities. After case studies, tours, collaboration meetings, etc. to address permitting barriers, they went into to address the permitting barriers to look at unnecessary barriers/ red tape that can realistically be addressed so action towards these goals can be taken. We went through this process, we went through and asked, what are these barriers, made actionable recommendation, identified the groups that can take action, and then presented it to the LTF. After that this was presented to LTF and zero waste Sonoma board, but then covid hit. There are a number of things that could be undertaken today.*

Ask- *is this still relevant and is there desire to represent and explore this again. (note that the numbers will be different for today). All cities in the county have set goals but have not identified the steps to get there.*

Discussion: *We have a neighbor to the east of us (Napa), that has been given multiple levels of support (gov/ community/ political) for the compost/ recovery facilities and they are making progress with this (they recently received a reward). Sonoma county is not putting the effort for the traction. We have to kick up the action or we will not meet these goals. We need actionable steps and behaviors. Both government and private industry are hesitant to move forward, there are a lot of obstacles (such as people do not want facilities next door and there may be a lot of obstacles such as litigation). Barriers to creating infrastructure. There may be pressure from the expectation to comply with 1383 that may help this shift. If there is something stuck with the big picture, then perhaps get momentum with smaller projects to address this.*

Question: *There is the cold creek compost facility in Ukiah, any updates on how this is progressing and barriers they are facing?* **Answer:** *the review of the application was pretty bullet proof, but there are limited updates on it currently. Still in progress it would seem.*

Back to stu- in agreement for the points. *In addition to the points that are brought up, perhaps we can try again and speak to each city. Perhaps interest in either a committee or committee to look at the recommendations for the group. Just the numbers and some metrics would have to be updated. Recommendations are, generally, still applicable. It points to the fact that it cannot be diverted from the landfill and piled some place. I*

Ask- *bring back the recommendations and update the number (the state has brought things up again and again. Need to motion (Alyssa), Liz (seconded), passed. Ad hoc committee (Stu, Alyssa, Mark, Greg, Glenn). Perhaps we can have a subcommittee meeting and talk about what*

Questions: is the 2019 presentation available for the group? Stu to share to the group and an email will be sent out. Presentation to be sent to Liz to be distributed.

VIII. Legislative Update – Alyssa Messer

Theme of bills being brought back again and again. Reviewed PPT w/ group.

IX. State of CA Compost Updates, Healthy Soils update – Dan Noble

- **Bigger picture of the organics world:** *Showed model for circular economy and everything on the biological/nutrients side- problem with circular economy is that bio resources like water and carbon flow through both bio and mined resources. Most of our products are mixtures of, issue of how to sort them back out for use. If it is recycled, is the point instead of having it end up in the landfill. How this works, we put together some round tables around healthy soil. Originally started with 8 organizations that had to do with healthy soil. Many of these groups have existing relationships and so many different players in the game. Most of the work is at the local level.*
- **Big picture:** *orgs recycled install of landfill, identified key performance indicators (we are still working with agriculture). There is a composter gap [between the 1 ton a day composters and the 20 tons per day composting. This produces as much organic waste as the people do. Looking for the update for SB 1383 for where we are at with the county.*

X. SB 1383 Update – Xinci Tan

-It is in effect now, we are in a pretty good spot and we are saying that the main programs that we are working on this year if food recovery and procurement. Several grants in the work in the moment. Applied for a 300K grant from Cal recycle. We have been making connections regarding nonprofits (it is ending this year). Cal volunteer is another grant that will pick up the work once cal recycle one ends. They were also successful in a UDSA food waste reduction and composting grant. This has not started yet. These programs are reflective of our efforts and that these efforts are moving along.

- *For procurement, there is a compost program that was started last year to encourage people to use compost. 10% rebate (from zero waste Sonoma). It has to be from a compost facility or distributor (not home compost), and need to buy at least 30 yards per year to qualify. That program is going well, but we are hoping to promote it more this year because it is under utilized. Plan to have updates every week.*

XI. Public Comments*

-Catherine Dodd- registered nurse and environmental health consultant. Ran a NP to have those go out to speak to this (she had HS students go out). As a nurse she is involved with hospitals to reduce waste. She is here today to talk about solid waste catastrophe, the largest unrecyclable practice producer in our county is fake green grass. It has to be watered down when the temp outside is <75. It takes a tremendous amount of water (life cycle 10 years) it ends up in landfill and it is made with PFAS. In order to make the blades, the plastic gets stuck and PFAS squeezes them through the blade. The landfill cushion is covered in PFAS. All of this blows off into the storm water/ ground water. Parks department prioritize plastic grass over natural turf (sequesters carbon, easier to land on, doesn't create heat islands) is as effective as plastic grass. This is a battle for county to stop giving preference to this over recyclable turf. There are 3 bills in the state legislator because we can't ban it because a law was passed by lobbying groups. We have to put things in place to protect the environment, land, and people for harm caused by this. We have to protect the kids. These fields become hazardous waste.

Ask: LTF to urge the board of supervisor and to put a moratorium on approvals.
*Real turf does not need as much water and it holds and absorbs as much water. Windsor has a program where they do not accept artificial turf. Members can individually notify senators and call to not prioritize/approve plastic turf (board of supervisor meeting on May 5th)
Second public comment also about plastic turf and the cost and impact is large. Synthetic turf is highly costly. It is a drop compared to massive unrecyclable waste for what it generates. It is not recyclable, and it has PFAS and it destroys soil quality and water supply. Liability for city and counties getting sued for the water contamination and health standpoint. Natural grass is superior cost wise and the non-recyclability. Recommend talking with supervisors and other committees. Ask to cease with this.*

XII. Member Announcements

Earth day event happening in downtown for the square

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

June 8th, 2023

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:30

*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.