

MINUTES

Solano County Local Task Force (LTF) for Integrated Waste Management

Meeting of March 20, 2014

9:00 a.m.

Solano County Administration Center

Member Organization	Representative	Present
Republic Services	Susan Hurl	
Republic Services	Marie Knutson	X
CCL Organics	Dave Burnley	
City of Benicia	Sharon Williams	X
City of Dixon	Janet Koster	
City of Fairfield	Esther Blanco	X
City of Rio Vista	John Degele	
City of Suisun City	Amanda Dum	X
City of Vacaville	Ivonne Vaughn	X
City of Vallejo	Derek Crutchfield	X
Concrush	Brandon Hochstetler	X
County of Solano	Narcisa Untal	X
County of Solano	Marcy Hannum	X
County of Solano	David Weiss	X
Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District	Kevin Cullen	
Pacific Rim Recycling	Steve Moore	
Pacific Rim Recycling	Marissa Wong	
Potrero Hills Landfill	Jim Dunbar	
Potrero Hills Landfill	Natalie Hicks	
Recology Hay Road	Danielle Lowther	X
Recology Hay Road	Chris Taylor	
Recology Vacaville Solano / Recology Dixon	Julia Lopez	
Recology Vacaville Solano / Recology Dixon	Scott Pardini	
Recology Vallejo	Lisa Lefebvre	
Recology Vallejo	Tom Phillips	
Recycling Zone	Dave Ryan	
Recycling Zone	Chris Aschero	
Rio Vista Sanitation Service	Dave Adler	
Rio Vista Sanitation Service	Sal Coniglio	
Sierra Club	Jane Bogner	X
Solano Community College	Dwight Calloway	
Solano Community College	Jeff Lehfeltd	
Solano Garbage Company	Sandra Gonzalez	X
Solano Garbage Company	Tony Cincotta	X
Travis Air Force Base	Brian Sassaman	
Travis Air Force Base	Milea Franklin	
VALCORE	Ken Hawes	X
VALCORE	Erin Tator	
CalRecycle	Jill Firch	

GUESTS:

Bruce Mullenix, United Cerebral Palsy North Bay
Dean Pederson, San Mateo County
Marianne Butler, Solano RCD
Matt Walsh, Solano County
Christine O'Dea, Recology
Joe Scholtes, 95.3 KUIC
Natalie DuMont, Solano Land Trust
Terry Schmidtbauer, Solano County Environmental Health Division
Jim Ball, Center for Imaginative Reuse, Vacaville

1. Call to Order / Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunbar at 9:04 a.m. Those present introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chair Dunbar welcomed new LTF member David Weiss, Solano County Environmental Health Spec (Sr.).

3. Action Items(s)

a. Minutes: January 16, 2014

The minutes of January 16, 2014 were approved as prepared.

4. Presentations

a. Reusable Bag Ordinance

Chair Dunbar noted that the State is looking at a statewide single use bag prohibition. Ms. Untal commented that at a recent meeting of the City, County Coordinating Committee (4Cs) the Department of Resource Management gave a presentation on local and state regulations on the phase out of single use plastic bags. The 4Cs membership requested that city and county staff return to their June 12, 2014 meeting with a draft ordinance regarding reducing the use of single use bags. She noted that there are currently 71 ordinances passed by communities in California. There is one bill SB270 going thru the state legislature but the House does not have to take action until June. Any local ordinance that is adopted before September 1, 2014 will be grandfathered in. City and county staff who are LTF members have been designated as a working group for the development of the draft ordinance. Over the next two months they will be getting feedback from the public on the draft ordinance.

Ms. Untal then introduced Dean Peterson, San Mateo County Environmental Health Director who was recently involved in the creation and adoption of a reusable bag ordinance for San Mateo County and most of the cities within that county. The ordinance went into effect on Earth Day of 2013. He noted that most of the population of San Mateo County lives within the 21 cities and towns. The unincorporated area has a much smaller population. The County and Cities wanted to have an ordinance established before the State deadline in September. They decided to take a regional approach so they could have one ordinance for the cities and the unincorporated area. They also opened up their process to Santa Clara

County cities and ultimately had five of its cities adopt the ordinance by reference. Two important things got the cities to the table. The first was that San Mateo County Environmental Health would do the enforcement, take the complaints and follow up. They would also seed the cities with outreach but would need the cities to be able to control the outreach because they knew their business districts and people who were influential in their cities. The biggest thing that got the cities to the table was the fact that in an area with a population of 750,000 people an EIR had to be done. The County agreed to be the lead agency and paid for the EIR with the cities signing on as responsible agencies. The cost of the EIR was approximately \$64,000 and did not include staff time. The only caveat for the cities to join the EIR, with the county paying for it, was a promise that they would take it to their city council members. Once the County completed the EIR; made their determination; passed the ordinance with all the outreach then each city was given a copy of the model ordinance. Then they needed to figure out what the ordinance was going to look like. They looked at models of other cities within their local area. They decided to use the City of San Jose's model. What the San Mateo ordinance does is all retail, it excludes restaurants and food. The reasons they excluded restaurants and food was a public health issue of contamination. They also knew there would be a lot of opposition from the restaurant association. The California Retail Association and the California Grocers Association supported the plan once they saw that it was a regional approach.

In the cities of San Mateo County if a person wants a bag they can get a paper or reusable plastic bag for \$0.10. The price will go up to \$0.25 on January 1, 2015. The reason for the increase is based on models of other agencies that show initially the \$0.10 cost is enough to get people from buying the bag but over time the price doesn't seem so bad and they go back to using store bags. As to the question of who gets the money from the bag sales. If the money goes towards enforcement it becomes a tax and needs to be approved by a certain percentage of a public vote. By giving the money back to the businesses it helps them to comply with the law. The stores are also required to keep a log of the bags they sell and provide signage to promote the ordinance within their business area.

Regional stormwater permits require jurisdictions to reduce the amount of trash that is going into their storm drains. By passing either a polystyrene (food ware) ordinance or a reusable bag ordinance credits are given for diverting certain percentages of waste as long as the ordinance has enforcement with a complaint line and a process for the complaints to be followed up within a reasonable period of time.

Since the ordinance went into effect they have seen an 83 to 85 percent reduction in the use of single use bags throughout the county. Recent coastal cleanups in their area found virtually no plastic bags. Mr. Peterson concluded his remarks by saying that the roll out of the ordinance has gone very well.

Responding to a question about how long the process took from inception to completion, Mr. Peterson replied that it took a little over one year and that there was no grant money available for the process. He stated they could use funds from a tipping fee from the local landfill that they use for household hazardous waste and pollution prevention. Because it was a project to keep waste out of the landfill they could legally use some of the AB939 fee funds for outreach and extra staffing. He

also noted that they weren't challenged by any significant lawsuits. There was one group called "Save the Plastic Bags" that they followed closely as to the lawsuits the group was placing on other jurisdictions. San Mateo County made sure they followed everything with which the group's lawsuits had issues. San Mateo County did not have a lawsuit filed against them. He believed that doing an EIR helped to avert potential lawsuits. Because their ordinance was a total bag ban for all retailers they had to make sure it extended to informal retailers such as farmers markets, pop up stores and flea markets. Their environmental health staff worked with farmers market and special event coordinators to educate them about the requirements of the new ordinance. The cities changed their permitting process to make it very clear that single use bags were no longer allowed. Produce bags were allowed to avoid cross contamination issues. As to anything they would modify or do differently Mr. Peterson wished that they had clarified the definition of a reusable bag. The definition of a reusable bag calls for a certain thickness of a plastic bag. Some businesses just switched to a thicker plastic bag and continued to give those away for free. The loophole was closed by requiring the retailers to charge at least a dime for the thicker plastic bag. San Mateo County did not include compostable plastic bags in the ordinance for two reasons. One is that it is hard to determine by eye site if a bag is compliant so enforcement is very difficult. Secondly most of the composting facilities in the Bay Area have a hold time of 30 days which is not long enough because compostable bags under ASTM standards require a hold time of 90 days in a compost facility. It was noted that if Solano County and the cities do nothing about a plastic bag ordinance they will bound by the terms of the State plastic bag law when it goes into effect in September. Mr. Peterson also explained that any change to the ordinance would automatically apply to the cities that joined into the ordinance with San Mateo County. He also stated that if they ever decide to include food establishments in the ordinance the County would require them to use compostable bags because it would be an easier way to message to the public. As their restaurant "to go" containers are already compostable or recyclable the compostable bag would also be an item to throw into their green bin for recyclables.

Responding to a question about how the 83 to 85 percent reduction in the use of single use bags was established, Mr. Peterson stated that they were determined in two ways. One was by staff and volunteers going out to parking lots and observing. The second was by looking at records from some of their major retailers to see what their decrease was from how many bags were purchased in the year before the ordinance and comparing that to the year after. Mr. Peterson also encouraged the jurisdictions to partner with local environmental groups and to involve young people in the process.

b. Waste Sleuth

This item was continued to a future meeting.

c. Gone For Good Document Management – Free Paper Shredding & E-Waste Events

Bruce Mullenex, United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay, stated that Gone For Good Document Management is a social enterprise of United Cerebral Palsy of the North Bay. It employs adults with developmental disabilities, adults with barriers to employment and adults who support workers with disabilities. Its mission is to

operate recycling programs, scanning services, and e-waste recycling, while employing people with disabilities. They have facilities in Sonoma, Napa and Solano County. In Petaluma they have schools for autistic children and children with disabilities; along with their offices and work programs that they support with companies that may want to hire people from their programs. They also have the Petaluma recycling center which is a CalRecycle certified collection center for CRV packages, plastic, glass and e-waste. In Napa they have a facility called Wine Bev that provides packaging services to wineries. The Fairfield facility provides off site shredding services thru a company called Gone For Good Document Management. It provides services to Sacramento and the Bay Area. The Fairfield facility also processes over one million pounds of e-waste per year. He told the LTF that they are looking for opportunities to attend events and let the public know who they are. They also do not charge to attend an event. Esther Blanco noted that Gone For Good will be at the City of Fairfield Earth Day event on Saturday April 26th. Marie Knutson asked if they followed their e-waste to make sure it is being disposed of safely. Mr. Mullenex replied that they utilize two CalRecycle certified processors to take the deconstructed e-waste that they generate.

5. Member Updates

Jim Dunbar, Potrero Hills Landfill

Chair Dunbar announced that the California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) annual conference will be held at the Marriott in Napa during the first week of April. He also mentioned that David Tam of SPRAWLDEF sent him a book titled "Suisun Marsh Ecological History and Possible Futures". The book describes how humankind has influenced the development of the Suisun Marsh.

Marcy Hannum, County of Solano

Ms. Hannum stated that the CEHA annual conference is an education symposium that offers many technical sessions on topics such as solid waste, liquid waste, tires, food and restaurants. She also noted that they received a solid waste facility application from Tonnesen Pet Cemetery. The application was rejected because it was incomplete. They expect them to refile in a couple of months. She also noted that the Vallejo transfer station has not gotten to the point where they are ready to submit an application. They are still going through the CEQA process.

Tony Cincotta, Solano Garbage Company

Mr. Cincotta stated that he attended the recent Solano Youth Ag Day where third graders from all over the county are bused in to the Vallejo Fairgrounds to experience agriculture first-hand. He encouraged the members to support the event.

Sandra Gonzalez, Solano Garbage Company

They are still receiving entries for their Ag poster contest. Solano Community College, Mission Solano, The Solano Mall and the City of Fairfield are participating in the City of Fairfield Earth Day events on Saturday April 26th.

Esther Blanco, City of Fairfield

Earth Day will be held in conjunction with Kids Day of Fishing. Other events include the poster contest, a pet adoption event, free paper shredding and e-waste disposal. The "All about Art" event will be held downtown. In March the Solano County Master Gardeners held a drought workshop with plant and landscape ideas.

Amanda Dum, City of Suisun City

Earth Day will be held on April 19th in partnership with Solano Garbage. Ms. Dum has also been working with four Girl Scout troops to clean up the portion of Grizzly Island Trail that runs between Marina Blvd. to Grizzly Island Road. The Girl Scouts have committed to cleaning up the trail every third Saturday for a year. Solano Garbage provided signs that the Girl Scouts were keeping that portion of the trail clean. Travis AFB Staff Sergeant James Flicker recently contacted Suisun City about a starting volunteer cleanup program. Sergeant Flicker and his group of enthusiastic airmen completed a cleanup from the Train Depot to Marina Blvd. They collected sixteen 55 gallon bags of trash. The Fairfield Suisun Sewer District has provided signs for the cities of Suisun City and Fairfield to post in problem areas regarding proper disposal of trash. Suisun City has also been working with ABAG to create two designated launch sites to be part of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail. The water trails are geared toward kayak users.

Marianne Butler, Solano RCD

Solano RCD is bringing out 2000 third graders this year through the Storm Water Explorer Program to learn about storm water and recycling. This will be their largest group of students to date. She invited members to join them. Their biannual plant sale will be held in early May.

Sharon Williams, City of Benicia

The City of Benicia will be participating in the DEA Drug Take Back event on April 26th.

Ken Hawes, VALCORE

VALCORE was at Solano Youth Ag Day with a soft opening of a waste management program with a goal of zero waste. At the event they provided 10 three bin stations marked "Landfill", "Composting" and "Recycling". They were able to man the stations with a Sierra Club volunteer; 3 community volunteers; 3 volunteers from the Vallejo USD and VALCORE employees. VALCORE will be participating in the City of Vallejo Earth Day at the Farmers Market on April 19th.

Ivonne Vaughn, City of Vacaville

Ms. Vaughn attended the Paint Stewardship Workshop for CalRecycle. She stated that CalRecycle is asking for members to look at the annual report for paint care and submit comments by the end of the month. She also attended the Covered Electronic Waste stakeholders meeting and noted that they have fewer than 45 cities that are presently doing designations. Ms. Vaughn also noted that there will be a presentation to the Vacaville City Council on the 25th to talk about the proposed plastic bag ordinance that was discussed at a recent 4 C's meeting.

Marie Knutson, Allied Waste

Ms. Knutson reported that they are working on Earth Day Events for Benicia. She thanked Jane Bogner for a successful composting class and compost giveaway that was held recently. She noted that on April 8th Bea Johnson the author of "Zero Waste Home" will be speaking at DVC. Ms. Knutson writes and sends out "The Sustainable Benician" in the garbage bills as a way to help Benicians stay informed about ecology minded events happening in and around their city. She asked members to forward to her any information on events that would be of interest to Benicia. Ms. Knutson also announced that she recently received the Hispanic Chamber's Corporate Business of the Year Award.

Derek Crutchfield, City of Vallejo

On January 31 the City of Vallejo implemented a Drug Take Back program. The drop box is located in the lobby of the Vallejo Police Department. The program has been very successful with the box filling up in two weeks. The upcoming 2014 Recycled Art Craft and Sculpture contest will be sponsored by Recology, VALCORE, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District, the City of Vallejo and the Vallejo City Unified School District. The winners of the Recycled Art contest will be awarded on April 19th. Selected pieces of art will be on display at City Hall for one week. Mr. Crutchfield also participated at a career seminar at Vallejo High School. He shared information about his job as Recycling Coordinator for the City of Vallejo. Vallejo's Earth Day will be on April 19th at the Farmers Market.

Jennifer Kaiser, Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control

For the last three years Vallejo Sanitation has been providing free prepaid battery mailers for battery disposal. They are provided to VALCORE, the dialysis center of North Vallejo and the senior center.

Narcisa Untal, County of Solano

Solano Community College has a recycled sculpture contest and the winning pieces will be displayed at the County Administration Center. The Countywide Drug Take Back event will be held on April 26th. This is the first time every city in Solano County is participating including Travis AFB. She encouraged members to take a look at a pending state bill on product stewardship that would enable jurisdictions to make Take Back events more convenient to the public.

There is going to be a re-launch of the Green Business Program. The City of Benicia will have its own Green Business Program. The Solano Economic Development Corporation in partnership with the County of Solano will run the Green Business Program as the designated coordinator for the rest of the cities.

The County has partnered with PG&E to establish the Solano Energy Watch Program. The program will reach out to small businesses, government agencies and special districts by providing them with information on ways to reduce their energy costs. The County and City of Vacaville have recently adopted a residential energy conservation program called the Home Energy Renovation Program (HERO) which offers private financing for residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) projects throughout the county. PACE programs enable participating property owners to pay for approved energy and water-saving improvements over time through their property tax bills.

Lastly, Ms. Untal noted that the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District is partnering with Solano County environmental health inspectors to spread the word about the trash reduction efforts in targeted areas of the county. The inspectors will be talking about trash reduction and providing information as they go about their inspections.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:38am

The next regular LTF meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014
