

APPROVED

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

Thursday, September 13, 2018

7:00 P.M.

City of Dublin Civic Center
Regional Room
100 Civic Plaza
Dublin, California 94568
(925) 833-6645

Teleconference
Jim Oddie
The Westin Long Beach
333 East Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802
(562) 436-3000

I. CALL TO ORDER

Peter Maass, Second Vice, President, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Jillian Buckholz, Recycling Programs
Bernie Camara, Recycling Materials Processing Industry
Nancy Deming, Environmental Educator
Sara Lamnin, ACWMA
Peter Maass, ACWMA
Dianne Martinez, ACWMA
John Moore, Environmental Organization
Jim Oddie, ACWMA (teleconference)
Tim Rood, ACWMA
Matthew Southworth (Interim), Source Reduction Specialist

Absent:

Vacant, Solid Waste Industry Representative

Staff Present:

Tom Padia, Deputy Executive Director
Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Meghan Starkey, Senior Management Analyst
Farand Kan, County Counsel
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

Others Participating:

Leslie Lukacs, SCS Engineers
Stacey Demers, SCS Engineers

APPROVED

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENT

There were none.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Approval of the Draft Minutes of August 9, 2018 (Tom Padia)**
2. **Board Attendance Record (Tom Padia)**
3. **Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Tom Padia)**

There were no public comments on the Consent Calendar. Board member Rood made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Martinez seconded and the motion carried 9-0. (Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Deming, Maass, Martinez, Moore, Oddie, Rood, Southworth. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Lamnin. Vacant: Solid Waste Industry Representative).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. **ReThink Disposable Update (Wendy Sommer & Cassie Bartholomew)**

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided an overview of the staff report and showed a video from the ReThink Disposables campaign. The video was developed by the Clean Water Fund and is being shown in The Alameda Theater. A link to the staff report is available here: [ReThink-Disposable-Memo-09-13-18.pdf](#). A link to the video is available here: [ReThink-Disposable-Video](#). Ms. Sommer stated that we are looking for businesses that may be interested in switching from disposables to reusables and invited the Board to submit any companies in their jurisdictions that may be interested. The companies should utilize food ware in their establishments, have current dishwashing capacity, hand out excessive amounts of disposables, are locally owned and operated, and have issues with food waste contaminating the organics or recycling streams. (Board member Lamnin arrived during the presentation).

Board member Maass shared a story on PBS News Hour about a company in Durham North Carolina. The company, Green to Go, started a program that allows restaurants to stack green containers and customers receive their food in the containers. The customers then return the containers to stations across the city. Green to Go volunteers retrieve the containers, wash and sterilize them and redistribute them to the restaurants. A link to the story is available here: [PBS.Video.Green.to.Go](#). Board member Maass stated that a program could exist locally where there is a concentration of restaurants. Board member Rood stated that there was a similar type program in Oakland called Go Box but it did not catch on. Board member Lamnin commented that possibly staff can present to merchant associations about the program. Ms. Sommer stated that she would consult with Cassie Bartholomew, ReThink Disposable Program Manager. Vice President Maass thanked Ms. Sommer for her report.

2. **Discards Behavior and Markets (Tom Padia)**

This item is for information only.

Tom Padia provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [Discards-Behavior-Memo-09-13-18.pdf](#). Board member Deming commented that the lack of coordination countywide with regard to consistency in sorting and recycling of materials, e.g. milk

APPROVED

cartons, creates confusion. Mr. Padia stated in addition to China adopting such a low threshold for contamination in recyclables there is zero tolerance for food. The Carton Council has been trying to convince certain recycling programs to install new high technology sorting machines that will separate poly coated aseptic and gabletop milk and juice cartons from the mixed-paper recycling. They will then arrange to pick up the cartons within a specified timeframe. Recology is the only local processor that has adopted the process. Board member Deming inquired about the cost of the equipment. Mr. Padia stated that it is a significant investment and requires adequate space. The Carton Council has offered to offset the cost for some facilities. Board member Rood inquired if the milk carton can be recycled without the plastic spout. Mr. Padia stated no. None of the plastic coated cartons are recyclable. Vice President Maass asked what his occurring in the markets that previously received Chinese recyclable materials. Mr. Padia stated that as China is becoming a more consumer driven economy they are generating their own scrap and are not as dependent on US markets. Vice President Maass inquired if we may be headed towards more restrictive sorting and regulations on product content. Mr. Padia stated yes, there may be many different measures on different fronts and there are increased discussions about going back to dual stream collection. Board member Lamnin commented that coordinated discussions are needed to address illegal dumping and furniture set out issues, e.g. designating actual drop off locations. Mr. Padia stated that other than more strongly highlighting the bulky waste pick-up service offered under the franchise agreements there are little other remedies. Board member Buckholz stated that renters can speak with their landlord regarding arranging for a bulky pick-up. However, there is a need to communicate this information to renters. Vice President Maass thanked Mr. Padia for his report.

3. Waste Characterization Study 2017-18 (Meghan Starkey)

This item is for information only.

Meghan Starkey provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [WCS-Report-Presentation-09-13-18.pdf](#). Ms. Starkey introduced Leslie Lukacs and Stacey Demers of SCS Engineers. They were contracted to complete the study. Ms. Starkey acknowledged Tom Padia for his assistance.

Board member Martinez inquired if coated paper such as ice cream cartons was categorized as food soiled paper in the study. Ms. Starkey stated yes. Board member Martinez stated that she contacted Wasted Management last year and was informed that milk cartons should be recycled. Board member Rood commented that it appears that the mandatory recycling ordinance was successful. Board member Buckholz inquired about what is characterized in the “other” category. Ms. Starkey stated that the “other” category includes items such as toys, furniture, diapers, and other items not included in the recycling or organics stream. Mr. Padia noted that the planned Organics Materials Processing Facility (OMRF) at Davis Street is not operational and they are still using the C&D line for sorting. Mr. Padia suspects that this contributed to the higher percentages of good stuff in the garbage as the planned OMRF is anticipated to process materials more efficiently. Vice President Maass thanked Ms. Starkey for her report.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Sommer announced that Board member Vared had given birth to a baby girl, Sophie, and is looking forward to returning to the Board in October. Ms. Sommer pointed out that reusable water bottles are now available for offsite Recycling Board meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.