

County of Santa Clara

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County
Recycling and Waste Reduction Division

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 11, 2016

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

ACTERRA	Maija McDonald
CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL	Rob D'Arcy
CITY OF CUPERTINO	Cheri Donnelly
CITY OF GILROY	Tony Eulo
CITY OF LOS ALTOS	Chris Lamm
CITY OF MILPITAS	Elizabeth Koo
CITY OF MORGAN HILL	Tony Eulo
CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW	Lori Topley
CITY OF PALO ALTO	Matthew Krupp
CITY OF SAN JOSE	Alana Rivadeneyra
CITY OF SANTA CLARA	Karin Hickey
CITY OF SUNNYVALE	Mark Bowers
CLARA MATEO	Michael Gross
CLEAN WATER FUND	Samantha Sommer
COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	Stan Chau
COUNTY RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION	Bill Grimes
COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA	Wendy Fong
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY	Bruce Olszewski
SIERRA CLUB	Heidi Melander
SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP	Lou Ramondetta

Commissioners: James R. Griffith, Chair; Michael F. Kotowski, Linda J. LeZotte, Manh Nguyen, Teresa O'Neill, Greg Scharff, Rod Sinks, Jan Pepper, Cat Tucker, Mike Wasserman

VOTING MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

CITY OF CAMPBELL
 CITY OF MONTE SERENO
 CITY OF SARATOGA
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
 SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
 TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS
 TOWN OF LOS GATOS

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Brown	SCC Consumer & Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA)
Clifton Chew	SCC RWRD
Lisa Coelho	City of Sunnyvale
Karen Gissibl	City of Sunnyvale
Lisa Rose	SCC RWRD
Cole Smith	UCCE
Dave Staub	City of Santa Clara
Alyssa Rice-Wilson	San Jose Conservation Corps
Alex Wykoff	City of Cupertino

1. Call to Order

Tony Eulo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. A quorum of 18 was present. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Stan Chau made a motion to approve the amended December 10, 2015 minutes. The motion was seconded and all present voted to approve the minutes. Those not present at the December 10, 2015 TAC meeting abstained.

3. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

4. Introduce new RWRD Manager

Amy Brown introduced Bill Grimes the new RWRD Manager. He came from the Parks Department and has 25 years with the County. She is looking forward to a partnership with Bill and TAC as he moves forward.

5. Joint TAC Meeting with Santa Cruz County

Tony Eulo said we have tentatively set the Joint TAC meeting with Santa Cruz County for June 9, 2016. They asked to discuss organics diversion and drug and sharps ordinances. Tony asked for TAC input on discussion topics: third party certification for C&D; and, any changes to their polystyrene ban (extending, expanding, etc.). Tony said he toyed with the idea of inviting San Mateo County. The last meeting was five or six years ago at the SMaRT station and wasn't well attended (San Mateo has less strong city presence and more regionalization). Thus about seven or eight people from San Mateo County attended that Joint TAC meeting. Tony also noted that Santa Cruz County does not have a large contingent either and would be nice for the three jurisdictions to get together in Cupertino. The Quinlan Center was tentatively scheduled for the location and can accommodate approximately 50 people.

It was suggested that for San Mateo County that we invite their Environmental Health Department staff and the RecycleWorks groups. A potential topic if San Mateo County participates would be every other week garbage collection.

6. Biomass Issues

Michael Gross said his rates are increasing 30% since biomass has gone down 30%. He (along with Julie Bell of the Biomass Alliance) met with the Governor's office and assembly members, senators and the Biomass Association to try to get a local senator to carry legislation but does not look like will happen. The biomass industry is starting to get more focused but still needs to be more realistic. Michael anticipates that by August of this year, six more plants will shut down. Tree mortality will be taking up most of the availability of biomass plants which will leave little room for urban fuel and thus some smaller recyclers may go out of business. He says everyone is treating it as an electricity issue when it is really a solid waste issue.

There was a suggestion that the consumer choice energy will have some ability to prioritize source of electricity to biomass. The problem is that solar energy will be cheaper than biomass due to subsidization of the solar industry. Thus Michael suggests asking CalRecycle use Cap and Trade funds for urban landfills similarly as agricultural tonnage is funded through CDFA Cap and Trade funds; and forestry uses their Cap and Trade funds.

7. Local Ordinances requiring postconsumer content in new construction

Tony Eulo said local jurisdictions have ordinances relating to the construction of anything. Similar to paper, he suggests mandating certain requirements on new construction for products with postconsumer content that make sense. Looking for TAC members to participate in an ad hoc research group to examine: 1) what CALGreen already requires; 2) what opportunities exist; and 3) how do we get CalRecycle to participate. The following individuals expressed interest: Michael Gross, Karen Gissibl (or one of her staff), Richard Gertman, Lou Ramondetta and Tony Eulo. Bruce Olszewski said he might find some interested students.

8. RWRC Update

Lisa Rose said the next meeting is February 24 at 5:30PM. The following items will be on the agenda: update Food Rescue Forum; update Food Rescue Coordinator; update Composting Education Program; and they will get a LEGO robotics presentation. She then asked if there were any other topics to bring to the RWRC. Additional agenda suggestions include AB1826, update on pharmaceutical ordinance and biomass issues.

9. Division Manager's Report and Updates on Countywide Programs

- A. Disposal Reporting System – report in packet.
- B. Other – Bill Grimes says he is getting familiar with the places, people and programs. Solid waste is the 'new' issue for him. He is meeting the franchised haulers, the 5-year Report is due this year, and working on the HHW budget. Bill mentioned that Rob D'Arcy's return has been helpful and his work on pharmaceutical portion will lighten that portion of the workload.

10. Program Update

- A. Green Business – report in packet

The Recycling Hotline report was provided first as Composting Education Program was setting up.

- C. Recycling Hotline – Bruce Olszewski said the report was in the packet. They have a new phone system that is computer assisted that allows calls to route sequentially from station to station; the County has a new appointment system that had some minor problems; there is new staff starting this semester; he has sent requests to Cities to update programs for the website; working with web designer to implement changes through funding from IC/TAC starting next the fiscal year.
- B. Composting Education – Report. Cole Smith provided a presentation of the report. He noted that there are two post-workshop surveys, one right after the workshop and the other follows up six months to a year after the workshop. He wanted to note that the Train the Trainer section was not in the original report but felt that it should be called out. It is a training program for teachers and staff. Cole showed the demo sites at Berger Drive, Martial Cottle Park and Sobrato High School. Develop a "rotlab" where Bluetooth thermometers in compost piles are reporting data periodically. The Program is becoming more socially active with Facebook and Twitter.

Tony Eulo said the Implementation Committee voted to extend the UCCE composting contract for six months and potentially up to two and a half years pending a review by SRR at their February 25 meeting. The IC gave authority to SRR subcommittee to determine length of the extension.

- C. Recycling Hotline – provided earlier.

At this time, items 11H, 11I and 12 were heard since the chair had another commitment.

- 11. H. Ad Hoc Food Rescue Forum – Tony Eulo said the Forum will be held on March 24 at San Jose State University in the new Student Union. They are looking for small group facilitators and recorders. There will be formal training beforehand led by Silicon Valley Talent Partnership. There will be a welcome from San Jose's Mayor Lickardo; Jim Griffith, RWRC Chair; and two different key note speakers- Dana Frasz, Food Shift and Cheryl Kollin from Full Plate Ventures in Montgomery County, MD. The goal is so have an action plan for moving forward on increased food rescue in Santa Clara County.
- 11. I. Ad Hoc Food Rescue Staffing Services – Karen Gissibl said there were two bidders that responded to the RFP and that there was an evaluation panel held last week. A bidder was selected and County is currently negotiating with the prospective bidder.
- 12. IC Update – Tony Eulo said the subcommittee report from Ad Hoc Food Rescue Forum and Staffing Services covered what occurred at the IC meeting.

At 2:35: Lori Topley, Vice-Chair, assumed the Chair duties.

11. Subcommittee Reports and Updates on Countywide Programs

- A. Eco-Gardener – Karin Hickey said they are working on an outreach piece; chose a ‘fertilize responsibly’ video to include in the factsheets and reached out to Master Gardeners to see about posting their classes on the Eco-Gardener website.
- B. Enforcement – Did not meet but Stan Chau commented that there were some issues/encounters regarding landscapers in the south county area having trouble moving their biomass material. The LEA has been seeing a backlog of material where illegal dumping could become a problem. He said there is no oversight for chip and grinding machine rentals that could leave piles of material on site(s) after a brief operational period. A pile could then become a fire hazard. For generators, the cost of taking to a co-gen plant is going up so they hold on to the material trying to cover operational costs.
- C. Household Hazardous Waste – Alex Wykoff brought TAC up to date on HHW and the strategic outreach plan. In September of 2015, HHW Subcommittee came to TAC requesting authorization to create an ad hoc subcommittee to look at strategic HHW outreach or reassign to PubEd. TAC did not feel there was enough information to make a decision and asked the HHW Subcommittee to refine the idea. Questions included what types of material were being landfilled and what are the barriers to the disposal of the materials. The HHW Subcommittee did some research. Alex said a strategic outreach plan is needed because HHW participation has been on the decline for the last five years. He noted that retailer take back has been increasing for batteries and lamps (no data on paint) which could be contributing to the decline but doesn’t have definitive data. Additionally AB45 if passed, it could require a greater level of participation than what the County currently has. Thus HHW Subcommittee decided to develop a scope of services which is broken into a three phase/year program: First phase/year the focus would be on batteries, florescent bulbs and paint; Second phase/year would be on sharps and pharmaceuticals; Third phase/year would be miscellaneous HHW. Focusing on phase one and two could allow for aligning with the remaining two years in the AB939 Agreement for HHW services among all the jurisdictions in the County with a few exceptions. The packet includes some figures from \$150K - \$200K to run the program. Alex noted that there are still questions that need to be answered such as how to quantify retailer take back programs. Hopefully a contractor can help answer some of these questions.

Additionally, PubEd has been invited to participate to leverage their knowledge.

Rob D’Arcy says economic slump contributed to decrease in participation.

A suggestion was made to make a recommendation to Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency for the Household Hazardous Waste Program to include an outreach component in budget augmentation for FY16-17. Alana Rivadeneyra commented that the City of San Jose is not fully committed yet due to discussions at a management level about the successfulness of the Earthquake campaign. After some discussion it was decided that could be addressed in the scope of work which is being developed. Thus the item will be on the agenda for the next TAC meeting.

- D. Legislation – Mark Bowers went through some of the legislative items that were distributed in the TAC packet. He said he is now the chair of the SWANA Legislative Taskforce and provided some background about SWANA. They have about \$50K to \$55K from agency contributions, member dues and a slice of proceeds from events. The primary expense is for a paid lobbyist in Sacramento which shares clients with CPSC.

Rob D’Arcy requested AB45 as a possible Joint TAC topic. He said there is also a federal bill that treats pharmaceuticals as solid waste.

Michael Gross said SB254 regarding mattress recycling could be changed because it does not make economic sense.

- E. Operations – Did not meet.
- F. Public Education – Karin Hickey said the subcommittee met with Alex Wykoff regarding HHW outreach strategy and agreed to collaborate. The roundtable discussion had the following: Bruce Olszewski had students checking illegal dump sites; Sandy Jensen and Ingrid Velasquez talked about AB1826; and Karin put out a request for items to be posted on the Eco-Gardener Website.
- G. Source Reduction and Recycling – Did not meet but will have a meeting on February 25 regarding the extension of the Composting Education Program contract.
- H. Ad Hoc Food Rescue Forum – heard earlier.
- I. Ad Hoc Food Rescue Staffing Services – heard earlier

12. IC Update

Heard earlier.

13. Future Agenda Items / Guest Speakers

Bruce Olszewski suggested a presentation on the role of government (to support new markets).

14. Informational Updates and Announcements

Lori Topley said Mountain View is finishing a pilot program on every other week garbage collection. The information will be at SWANA Western Regional Symposium presentation in April. The newsletter has been revamped and will be provided once a year.

Richard Gertman was asked by the U.S. State Department to go to Jakarta to talk about solid waste in June. He also has the lead article in Resource Recycling this month.

Cheri Donnelly said Cupertino has rolled out its second tier of mandatory commercial organics recycling.

Bruce Olszewski said he is working with City of San Jose to use a mobile phone application to take pictures of illegal dump sites where the program will identify the location and the materials dumped.

Alana Rivadeneyra said City of San Jose is partnering with the San Jose Giants minor league baseball team to get more environmental messaging at sporting events. They will have an Earth Day event at a Friday night game (4/22). The Earthquakes season will kick off next month and there will be some tabling opportunities - one game in August, one in September and one in October.

Wendy Fong said the Used Oil Recycling campaign has started on Comcast and Univision.

Bill Grimes said he is excited to be a part of this group.

Lisa Rose said we were asked by BioCycle to present on food rescue efforts in Santa Clara County and may be represented by Matthew Krupp.

Lisa Coelho said she is working on a research project on Bay Areas and Benefits for AB1826 compliance for restaurants for organics recycling. Please contact Lauren Dickinson with success stories.

Karen Gissibl said she will be presenting at the SWANA Gold Rush meeting next Tuesday on Food Rescue efforts in Santa Clara County.

Mark Bowers said Jim Griffith's role at the City of Sunnyvale has changed and he is no longer mayor but is now a Councilmember. There is a resident that has been trying out a zero waste life for a year and has found a product that allows disposal of pet waste (dog) directly into his sewer line.

Rob D'Arcy said he started back with the County on Tuesday and will be focusing on implementing the pharmaceutical ordinance. He also noted that Walgreens has added 500 kiosks to collect pharmaceuticals at their 24-hour stores. His new phone number is 408-918-1991 and email is sccsafemeds@cep.sccgov.org.

Dave Staub said the Super Bowl went well and will get recycling information from Mission Trails.

Heidi Melander said she is trying to find good set ups and material for food waste at her daughter's school.

Michael Gross said C&D Recycling Association annual conference is May 1 in San Jose.

Samantha Sommer said she is excited to be a TAC member and had made a presentation last year. Through their program, ReThink Disposables, they have worked with 30 local small businesses, reduced over 3M pieces of disposable packaging, preventing collection of 15 tons of waste and an average of about \$3,000 was saved by each business. They now have grant funding to work with institutions.

Cole Smith said the schedule of all the Composting Education classes was included in the packet but one class is not listed. Compost and pathogens work with the new FDA rules.

Lou Ramondetta said his business won the Cool CA award.

15. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED TAC MEETING: March 10, 2016