



Minutes of April 20, 2011

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) met on April 20, 2011, at the City of Santa Rosa Council Chambers, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue., Santa Rosa, California

Present:

City of Healdsburg	Mike Kirn, Chair
City of Cloverdale	Nina Regor
City of Cotati	Marsha Sue Lustig
City of Petaluma	Susan Lackie
City of Rohnert Park	Linda Babonis
City of Santa Rosa	Dell Tredinnick
City of Sebastopol	Sue Kelly
City of Sonoma	Steve Barbose
County of Sonoma	Susan Klassen
Town of Windsor	Christa Johnson

Staff Present:

Counsel	Janet Coleson
Staff	Patrick Carter
	Karina Chilcott
	Charlotte Fisher
	Henry Mikus
	Lisa Steinman
Recorder	Elizabeth Koetke

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Agenda Approval

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale moved to approve the agenda. Linda Babonis, City of Rohnert Park, seconded. Agenda approved.

3. Attachments / Correspondence

Chair Kirn called attention to the Director's Agenda Notes and Reports by Staff and Others; April 2011 Outreach Events.

4. On File with Clerk

Chair Kirn noted there were no resolutions approved in March.

5. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

Will Bakx, Sonoma Compost Company (SCC), said the first week in May is 'International Compost Awareness Week', which is going into its thirteenth year. SCC has scheduled composting workshops in each of the jurisdictions during that week to bring composting awareness to the public.

Consent

6.1 Minutes of March 16, 2011

Marsha Sue Lustig, Cotati, moved to approve the consent calendar. Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, seconded. Sebastopol abstained. Consent calendar approved.

7. FY 11-12 Final Budget

Executive Director Mikus reviewed the budget process, which consists of the Boards' approval of the Workplan, the Draft budget, and finally approval of the Final budget. Charlotte Fisher presented the FY 11-12 Final Budget and answered questions from the Boardmembers.

At the March SCWMA meeting, staff was asked to prepare an additional list of possible projects and to include an estimate of costs. Those projects include the single-use bag ban, mandatory commercial recycling and expansion of the organics program. One funding option would be the use of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility Reserve for the single-use bag ban and/or the mandatory commercial recycling. Exercising this option would require a Board policy change. There is ample money available for expansion of the organics program in the Organics Reserve.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, moved to approve the FY 11-12 Final Budget. Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa, seconded. The FY 11-12 Final Budget was approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the Contingency Reserve policy.

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale, asked staff for potential policy changes regarding the Contingency Reserve. Ms. Fisher said a policy change would be premature until staff has a better understanding of the proposed programs. Since the goals were set in 2002 and revised in 2006 and 2008, the goals should be reviewed and brought up to date.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, said policy reserve for the HHW Facility could possibly be reduced from the 50% level set when the program was new. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation would be one way to reduce the HHW waste stream.

Public Comment

Ken Wells, Guiding Sustainability, commented the single largest component of the HHW program is paint. Recent legislation regarding paint will offset some of those costs. Cost savings will be realized when EPR legislation is in place for items like carpet, fluorescent lamps, and batteries.

Linda Christopher, AB 93 Local Task Force (LTF), commented the cost of enforcement in other communities is shared with their local agencies doing restaurant inspections. The possibility of assistance with the single-use bag ban should be explored.

Tim James, California Grocery Associates, explained he has dealt with several of these bag bans to date. With regards to enforcement there are three things to consider:

- Retailers – doing self-policing.
- Consumers - responding to environmental sensitivity
- Inspectors – working currently in stores, such as weights and measures dealing price scanners and scales, etc.

8. Discussion of Organics Program Future

Henry Mikus explained that organics are the cornerstone of the SCWMA regional diversion programs. The 2007 Waste Characterization Study showed that one third of the material going into the landfill is organics. There is an incredible need as well as opportunity in the composting program.

He reported the future of the compost program was discussed by the Solid Waste Advisory Group

(SWAG) Research Committee. Some of their preliminary findings were additional composting capacity for the existing composting program including food waste needs to be diligently pursued. SWAG recognizes the necessary support of SCWMA efforts in developing a new composting facility in Sonoma County.

Patrick Carter said a revised staff report was distributed due to an error on one of the spreadsheets in the original staff report incorrectly stating the tipping fee at Cold Creek Compost as \$12.00/ton. In the agreement Cold Creek Compost currently has with the City of Ukiah, the tipping fee is actually \$16.00/ton.

Mr. Carter gave a very detailed presentation including a history of the compost program from its inception. Three options for the future of the compost program were explored, which included several options accompanied by financial models.

Staffs' conclusions and recommendations were to keep all tonnage at SCC's facility for the most cost efficiency. A slightly more expensive short-term model that could add capacity and expand material types collected would be the diversion of materials from the Healdsburg Transfer Station to Cold Creek Compost. Staff does not recommend splitting the system as individual facilities are more expensive than the current integrated system.

Janet Coleson, Agency Counsel reminded the SCWMA Board of two sections in the JPA Agreement. Section 11 "each participant shall cause wood waste and yard waste generated within its jurisdiction (that could not be diverted otherwise) to go the Central Landfill to be delivered to the Treatment System and shall take such actions as are appropriate and necessary to accomplish that result..." Section 17 "Agency agrees during the term of this Agreement it will receive wood and yard waste from each of the participants. Participants agree that during the term of this Agreement each participant will deliver the Exhibit A wood and yard tonnage as a minimum....."

Public Comment

Ernie Carpenter, private citizen, waste consultant since 1997, and former Sonoma County Supervisor, encouraged the SCWMA Board to 'stay the course' with the organics program. In 1998/1999 the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors thought a dairy would step forward and absorb this material. At that time, it was only about 80,000 tons/day. Those facilities didn't exist then and they don't exist now. The problem is cost and regulation, which no dairy or private corporation is going to assume. He asked the SCWMA Board to consider the \$300,000 per year current revenue coming to SCWMA. Siting a new landfill will be difficult because no one wants 200,000 tons of this material brought into their neighborhood.

Ken Wells, AB 939 LTF and Guiding Sustainability, said the LTF provided the recommendation for the criteria for the selection of a new site. He assumed the LTF would be one of the forums used for a public conversation for the draft Environmental Impact Report.

Portia Sinnott, AB 939 LTF, said reducing the amount of food waste and yard waste generated is something that needs to be talked about fairly.

Boardmember Discussion

Chair Kirn expressed the advantage of looking at the short term ability to divert, with the ultimate goal of a long term facility. There was a consensus of the Board to support staffs' recommendation.

Due to time constraints item #10 was addressed before item #9.

10. Sonoma County/City Solid Waste Advisory

Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma, serves as the SCWMA liaison to the SWAG. The application to

reopen the landfill has been submitted to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. By June 2012, the SWAG will make its final recommendation on the solutions, final costs and structure of solid waste management in the County. In January 2012, a decision will be made whether to continue with the re-permitting process of the Central Landfill or continue with outhaul.

In a report from the Processing and Facility Options Subcommittee, there were four findings and recommendations for current disposal and trends. The next step is to develop costs of those options.

Representative from Sebastopol left the meeting at 11:45 a.m. and the Representative from Sonoma left the meeting 11:50 a.m.

11. Carryout Bag Decision Process

Chair Kirn requested this item be continued to the May 18, 2011 SCWMA meeting. **Dell Tredinnick, Santa Rosa, moved to continue this item. Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, seconded.**

9. LTF Zero Waste Discussion Paper & Presentation

Portia Sinnott and Linda Christopher, AB 939 LTF, presented the Zero Waste Discussion Paper and answered questions.

There was no action requested or taken on this item.

12. EPA Environmental Education Grant Support Letter

Karina Chilcott requested Board permission for submittal of a grant proposal as well as a support letter for a grant application the SCWMA is preparing on behalf of the Compost Club for a competitive Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Regional Grant. Staff is applying for the minimum award amount which is \$15,000 and requires a 25% non-federal match.

Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, moved to approve staff proceeding with the grant application. Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa, seconded. Representatives Sebastopol and Sonoma were not present.

13. Boardmember Comments

None.

14. Staff Comments

Mr. Carter reported staff is completing the applications for the beverage container recycling grant on all the jurisdictions' behalf.

Executive Director Mikus said the 4th quarter allocations from SCC were left at each Boardmember's place. The 2011 Recycling Guides are available from Ms. Chilcott after the meeting.

15. Next SCWMA Meeting – May 18, 2011

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Koetke

Copies of the following were distributed and/or submitted at this meeting:

- Revised Transmittal for Item 8
- PowerPoint presentation for SCWMA Organics Program
- International Compost Awareness Week Information Sheet