

APPROVED

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

Thursday, September 10, 2020

7:00 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Deborah Cox called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Wendy Sommer explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Jillian Buckholz, Recycling Programs
Bob Carling, ACWMA
Lillian Carrell, Recycling Materials Processing Industry
Deborah Cox, ACWMA
Eric Havel, Environmental Educator
Darby Hoover, Environmental Organization
Dan Kalb, ACWMA
Laura McKaughan, Source Reduction Specialist
Tianna Nourot, Solid Waste Industry Representative
Dave Sadoff, ACWMA
Francisco Zermeño, ACWMA

Staff Present:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Timothy Burroughs, Deputy Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Justin Lehrer, Operations Manager
Jeanne Nader, Senior Program Manager
Angelina Vergara, Program Manager
Trevor Probert, Program Services Specialist
Arielle Conway, Program Services Specialist
Cristian Aguilar, Program Services Specialist
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

Others Participating:

Sarah LaRock, Waste Management, Inc.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Cox commended Board member Hoover on a wonderful article that appeared in Waste 360. The article focused on Women Leaders in Waste and included an interview with Board member

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Hoover that highlighted her accomplishments in the area of waste prevention. A copy of the article was included in the board packet.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments on the remote call and there were no public comments received in the public comment email portal.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft PC & RB Minutes of August 13, 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 Buckholz made the motion to approve the consent calendar. Board member Zermeño seconded and the motion carried 11-0: (Ayes: Buckholz, Carling, Carrell, Cox, Havel, Hoover, Kalb, McKaughan, Nourot, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: None)

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Community Based Outreach Project – Partnering with Urban Farms (Jeanne Nader)

This item is for information only.

Prior to the presentations, Wendy Sommer commented that the current COVID 19 situation has prohibited staff from continuing to have in-person interaction with our audiences. Staff is responding to the COVID-19 challenges in innovative and creative ways and reimagining our projects so that we can continue to be effective in our projects.

Jeanne Nader, Senior Program Manager, provided an overview of the staff report and introduced Trevor Probert, Program Services Specialist. Mr. Probert presented a PowerPoint presentation and provided a summary of strategies and resources, including current examples for efforts underway with our urban farm partners. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Community-Outreach-presentation.pdf](#).

Board member Carling inquired about the project in Fremont and about the amount of compost that was applied. Mr. Probert stated that Fremont Leaf is using their own compost as well and we were only able to calculate the amount of carbon that was in the compost that we donated to them. Mr. Probert added, we measured approximately 13 tons of carbon between 2018 and 2020, and we roughly calculated that three tons of carbon came directly from the compost. We are hoping that the other 10 tons of carbon came from other compost that they are using. Board member Carling asked about the number of spots used to obtain the sample size. Mr. Probert stated that we take nine samples from three different depths in three different locations. Board member McKaughan commented that the most exhaustive information that she has received is from the Marin Carbon Project that states that even a quarter of an inch application of compost can last until perpetuity which will provide significant environmental benefits especially in light of SB1383 requirements. Board member McKaughan inquired about information regarding engaging communities with climate action plans. Mr. Probert stated that when we host events we wrap up the sessions by providing information regarding the particular cities' climate action plans. Board member Hoover stated that she is excited to see that the tool kits are currently available and inquired about when the other materials will become

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available. Mr. Probert stated that they will be hosting a webinar on September 26 and the activity guide and the curriculum will be available prior to the webinar. Board member Zermeño stated that he will work on getting a partnership with the City of Hayward and he is pleased to see that the materials are translated into Spanish and encouraged staff to also include materials in Tagalog. Ms. Nader stated that staff was planning to work with the City of Hayward with their revamped community garden but COVID interrupted those plans. However, staff is still looking forward to working with them. Board member Carrell inquired if any of the urban farms have livestock and if so, are there measures implemented to address methane emissions. Mr. Probert stated that we do not currently work with farms that have livestock. President Cox inquired if the process can be used on local parks and residential lawns. Mr. Probert stated yes, the messaging that we are trying to convey is that farms, home gardens, and turf fields can utilize all of the practices. President Cox stated that the term urban farms may be confusing and encouraged staff to educate the public that this process can be used for residential projects. President Cox added she would be pleased to see the program engaged with the City of San Leandro and would be happy to connect agency staff with Dr. Mok, Sustainability Manager at the City of San Leandro.

There were no public comments on this item. President Cox thanked Mr. Probert and Ms. Nader for an informative presentation.

2. Schools Outreach COVID-19 Update (Angelina Vergara)

This item is for information only.

Angelina Vergara provided an overview of the staff report and introduced Arielle Conway, Program Services Specialist, and Cristian Aguilar, Program Services Specialist. Ms. Conway and Mr. Aguilar presented their collaborative approach to providing virtual training and other resources to students, their families, teachers and school leaders during this pandemic. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Schools-Outreach-Covid-19-Presentation.pdf](#)

Board member Zermeño commended Mr. Aguilar on his presentation and inquired about the planning for Earth Day. Ms. Vergara stated that the Earth Day celebration will be focused on incorporating and highlighting youth activism and resiliency. Board member McKaughan commented that she was touched by Mr. Aguilar's presentation and especially in integrating his family. Board member McKaughan inquired about how adults can become involved and support the "We are the Regeneration movement." Ms. Sommer clarified that the "We are the Regeneration" movement is not based on age but focuses on the actions that we promote; reduce, reuse, recycle, regenerate, etc. Ms. Vergara added it is an intergenerational movement that is growing and we now have best practices for how 5th grade teachers are using it versus high school. Board member Havel inquired if there is consideration for the schools sites being the model places for practicing hyperlocal composting and growing sustainable food in this food insecure era. Ms. Nader stated that we are always looking for opportunities for leveraging and building relationships with organizations to benefit from and promote our programs. Ms. Nader added, some of the farms that we are working with have a connection to the schools. However, we can have a role in providing some of the knowledge around composting. Ms. Vergara added staff is currently working with Dr. Mok via StopWaste Teacher Champion and AP Environmental Science teacher, Marc Gordon. Mr. Gordon has been working with his San Leandro High School Eco-Club students this past summer. For two years, his Eco-Club has wanted to create a school food garden, and has the support of his school leadership. Mr. Gordon is helping the StopWaste Schools team to revise their Bay-Friendly Schoolyard Curriculum to align with the agency's healthy soils to carbon farming initiatives and to be available online, which includes using regenerative permaculture elements in garden design activities. The club's hope is that his piloting the curriculum will help his students mentor Bancroft Middle School students who are working with Hoi-Fei Mok, City

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of San Leandro's Sustainability Director, on school garden design during COVID19. President Cox thanked Ms. Vergara, Ms. Conway, and Mr. Aguilar for an excellent report and commended staff for keeping the students engaged during COVID-19.

Sarah LaRock, Waste Management, Inc. provided public comment regarding a curriculum that Waste Management is developing for high school students focusing on the “why” of recycling. Waste Management is working with the Oakland Student Ambassadors through Oaktown Proud and stated that she would be happy to receive any feedback from StopWaste staff on appropriate materials and resources.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board member Buckholz announced that she would be moving out of Alameda County and this would be her final meeting on the Recycling Board. Ms. Buckholz stated that she enjoyed serving on the Recycling Board and stated that she will continue in her role at Cal State East Bay and will continue to be involved with StopWaste. President Cox thanked Board member Buckholz for her contributions during her tenure on the Board. Ms. Sommer thanked Board member Buckholz for her enthusiasm and for sharing her expertise and look forward to continuing our partnership with her through her role at Cal State East Bay. Ms. Sommer added we would send her the customary recycled glass bowl.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.