



Minutes of August 17, 2011

The Sonoma County Waste Management Agency (SCWMA) met on August 17, 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	John Brown
City of Rohnert Park	Linda Babonis
City of Santa Rosa	Dell Tredinnick
City of Sebastopol	Jack Griffin
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	Debra Dowdell

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Debra Dowdell was introduced as our new "Agency Clerk".

Boardmember Christa Johnson, who is leaving the area for new employment, was recognized by Chair Kirn, on behalf of all boardmembers and staff, for her years of service to SCWMA. She was presented with a plaque as a "Thank You".

2. Agenda Approval

Henry Mikus, Executive Director, requested item 7 (Agreement for Mandatory Commercial Recycling Education) be continued to the 9/21/11 meeting in order to provide additional information.

Susan Klassen, County of Sonoma, moved to approve the agenda with the exception of item 7. Marsha Sue Lustig, City of Cotati, seconded. Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Attachments / Correspondence

Chair Kirn called attention to the Director's Agenda Notes and Reports by Staff and Others; August/September 2011 Outreach Events, Mandatory Commercial Recycling Updates, Support letter for SB 568 (Lowenthal) – Polystyrene Food Containers and 4-H Letter of Appreciation.

Board Comments

Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, asked if the contribution to 4-H Chickenque event was an SCWMA grant and can other non-profits apply.

Charlotte Fisher informed the Board that it is not a grant. It is an item that is included in the budget each year to support the purchase of compostable tableware for the 4-H event. If other organizations would like to be considered, it would need to be a part of budget planning discussions.

Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa, agreed with Christa Johnson that this should be opened up to other organizations and added the 4-H Chickenque is an educational event and has shown leadership for years on how to source separate.

4. On File with Clerk

Chair Kirn noted resolution approved in June 2011 recognizing Elizabeth Koetke for six years of service with SCWMA.

5. Public Comments (items not on the agenda)

None.

Consent

6.1 Minutes of June 15, 2011

6.2 FY 10-11 Year End Financial Report

Chair Kirn noted there was a minor correction to FY 10-11 Year End Financial Report and called attention the notice of misstatement emailed to Boardmembers.

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale, moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Dell Tredinnick, City of Santa Rosa, seconded. Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

Regular Calendar

7. Agreement for Mandatory Commercial Recycling Education

Item 7 continued to September 21, 2011 meeting.

8. Mercury Disposal Systems (MDS) Agreement for PG&E Grant

Karina Chilcott summarized the goals of the Voluntary Fluorescent Lamp Take-Back Program with PG&E, which is to increase the residential drop-off for spent fluorescent lamps. The agreement with MDS for \$52,000 for collection and recycling of fluorescent lamps through a Fed-Ex mail back program is the largest budget item in this program.

Public Comment

None.

Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, moved to approve the increase of drop-off sites for fluorescent lamps. Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma, seconded. Motion approved with a unanimous vote.

9. Sonoma County/City Solid Waste Advisory (SWAG)

Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma, serves as the SCWMA liaison to the SWAG. Mr. Barbose reported SWAG decided to move forward on the consultant's study of recommendations of the Research Committee at the August 15, 2011 SWAG meeting. There was unanimous support on recommendations 1, 2 and 3. The SWAG voted to use the existing Executive Committee as an oversight committee, which will meet with staff and consultants to provide input and participation from cities large and small. There will be periodic check-ins as the process moves forward. SCWMA gave a fabulous presentation, which described the many activities of

the SCWMA. Ruth Abby, HDR, Inc. gave a presentation on education outreach emphasizing the importance of going door to door instead of mailings or emails.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comment

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale, gave her compliments to SCWMA staff on the great job they did on their presentation at the SWAG meeting.

10. Carryout Bags Ordinance Direction

Patrick Carter reported he is not in a position to report on the carry out bags ordinance direction. The City of Rohnert Park has requested a second meeting with their Solid Waste Committee and City of Santa Rosa has been unable to schedule a presentation until September. It is anticipated all jurisdictions will be able to give a "straw vote" at the October meeting.

Board Discussion

Marsha Sue Lustig, City of Cotati, asked about the status of the Marin County categorical exemption ban on plastic bags. Mr. Carter stated Marin used a categorical exemption with a ban placed on plastic bags and a five cent fee on paper bags. There is litigation in process and a hearing is set for September 13, 2011.

Steve Barbose, City of Sonoma, commented he is being asked about the lack of action on the part of SCWMA.

Janet Coleson, SCWMA Counsel, plans to have a discussion on this matter during the September meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comments

The Board recommended bringing the item back for the October meeting.

11. Revised Reserve Fund Policy

Henry Mikus reported the Board requested a revised policy be established for overages. Currently, there are four reserve funds. The Organics Reserve restricts the funds accumulated to being used in conjunction with the organics program only. The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Closure Reserve and HHW Facility Reserve allow overages to be transferred to the Contingency Reserve. Approval of this policy would allow the Board to exercise more discretion regarding use of excess reserve funds, such as providing funding to special onetime projects or other unique needs.

Board Comment

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale, asked for some clarification concerning the 5.2 million, which is restricted for Organics use only.

She also asked about the possibility of the HHW Facility Reserve containing grant funds. Tipping fee surcharges are the primary source of revenue for HHW. Any excess from operations is transferred to the HHW Reserve. There are no grant funds held in any reserve.

Public Comment

None.

Linda Babonis, City of Rohnert Park, moved to approve the revised Reserve Fund Policy. Jack Griffin, City of Sebastopol, seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

12. Civil Grand Jury Survey Response

Henry Mikus received an information packet from the Civil Grand Jury regarding the need for a "Whistleblower Program" in Sonoma County. A three page survey is part of the packet and per the instructions SCWMA is required to answer page 3 entitled "Special Whistleblower Additional Response". A draft response letter stating the SCWMA employees are covered by Sonoma County Human Resources (HR) Policy per the memorandum of understanding between SCWMA and the County is attached for Board review. Staff requests direction at the October meeting for a formal written response to be sent to the Civil Grand Jury.

Board Discussion

Nina Regor, City of Cloverdale, remarked the SCWMA response may be different and the Sonoma County HR policy should be reviewed for appropriate application. She suggested obtaining input from each jurisdiction because each one has to respond to this survey as well.

Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, concurred with comments made by Nina Regor.

Jack Griffin, City of Sebastopol, agreed and reminded that any response from SCWMA should mirror the Sonoma County HR policy.

Public Comment

None.

13. Boardmember Comments

Christa Johnson, Town of Windsor, conveyed her pleasure working with everyone and announced Matt Mullan, Town Manager, will be the Interim Boardmember representing the Town of Windsor. Dave Kelley was introduced as the Interim Assistant Manager, Town of Windsor.

The Boardmembers expressed their appreciation for all the energy and effort given by Christa Johnson in her service to the SCWMA.

14. Staff Comments

The Executive Director thanked Christa for the short, but fruitful working relationship. He expressed appreciation of the comments from Steve Barbose about the Agency presentation given at the SWAG meeting. He has done similar presentations at other cities and extended invitations to any jurisdiction who would like to have one at their city.

Karina Chilcott shared two items. Tomorrow, August 18th, CalRecycle will eliminate the CalMax Materials Exchange Program due to lack of interest. The SCWMA received notice the application for the US EPA Environmental Education Grant was unsuccessful.

15. Next SCWMA Meeting – September 21, 2011

16. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:45a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Dowdell