

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING
OF THE
PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 9, 2020

9:00 A.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Members Present:

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie
City of Albany	Nick Pilch
County of Alameda	Scott Haggerty (alternate)
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez
City of Fremont	Jenny Kassin
City of Newark	Mike Hannon
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, Chair
City of Union City	Emily Duncan

Staff Present:

Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Justin Lehrer, Senior Management Analyst
Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager
Else Lebsack, Program Manager
Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

1. Convene Meeting

Chair Emily Duncan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Pat Cabrera explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments on the remote call and no public comments were received via the public comments email portal. Pat Cabrera informed the committee that Wendy Sommer would not be in attendance due to family matters.

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of June 11, 2020 (Pat Cabrera)

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Young made the motion to approve the draft minutes of June 11, 2020. Board member Wengraf seconded and the motion carried 11-0-1. The Clerk called the role:

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(Ayes: Duncan, Haggerty, Hannon, Hernandez, Kassan, Martinez, Pentin, Pilch, Rood, Wengraf, Young. Nays: None. Abstain: Oddie. None. Absent: None).

4. Reusable Bags during COVID-19 (Elese Lebsack)

This item is for information only.

Elese Lebsack provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [RBO-Covid-Update.pdf](#)

Board member Hannon inquired that due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation and the evolving orders from the County Health Department does staff consider that we may be required to revisit this issue. Ms. Lebsack stated that over the past couple of months, there has been more information made public on the safety of using reusables and customers are now aware that they can bring their bags to the store with the safeguard in place requiring customers to bag their own groceries. StopWaste is also providing information to customers encouraging them to wash their bags frequently and to keep them as clean and safe as possible. Board member Hannon commented that in light of COVID-19, stores are issuing single use bags and inquired if staff is aware of the inventory levels and how we can afford them the opportunity to utilize them without penalty. Ms. Lebsack stated that she is not aware of the inventory levels of single use bags but staff is encouraging the retailers that are using single use bags to donate them to food banks and food recovery organizations. Inventory of paper and reusable plastic bags are back to 70% of pre-COVID levels after a significant low in April.

Board member Young inquired as to the intent of the health order that prohibits the reusable bags from touching surfaces. Ms. Lebsack stated that the current Alameda County Health order does not contain language that restricts bags from being placed on surfaces. The bags are allowed to be placed in baskets and carts but not handled by store employees. The City of Berkeley health order does have language that prohibits the bags from touching surfaces.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked Ms. Lebsack for the presentation.

5. Grants Supporting Upstream Projects (Meri Soll & Cassie Bartholomew)

This item is for information only.

Meri Soll and Cassie Bartholomew provided an overview of the staff report and provided a synopsis of the grant distributions for FY 19-20. A link to the staff report and the PowerPoint presentation is available here: [FY19-20-Grants-Update.pdf](#)

Board member Pilch commented that he is very pleased to see the emphasis on reuse as well as efforts towards not wasting food and diverting it to those that are food insecure. He added that it is very important during the pandemic and encouraged efforts to continue beyond the pandemic. Board member Pilch also commented on efforts toward reducing the use of plastics and promoting the use of reusables. Board member Hannon asked that going forward if staff can include information on the grantees that were not approved for funding and what they can do to improve their opportunities for receiving funding in the future. Chair Duncan inquired if the shelter in place had any effect on the grantees' abilities to utilize the funding that they received. Ms. Soll stated that the grant funding deadline was extended to allow extra time for submission and grantees were asked about any potential impacts to their programs. Some deliverables had to be modified and some are on hold. Ms. Bartholomew stated that staff has been in constant contact with grantees offering assistance and how

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to support them and also some food recovery organizations have now modified their programs and are now offering food delivery services instead of in-person pickup.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked Ms. Soll and Ms. Bartholomew for a very exciting and informative presentation.

7. Member Comments

Pat Cabrera announced that the Committee would not meet in August due to the summer recess. The committee will reconvene in September.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.