

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PLANNING & ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE
AND
ALAMEDA COUNTY RECYCLING BOARD**

**Thursday, February 12, 2015
4:00 p.m.**

**StopWaste Offices
1537 Webster Street
Oakland, CA 94612
510-891-6500**

Meeting is wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpreter may be available upon five (5) days notice to 510-891-6500.

I. CALL TO ORDER

President, Daniel O'Donnell, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Adan Alonzo, Recycling Programs
Lorin Ellis, City of Union City, (via teleconference, logged off at 5:05 p.m.)
Greg Jones, City of Hayward
Peter Maass, City of Albany
Daniel O'Donnell, Environmental Organization
Michael Peltz, Solid Waste Industry Representative
Jerry Pentin, City of Pleasanton
Tim Rood, City of Piedmont
Steve Sherman, Source Reduction Specialist

Absent:

Toni Stein, Environmental Educator
Minna Tao, Recycling Materials Processing Industry

Staff Present:

Gary Wolff, Executive Director
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director
Tom Padia, Recycling Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Judi Ettliger, Senior Program Manager
Roberta Miller, Program Manager
Gina Peters, Chief Finance Officer
Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
Mark Spencer, Senior Program Manager
Adrienne Habiger, Schools Associate
Alexander Ballew, Schools Associate
Ariel Conway, Schools Associate
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

Others Participating:

Dr. Gary Andersen, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Kevin Drew, SF Department of the Environment
Arthur Boone, NCRA, and Former Recycling Board Member

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

Board member O'Donnell stated that he had attended a public meeting regarding the extension of the permit for the Newby Island landfill project. They will post the public questions on the Republic Services website. Board member O'Donnell encouraged the Board to pay attention to the public sentiment regarding landfills. Board member O'Donnell asked if some of Fremont's landfill waste is transported to Newby Island and if the agency is collecting Measure D funds as a result. Mr. Wolff replied that none of Fremont's franchised waste goes to Newby Island. It goes through the BLT Transfer Station to the Altamont Landfill which is owned by Waste Management, Inc. A small quantity of C&D waste (asphalt and concrete) and sometimes contaminated soil is reported as going from Alameda County to Newby Island, but not municipal waste. Measure D fees do not apply to landfills outside the County, although some member agencies have required a 'Measure D equivalent fee' to be paid when franchised waste goes to a landfill outside the County. No Measure D fees are remitted to StopWaste by the Newby Island Landfill.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

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| 1. Approval of the Draft Joint Minutes of January 28, 2015 (Wendy Sommer) | Action |
| 2. Board Attendance Record (Wendy Sommer) | Information |
| 3. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Wendy Sommer) | Information |
| 4. Grants Under \$50,000 (Wendy Sommer) | Information |

Board member Pentin made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Maass seconded and the motion carried 9-0 (Stein and Tao absent).

V. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

There was none.

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

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| 1. Annual Audit for Fiscal Year 2013/14 (P&O & RB)
(Gary Wolff, Wendy Sommer, Pat Cabrera & Gina Peters) | Action |
| Review and forward the audit report to the Waste Management Authority, Recycling Board and Energy Council for acceptance and filing. | |

Gina Peters provided a brief overview of the staff report. The report is available here: <http://www.stopwaste.org/sites/default/files/Audit%202014%20P%26A%2C%20RB%20and%20P%26O.pdf>

Board member Pentin inquired about page 12 of the staff report with respect to implementing GASB Statement No. 68 regarding the unfunded liability for pension benefits. Board member Pentin indicated that he thought the agency did not have this liability. Mr. Wolff stated that the agency paid off the accrued unfunded actuarial liability for pensions and accrued unfunded liability for other post employment benefits (medical). However, there is an unaccrued unfunded liability currently estimated at approximately \$4.5 million that GASB requires us to show on our balance sheet starting in the audit for the current fiscal year, when the audit is done after the fiscal year is over.

Board member Sherman inquired about the revolving loan program. Ms. Soll stated that while it has been a challenge to find eligible applicants, the Revolving Loan Fund is still being offered. Board member Rood made the motion to approve the staff recommendation. Board member Maass seconded and the motion carried 9-0 (Stein and Tao absent).

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| 2. Research on Degradation of Pharmaceuticals in Compost ("Will Bugs Eat Our | Action |
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Drugs") (RB only) Gary Wolff)

Amend the Recycling Board Budget for FY 14-15 to add \$50,000 to Project 2040, funded from the grants-to-nonprofits account balance, and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (or affiliated entity) to perform the research proposal attached, with minor adjustments if deemed necessary by the Executive Director.

Gary Wolff provided a brief overview of the staff report. The report is available here:

<http://www.stopwaste.org/sites/default/files/meeting/pharma%20research%20grant.pdf>

Dr. Gary Andersen provided background on the proposed project and was available to answer questions. Board member Maass asked if there was any danger of creating an antibiotic resistant bacteria. Dr. Andersen replied that he doesn't think so but this is part of the process of finding out this information. Board member Peltz inquired if there will be testing of specific pharmaceuticals in compost piles. Dr. Andersen replied that testing will be performed with three common pharmaceutical spectrums (Ibuprofen, Lisinopril, and antibiotics). He welcomes input on other type of drugs that Board members would like to see included in the process. Board member Alonzo asked where in the composting process (collection, disposal, transfer, grinding, aeration and turning), are the pharmaceuticals injected into the compost. Dr. Andersen replied that it would be in the initial mixing of the compost. Board member Sherman inquired if they will be collecting and measuring liquid runoff. Dr. Andersen stated no, they are hoping to not have any runoff. Board member Rood questioned if the whole world started composting pharmaceuticals would the carbon dioxide produced create concern. Dr. Andersen stated that the carbon would likely be sequestered when you apply the compost to soil.

Arthur Boone commented that he is concerned with the issues of incineration of pharmaceuticals and considers this project as moving in the right direction. Mr. Wolff stated that the SF Department of the Environment (SFE) had initially declined to authorize funding for the research, but they may have some funds to contribute to this work now. Kevin Drew of SFE commented that he feels that this is a very important project and his agency is exploring ways to provide funding for the project.

Board member Sherman made the motion to approve the staff recommendation. Board member Jones seconded and the motion carried 9-0 (Stein and Tao absent).

**3. Presentations of Key Discards Management Projects (P&O & RB)
(Wendy Sommer & Tom Padia)**

Information

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided an overview of the staff report and powerpoint presentation. Tom Padia provided background on the Discard Management Projects and introduced program staff. A copy of the powerpoint presentation of key projects from the Discards Management program group is available here: <http://www.stopwaste.org/file/2015-discards-presentation-boards-feb-2015pdf>

Board member Peltz stated that he was approached by a school located outside of Alameda County regarding the Transfer Station tours and asked if we can provide tours to schools out of county for a fee. Ms. Miller replied that since the tours are funded by revenues generated from Alameda County residents, we could not offer tours to out of county schools. However, Rebecca Jewell, Recycling Manager at Waste Management, might be able to use our facility to conduct tours. Board member Jones inquired if the Board can be provided with a list of the schools currently participating to ensure that eligible schools in their respective districts are included. Ms. Miller stated that the Hayward School district uses a wet/dry sorting system (as opposed to the 3 bin system) that is not supported by our educational approach. Board member Pentin stated that the residential collection program in Hayward is not different so why base tour eligibility based on what the school district is doing. Mr. Wolff replied that our Priority Partner category is for school districts using the 3 bin system. Since this system is also done

at home, it reinforces the educational experience. Schools that are not priority partners receive a lower priority for our services. Mr. Wolff stated that this situation of priority and non-priority school districts came about because several school districts were approached by a broker who convinced them that a wet/dry system will reduce costs. Board member Jones stated that there is a new Superintendent for the Hayward School District he would like to schedule a meeting with Mr. Wolff to discuss the issue. Mr. Wolff said he would be happy to do so. Board member Pentin inquired about the next steps after reaching the goals of 7,500+ students, 250 teachers and 750 parents/chaperones. Ms. Miller replied that there is a limited amount of time so we will accommodate as many tours as we can. Board member Rood inquired if the tours are organized so that students tour the facility that serves their community. Mr. Wolff stated no. We offer tours at the Davis Street and BLT Transfer stations, and students from any school district in the county can attend a tour at either location, subject to availability. Mr. Wolff added that we would like to add a transfer station education center in East County, but the existing PGS transfer station is not large enough to accommodate tours safely. Board member Alonzo stated that he initially conducted the tours at BLT and commended staff on a job well done.

In regards to the Ready Set Recycle student action project at Cal Berkeley games, Board member Pentin stated that he is a season ticket holder and is pleased to see that the students are very motivated when directing folks to the appropriate bins for recycling/composting. Board member Rood stated that he was very disappointed with the numbers in the benchmark report with respect to food scrap recycling and asked what the biggest barriers are. Ms. Ettlinger stated the biggest barrier is the "ick factor" of putting the waste into the green pail and taking it out to the green bin. Also, there is a barrier of people not knowing what goes into the bin. Board member Peltz inquired if we have tracked a cohort of households and tracked the behavior trends. Mr. Becerra stated no, but we have two years of consistent data from diverse neighborhoods. Board member Maass inquired if the organics found in garbage is broken out characteristically. Mr. Becerra and Mr. Wolff, with confirmation from Mr. Spencer, replied that there are three categories of organics (food soiled paper, food scraps, and plant debris) and based on the data, food scraps are by far the largest category of compostables in the garbage. Board member Jones stated that in the winter months the green can is rarely used due to lack of gardening activities and production of plant debris. He further suggested moving to a smaller bin option. Board member Sherman concurred with Board member Jones and also suggested moving to a smaller bin. Board member O'Donnell stated it may be better to have organics pick up on Mondays or Tuesdays after the weekend when the green bin is full.

Board member Sherman inquired if it is a violation for a business if there is more than 10% recyclables (bottles, cans and recyclable paper) in the organics bin. Mr. Padia stated yes, it is considered a violation; anything that is in the bin that should not be in the bin is a violation. Board member Sherman inquired if the hauler is obligated to report a violation of the MRO. Mr. Padia stated that haulers are not obligated to report a violation but they are also notified if a business is notified of a violation. The primary enforcement representative of any member agency may also forward the information regarding warnings to the hauler if they choose to do so. Board member O'Donnell inquired about the repercussions of ignoring a citation. Mr. Padia stated that we have not yet issued a citation but might in the next couple of months, and there is a process for this action including garnishment of tax returns and if necessary, enforcement through the Courts. Mr. Alonzo inquired whether facility operators can act as enforcers. Mr. Wolff stated that for self-hauled loads of waste coming into transfer facilities, facility operators are required to either require the self-hauler to source separate covered materials and deposit them in separate bins within the station, or to charge a financial surcharge on loads that contain covered materials. Staff did not recommend that transfer facilities or haulers act as enforcers in most cases when the MRO was adopted, but this can be revisited in the future. Haulers at that time did not want to be placed in an enforcement role. The Board thanked staff for the presentation.

VII. OTHER PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

There was none.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.