

APPROVED

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

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 P.M.

**San Leandro Senior Community Center
Meeting Room C
13909 E. 14th Street
San Leandro, CA 94578
(510) 577-3462**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Deborah Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Jillian Buckholz, Recycling Programs
Bernie Camara, Recycling Materials Processing Industry
Bob Carling, ACWMA
Deborah Cox, ACWMA
Darby Hoover, Environmental Organization
Tianna Nourot, Solid Waste Industry Representative
Jim Oddie, ACWMA
Dave Sadoff, ACWMA
Francisco Zermeño, ACWMA

Absent:

Vacant, Source Reduction Specialist
Vacant, Environmental Educator

Staff Present:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

Others Participating:

Arthur Boone
Rebecca Parnes, City of Dublin
Becky Hopkins, City of Pleasanton
Dagny Tucker, Vessel Works
Erica Everett, Ecology Center

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

The Board expressed their condolences to Clerk Arliss Dunn, in her absence, on the sudden passing of her nephew.

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IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Arthur Boone announced the upcoming Zero Waste Conference in March at the UC Berkeley Campus. Mr. Boone encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Boone stated that two notable speakers will be attending the conference: Jeffry Morrison, who did a study on mixed waste processing and the differences between people sorting the garbage and machines, and Enzo Favoino, Zero Waste Coordinator for Europe. Mr. Boone also announced that the Northern California Recycling Association would be holding their annual update on March 17, 2020 in Berkeley.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft Minutes of January 9, 2020 (Jeff Becerra)

2. Board Attendance Record (Jeff Becerra)

3. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Jeff Becerra)

There were no public comments for the consent calendar. Board member Zermeño made the motion to approve the consent calendar. Board member Oddie seconded and the motion carried 8-0: (Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Carling, Cox, Hoover, Oddie, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Nourot. Vacant: Source Reduction Specialist, Environmental Educator)

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Accumulated Measure D Fund Balance Exceeding Policy Threshold – Approval of City of Dublin and City of Pleasanton Expenditure Plans (Meri Soll)

Approve the Expenditure Plans submitted by the City of Dublin and City of Pleasanton, and find both cities eligible to continue receiving their quarterly per-capita disbursements from the Recycling Fund through June 30, 2021.

Ms. Soll provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [MeasureD-Expenditure-Plan-Requests.pdf](#). Rebecca Parnes, City of Dublin, and Becky Hopkins, City of Pleasanton, were available to answer questions.

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Sadoff made the motion to approve the staff recommendation. Board member Zermeño seconded and the motion carried 9-0: (Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Carling, Cox, Hoover, Nourot, Oddie, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None. Vacant: Source Reduction Specialist, Environmental Educator)

2. Reuse Grant Update – Ecology Center/Vessel Cups (Meri Soll)

This item is for information only.

Meri Soll provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [Reuse-Grant-Update.pdf](#). Ms. Soll introduced Dagny Tucker, Vessel Works, and Erica Everett, Ecology Center. Ms. Tucker provided a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of Vessel Works. Ms. Everett provided an overview of the pilot project with the Ecology Center and Vessel Works. A link to the presentation is available here: [Vessel-Ecology-Presentation.pdf](#)

Board member Hoover inquired about the materials used in manufacturing the cup and inquired if the cup can be used with hot and cold beverages. Ms. Tucker stated that the cup is stainless steel and can be used for both hot and cold beverages. Ms. Tucker stated that the lids are a problem but a majority

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of the cups are returned with the lids intact and many customers don't take a lid. Ms. Tucker stated that you have five days in which to return the cup and there is a \$15 charge for unreturned cups. Board member Hoover inquired if they have had requests from companies that were interested in branding the cups. Ms. Tucker stated that they have had interest from large companies wanting to do open network without branding. Board member Carling inquired about how to get a cup from a business. Ms. Tucker stated that customers use an app to check out a cup at participating businesses by using their phone and scanning the cup's QR code or customers can use a computer to sign up as well. Ms. Tucker added there is a map available for drop-off locations. Board member Carling inquired about their business model. Ms. Tucker stated that they have a non-profit side that provides education and impact metrics and the provision of the service is on the for-profit side. Board member Oddie inquired how the cities can help. Ms. Tucker stated that having pilots in the cities and having matching funding helps them to mitigate their risks. Board member Zermeño inquired as to how we can partner with Vessel on a countywide basis. Ms. Sommer stated that this why staff introduced the pilot project option with regard to the reusable food ware ordinance as this method provides an opportunity to hear from companies like Vessel and to also identify the cities that are interested and the types of businesses that the cities are able to bring to the pilot. Board member Buckholz inquired about where the cups are manufactured and if the workers are paid a prevailing wage. Ms. Tucker stated that the cups are manufactured in China and they are cognizant of the social as well as the environmental life cycle analysis. President Cox inquired about washing the cups. Ms. Tucker stated that they utilize a dishwashing service called Dishjoy.

President Cox thanked Ms. Tucker and Ms. Everett for their presentations.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Soll announced that the agency is currently accepting applications for a range of grant opportunities with total funding up to \$400k available to both nonprofits and businesses, aimed at increasing individual, business, and community involvement in the reduction of waste in Alameda County. Areas of focus can be on waste prevention, reuse and recovery of goods and materials, as well as development, marketing, and use of recovered products.

Mr. Becerra reported on the vacancies on the Recycling Board. The Board of Supervisors recently appointed Laura McKaughan in the category of Source Reduction Specialist. Ms. McKaughan is a former President of the Northern California Recycling Association and will join the Board at the March meeting. Board member Camara has graciously agreed to remain on the Board until a candidate is identified for her category. The Board of Supervisors is currently reviewing candidates for both the Environmental Educator and the Recycling Materials Processing Industry positions and we hope to have them filled by April.

Board member Sadoff announced that last week CVSan celebrated Zero Waste week and there were several community events including a fruit gleaning event, and 48 community members along with staff went out and gleaned over 2000 pounds of fruit that was provided to folks in need. There was also a Fixit clinic for bikes and electronics. Board member Sadoff stated that he attended a zero waste chef demonstration that showed how to not use plastic and how to buy bulk. He also had a demonstration on how to make kimchi. Board member Zermeño announced that Chabot College just started a Sustainability Committee and they're hoping to make Chabot College a green college. Board member Buckholz announced that StopWaste and Cal State East Bay are collaborating on a food waste reduction campaign in the residence hall and the kick-off was successful. The website will be coming soon and they are finalizing an MOU with Leanpath to have them onboard in the kitchen for one year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.