



Board of County Commissioners

Sustainability Office

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board

Minutes: January 22, 2014

Present:

Jack DeBell – CU, **Juri Freeman** – At Large, **Lisa Friend** – Boulder County, **Shirley Garcia** – Broomfield, **Jane Curtis Gazit** – Nederland (phone), **Charles Kamenides** - Longmont (phone), **Shaun LaBarre** – CRC, **Shari Malloy** – At Large, **Dan Matsch** – Lyons, **Lisa Morzel** – At Large, **Beth Moyski** – Superior, **Mark Persichetti** – Louisville, **Tim Plass** – Boulder, **Holly Running-Rabbit** – Ward, **Lisa Skumatz** – At Large, **Sarah Van Pelt** – At-Large

Not Present:

Bridget Johnson - Jamestown, **Brad Wiesley** – Lafayette

County Staff:

Jeff Callahan – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (BCRCD), **Hilary Collins** – Sustainability Office, **Mark Wesson** – BCRCD

Guests:

Suzanne Jones - Eco-Cycle

1. Introductions:

- After staff introductions, Suzanne Jones introduced herself as new Executive Director of Eco-Cycle. Pending Board of County Commissioners' approval, she will be joining the board as an official member representing Eco-Cycle in March.
- Jack DeBell made a motion to approve the minutes. Tim Plass seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Zero Waste Funding 2014 Recommendations

- A summary of the seven proposals accepted by the subcommittee was given, including the requested funds as well as recommended funds.
- Some board members suggested that the recommendations of the subcommittee be accepted, because that is the purpose of the subcommittee, while other board members wanted more detailed information on each proposal, including how many times each applicant has been funded in the past, to help guide their decision.
- It was suggested that a visual summarizing the proposals, funding requested, and funding recommended with rationale, be distributed with presentation to help board members with accepting the subcommittee's recommendations. (A spreadsheet summarizing all proposals, requested funds, and recommended funds was distributed later in the meeting.)
- It was decided to defer the decision making until the end of the meeting, so board members could peruse the summaries throughout the rest of the meeting.

3. Presentation on Paint Legislation Bill – Hilary Collins (slides to be posted with minutes)

- Hilary provided background on Colorado Senate Bill 29, a paint stewardship bill.

Cindy Domenico *County Commissioner*

Deb Gardner *County Commissioner*

Elise Jones *County Commissioner*

- She asked the RCAB chair to sign a support letter, which will be sent on RCAB's behalf to the chair of the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, & Energy Committee, asking for support for the legislation. County policy already supports paint stewardship.
 - Lisa Friend (?) moved to submit the support letter; Jack DeBell seconded. The vote was unanimous in support of the motion.
- 4. Lisa Skumatz – Summary Results of 2013 RCAB Community Diversion Survey (slides to be posted with minutes)**
- Survey conducted in 2013, based on 2012 tonnage
 - Boulder/Louisville leaders in diversion percentage - both these communities have curbside composting and pay-as-you-throw recycling costs (PAYT) embedded with trash.
 - No communities have strong commercial diversion, which is why no communities are at 60-70 %. Survey most reflective of residential rates.
 - Results are based on what people reported, though some data may be incorrect.
 - Most communities have hauler reporting requirements and PAYT.
 - Other than Longmont (municipal collection), county split between open hauling and contracting.
 - C&D – Neither Boulder County nor Longmont reported figures for their program.
 - About half of communities have adopted Zero Waste goals and/or have dedicated recycling or sustainability staff.
 - City of Boulder's rates may have gone down from 2009 due to
 - a) large construction at the University of Colorado (CU) increased construction and demolition diversion
 - b) CU was excluded from survey...may participate in future, minus municipality specific questions.
- 5. Art-Parts**
- Small non-profit seeking space to operate art supply collection and redistribution program.
 - Information will be submitted with next RCAB agenda to be reviewed so that a decision can be made as to whether to have them come in for a presentation.
 - Some committee members have met with them before and suggest that diversion percentages would be minimal with this program.
- 6. Bear proof trash containers – Tim Plass, City of Boulder**
- Tim Plass, representing the City of Boulder, reported on the City Council's decision to move ahead with bear-resistant trash and containers west of Broadway. No more non-secured containers will be allowed.
- 7. Request for Proposals Draft for Land Use Construction & Demolition permitting process – Lisa Friend**
- Lisa shared a draft with the board.
 - Due to lack of time, and because the document is not completed, in-depth discussion of this topic will be postponed until a future meeting.
 - The finished document will be distributed to the Board in advance of the February meeting.
- 8. Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for Construction and Demolition diversion, education, etc. supporting Zero Waste efforts – Hilary Collins**
- The board needs to agree on what will be included in a draft IGA.
 - The County is developing a survey on what communities are doing to implement zero waste and what they want to do in the future.
 - This item will be returned to a future RCAB agenda
- 9. Zero Waste Funding Grants Re-visited**

- One member suggested that in the future applications be sent to all board members so they can feel comfortable voting on something they have seen and reviewed.
- Clarification on Eco-Cycle application – strictly Eco-Cycle application though Lafayette will provide in-kind contribution (in form of location for event).
- Lisa Friend made a motion to approve recommendations that the Zero Waste Funding subcommittee put forward. Lisa Morzel seconded
- Dan Matsch, Jack DeBell, Shaun LaBarre recused the vote. All others present voted in favor.
- The recommendation to fund seven projects will be sent to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for final approval.

10. Community Reports

- Jack DeBell – CU. Sent first bales of LPDE film to be recycled, pushing Ralphie’s Green Stampede diversion over 90% at football games. Send to an Indiana plastic company to make trash bags. Very restrictive on quality.
- Dan Matsch – Lyons. Flood recovery!
- Sarah Van Pelt – Western Disposal. Sarah asked the Board to recommend to BOCC that Western be assigned a permanent seat on RCAB, similar to CU and Eco-Cycle.
 - It was suggested that RCAB add two hauler positions, rather than specify any one company.
- Applications are due for RCAB membership on January 31. All re-applications need to be submitted.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.



Sustainability Office

Street Address: 1325 Pearl Street 13th Boulder, Colorado 80302

PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306 • Tel: 303-441-4565

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting February 26, 2014

Present: Jack DeBell – CU, Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Jane Curtis Gazit – Nederland, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Lisa Morzel – At Large, Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward, Lisa Skumatz – At Large, Sarah Van Pelt – At-Large

Active Members Not Present: Juri Freeman – At Large, Charles Kamenides – Longmont

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Sustainability Office, Mark Wesson – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (RCD)

Guests: Leigh Cushing – Boulder County Public Health, Kara Mertz – City of Boulder, Bill Hayes – Boulder County Public Health, Michelle Barnes – Center for Resource Conservation, Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order/Introductions.** A quorum being present, Holly Running-Rabbit called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** Lisa Friend made a motion to approve the July, 2013 minutes. Sarah Van Pelt seconded. Lisa Friend moved to approve the January, 2014 minutes. Tim Plass seconded. Both sets of minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Zero Waste Update.**
 - i. **Potential Sustainability Funding.** Hilary reported that the Board of County Commissioners is considering putting a sustainability tax before the voters in November. Susie Strife from the Commissioners' Office will provide further information at next month's meeting. The Commissioners are considering structuring the tax to provide some of the funding for local priorities, proportionate to population. RCAB members were encouraged to develop a "wish list" for Zero Waste (ZW) needs. A ZW survey has been sent out to RCAB member communities to gauge what ZW programs have been effective, what residential and commercial programs/services are needed, how ZW is being promoted, and to get thoughts on county-wide messaging. Results of this survey and follow up discussions planned by staff will form part of the Susie's presentation at the next RCAB meeting. If a tax is pursued, the tax ballot language would need to be developed by July.
 - ii. **RCAB Survey Report:**
Hilary reported on a survey specific to RCAB members and referred to the summary memorandum provided to RCAB members ahead of time.

Cindy Domenico *County Commissioner*

Deb Gardner *County Commissioner*

Elise Jones *County Commissioner*

- a. Composition of RCAB: Most respondents would like to see more representation from the business community.

(Guest Speaker: due to time constraints, the survey discussion was postponed to allow for speaker presentation)

4. Standing Topic. Report on Success of Commercial Education Programs/Partners for a Clean Environment. Presented by Bill Hayes, Business Sustainability Advising Program, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH):

Bill had been invited to by RCAB to provide an update on commercial waste reduction programs. Referring to a handout circulated at the meeting, Bill reported that BCPH contracts with the City of Boulder to provide zero waste advising to 100 businesses. In 2013 they exceeded their goal and met with 111 businesses. The advisers observe current recycling and composting at the business, provide resource materials (signage), offer employee training and waste assessments if needed, and assist the 20% of businesses that go on to implement waste diversion projects. The program has done a lot of outreach to the business sector regarding composting, especially restaurants.

For the last 3 years, a US Department of Energy (DOE) grant has been used to develop the EnergySmart program, and business advising has focused more on energy improvements than on ZW measures. Now that the DOE grant cycle has ended, BCPH's PACE (Partners for a Clean Environment) program is being re-launched with a return to outreach focused more widely on energy efficiency, water conservation, and zero waste.

Through a Boulder County ZW Funding grant, BCPH also provided advising to 30 county businesses, and 30 Lafayette businesses, 7 of which became PACE certified.

It is very difficult to get an accurate picture of tons diverted, but using a newly developed data base (Salesforce platform), PACE staff will try to get more accurate reports this year. Challenges of collecting accurate data include the use of bins by multiple businesses in a complex owned by one landlord. The City of Boulder has a reimbursement rebate of up to \$250 to help start a new service, funded by the trash tax. They are hoping to streamline this by providing the company with options for what they need, and BCPH will put in the order for the businesses directly.

The program is also working on a feasibility study with property owners. The strategy has been to go with large property managers and ask them what their barriers are to providing composting/recycling services. It was found that the barriers are: money, time, and contamination. PACE is hoping to help with the contamination and time issues. The city of Boulder might have some funding to help with the money barrier.

It is difficult to see cost savings with zero waste, unlike energy efficiency. Adding a service or compostable materials can add costs, so PACE staff are working with haulers and trying to develop other ways that would allow businesses that add services such as composting to break even, rather than end up paying more. Maybe 1-5 % of businesses will see a cost reduction. About half of the 111 businesses contacted were restaurants. Biggest concerns/perceived barriers with composting are animals and contamination.

Sarah Van Pelt clarified that very few businesses outside the City of Boulder have subscribed to new diversion services because they do not have the subsidies that the trash tax provides.

Over the past almost 20 years, there have been about 400 PACE certified businesses, currently there are about 200 active. The criteria have changed over the years and zero waste certification has only been around for about 3 years. PACE staff will be contacting all previously certified businesses to let them know there are new certification requirements.

3. Zero Waste Update

- i. RCAB Survey Report
 - a. Composition of RCAB continued: RCAB currently has a 20-seat board with 12 communities represented, 3 non-profits (CU Recycling, Eco-Cycle, and ReSource) and 5 at-large representatives. There are 17 active members (Erie has no member appointed, and Superior and Lafayette are between appointments. More citizen representation is preferred, but waste professionals often apply for, and are appointed to at-large seats. The Board agreed to table further discussion on membership until next meeting to allow time to get through the rest of the survey questions and agenda for current meeting. **ACTION: County staff will draft a memo to present options for discussion.**
 - b. Frequency, timing, duration and location of meetings: No changes are needed. The education room at the Recycling Center is preferred.
 - c. Meeting attendance and subcommittees: Meeting attendance is not an issue. Subcommittees work well and should continue. They should provide the RCAB with complete information that members can vote on.
 - d. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair: There is strong support for switching to a more formal method for selecting these positions (vote). It was agreed that this discussion would also be revisited at the next meeting.
 - e. Changes needed in how RCAB conducts business: Board members want hand-outs and points of discussion provided ahead of time. There is strong support for focusing on topics that move Zero Waste forward and recommend actions to the county. Members want meetings to be more action oriented, and they benefit from the community reports. It was agreed that staff will post materials for discussion on the RCAB website, prior to each monthly meeting. Jeff Callahan will be asked to give quarterly presentations on recycling facility operational metrics (snapshots of previous year, current year, and projections) and to compare these against what other facilities are doing as a reference. RCAB should define its priorities so there are goals to work toward and have a solid financial plan for how to accomplish this. It was noted that the sustainability tax discussion may help clarify this.
 - f. Key topics RCAB should work on: Construction and Demolition materials (C&D), compost, commercial diversion, and education rank the highest in terms of future action.
 - g. How RCAB can help improve annual survey results: The current system works well, but RCAB needs to establish a better approach to ensure that annual diversion surveys are properly filled out by members.

5. Special Topic: Annual Report from RCAB to the Board of County Commissioners

Staff referred to the memorandum provided to RCAB members ahead of time. The County Commissioners requested an annual RCAB report at the same time that they asked their Sustainability office to staff the group. Up to now, the County's Administrative Services Department, Resource Conservation Division (RCD) has staffed the RCAB, but prompted by Hilary's move to Sustainability, and since the Sustainability office is more focused on policy, this duty has moved over to the Sustainability office. RCD staff will provide quarterly reports on the Recycling Center.

RCAB members are requesting more accountability as far as facility expenditures, current recycling markets, and how this information affects local stakeholders. Important documents and topics with specifications that require voting or decisions to be made at the upcoming meeting should be posted on RCAB website prior to each meeting. It was agreed that RCAB will table further discussion on the annual report until the April meeting.

6. Community Reports

- i. Jack DeBell announced that on Monday, March 3rd from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon there will be a Compost Forum organized by BASF and CU Recycling. It will be held at the Recycling Center. Jack anticipates a broad-based discussion on what is needed for greater organics diversion.
- ii. County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2013 for organics collection at the Nederland and Allenspark transfer stations. This RFP will be issued again in the near future. RCAB would like to discuss this.
- iii. Jack also encouraged people to attend a CU women's basketball game where CU Recycling will be handing out Sure-close compost containers funded by the Boulder County RCD.
- iv. Sarah Van Pelt announced her retirement and announced that she is stepping down from RCAB.

7. Any Other Business

- i. Report on the Hazardous Materials Management Program. This report was provided to RCAB before the meeting for information only.
- ii. It had been proposed that ArtParts be asked to present to RCAB in March. RCAB decided not to ask for this presentation. Members were encouraged to review the company's website for more information.

8. Next Month's Agenda

- i. Tentative topics for March are:
 - a. Special Topic: Sustainability funding and zero waste survey results.
 - b. Resource Conservation Update: Facility update with operations charts, comparisons with other facilities and narrative.
 - c. Standing Topic: RCAB Election procedures
- ii. Tentative topics for April are:
 - a. Bylaws Review and Discussion
 - b. RCAB annual report

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: March 26, 2014

Present: Jack DeBell – CU Recycling, Juri Freeman – At Large, Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle, Charles Kamenides – Longmont (by phone), Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Lisa Morzel – At Large, Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward, Lisa Skumatz – At Large

Active Members Not Present: Frank Bruno – At large, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Jane Curtis Gazit – Nederland (tried by phone)

County Staff: Jeff Callahan – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (RCD), Hilary Collins – Sustainability Office, Susie Strife – Sustainability Office, Mark Wesson – RCD/Sustainability Office

Guests: Tom Dowling – Lafayette (application for membership in progress), Deb Gardner – Boulder County Commissioner, Randy Moorman – Eco-Cycle, Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation (CRC), Sarah Van Pelt, Western Disposal Services (standing in for Frank Bruno), Michael Springer (by phone)

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order/Introductions.** A quorum being present, Mark Persichetti, new board Chair nominee, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
2. Lisa Friend moved to formally elect Mark Persichetti as Chair, Lisa Morzel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The Board thanked Holly, out-going Chair, for her service to the group.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** Lisa Friend made a motion proposing a change to the February minutes. In the list attendees, Dan Stellar from CRC attended and Jared D'arcey did not. Tim Plass seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Special Topic: Sustainability Funding (Presented by Susie Strife)**

Susie presented a PowerPoint presentation about 2014 Boulder County Sustainability Issues and circulated a handout of potential funding initiatives (both documents attached).

Due to significant cuts in federal funding supporting energy and weatherization programs, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has been exploring ways to provide ongoing funding for these and other sustainability programs. The BOCC is considering putting a sustainability tax on the ballot in 2014, though no formal decision has been made.

Three polls have been conducted and results show:

- 60% support for 0.15% increase in sales tax for sustainability programs
- A preference for a sales tax over a property tax
- Terms like energy efficiency, sustainability, and zero waste all have largely positive connotations
- People express passion when it comes to topics like water conservation, conserving natural resources and protecting our air and water quality,
- People believe that sustainability programs are a good use of government funding.
- Low income weatherization, EnergySmart, water conservation, and Zero Waste test well on the surveys as projects that should be funded

Susie noted that respondents understood that by waste, the meaning was solid waste, not governmental waste. Key dates are April 7, Zero Waste discussion and April 22, when the Commissioners will hold a public hearing to review sustainability successes and discuss a potential tax.

Summary of Q&A and Comments

- i. Comment: One of the ideas posed for a potential tax is supplying community outreach grants in which a portion of the annual revenue from a tax would be re-allocated back to the individual communities. Polling shows a distinctively greater support for a tax in the City of Boulder vs. other communities.
- ii. Question: Is there consideration of doing the tax as a mill levy? Answer: The BOCC are considering a sales tax or a mill levy. The property tax mill levy would create approximately \$4.7 million in annual revenue; a sales and use tax would create approximately \$5.7 million, about a million dollar difference. Sales tax increases are much more common than property taxes. The tax duration would likely be 15 years.
- iii. Comment: One board member felt that the sales tax would be more palatable to people.
- iv. Comment: Some of the funds should be used to create some sort of an inspection for new buildings to ensure they meet energy efficiency and weatherization codes.
- v. Question: What do the priorities really mean? Is there potential for a comparative analysis to see how favorable zero waste initiatives are in respect to other sustainability issues such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, etc., and if zero waste does measure more favorably, then would more funds be allocated towards zero waste? These are priorities that have been expressed over the years and recently by RCAB members and other zero waste stakeholders. Answer: Moving forward, this funding provides opportunities to give greater attention to other sustainability initiatives such as zero waste.
- vi. Comment: The tax needs to be more focused and could be looked at under 3 spheres: energy, climate, and zero waste. We have already had a tax for recycling services, so it would be an easier sell to look at this as a renewal of that tax. Energy Efficiency programs are in existence and successful now. The new component would be climate.
- vii. Comment: Climate will not sell well in some parts of the county; rather focusing on issues such as water would be easier to relate to.
- viii. Comment: Anchoring the tax with good infrastructure to serve the whole county is key. Response: Polls continuously show that programs and services are supported more than infrastructure (**Update – Susie checked and the reverse is actually the case**).
- ix. Comment; It is important to note that programs and services are not the same thing. The tax should support things that are tangible, rather than building a bigger bureaucracy.

Shari Malloy proposed a motion that the RCAB support the county moving forward with pursuing the sustainability tax as a source for funding for sustainability initiatives, including Zero Waste. Lisa Morzel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. **Action: Lisa Friend will inform the Board of County Commissioners of this support.**

Hilary noted that her memo to RCAB provided in advance had listed 10 key points of input gained from the zero waste survey and follow up meetings. **Action: RCAB members were encouraged to review these points and let Hilary know if any additions or corrections were needed.**

5. Resource Conservation Facility Update (Presented by Jeff Callahan)

Jeff presented an annual update on the Recycling Center (RC) for 2013 using a PowerPoint presentation (attached). In summary the main points were:

- Newspaper and cardboard are the first and second highest quality products collected, and these materials account for over 70% of the revenue received from the sale of materials.
- On average the RC handles 4,200 tons of materials per month and generates just over \$400,000 per month in revenues.
- In 2013, revenues were just under \$5 million; expenses were just over \$5 million, resulting in a deficit of approximately \$60,000.
- Eco-Cycle's expenses were about \$4 million dollars.
- The RC's residue rate is currently 12%, much of which is paper-coated glass that isn't sorted by the optical sorting equipment.
- An RCD operating fund is used to pay the facility operator and county salaries. It also funds some education and outreach programs, zero waste at the County Fair, and maintenance of the facility envelope. Eco-Cycle maintains the inside of the plant; the county maintains the outside.
- In 2011, 24 % of revenues were paid in gate payments to the haulers. This percentage has fallen to a current level of 9 %.
- There will be another revenue stream resuming soon. Plastics # 3-7 were being sold to China, but new regulations (the "Green Fence") ended the practice. The Recycling Center has 700 bales of # 3-7 plastics stored outside the facility. These bales will be manually re-sorted to recover thermoform materials, which the plastics manufacturing industry recently allowed to be included with PET (#1) bottles. The thermoform PET (plastic clam shells) will be baled with the PET bottles. The RC will also recover polypropylene (#5) and some more rigid plastics. This project will cost \$45,000 with a return on investment (ROI) of about 60 days.
- With this new sorting equipment and sale of these materials, there will be an estimated \$250,000 in revenues each year. This is not a "new" material being accepted, so the Recycling Center will not promote this material at this time. Markets for these materials are relatively stable, as long as the plastics industry continues to accept them. What is left over in # 3-7's will be analyzed to see if there are markets for these materials. If other facilities are unable to process these materials, it is possible that the BCRC would accept these materials from other plants if they could afford the cost of transportation.
- Other proposed additional machinery would be a magnet to recover ferrous material from the glass residue (mostly metal bottle caps). This would reduce the cost and the percentages of residual materials sent to the landfill, and increase the revenue from ferrous materials. The magnet would cost around \$40,000 with a return on investment of about one year. Almost the entire residue stream is glass. By removing bottle caps, it is possible that the landfill will accept this material as daily cover for free, thus avoiding disposal fees.

Summary of Q&A and Comments

- i. Bridget reported that for the last 18 months, gate fees at the Recycling Center have been significantly lower than other facilities in the region, and so some materials that would normally be processed in Boulder are going elsewhere. She stated that she has been receiving \$25 per ton for some of her recyclables at Waste Management's facility in Denver and only receiving \$5 per ton for the same commodity at the Recycling Center. She can provide a year's worth of pricing data that shows this discrepancy. Jack DeBell at CU Recycling also offered to provide information about prices paid by other facilities. Bridget also noted that the Recycling Center's prices also do not track with nationally-published commodity pricing and that payments have been late since last August. This is creating hardship for the smaller haulers.
- ii. The timing between delivering materials to the Recycling Center and when haulers are informed what they will be paid for the materials, generally about 3 months, is too long. Haulers want to know what they will be paid at the time of delivery, as other facilities are able to provide.
- iii. The Recycling Center is not receiving some of CU Recycling's materials because the county doesn't respond to the RFPs that are issued by the university.
- iv. In future presentations, it would be helpful to put revenues and expenses on the same graph; it would be easier to make comparisons
- v. The county needs to find a way to be more consistent in gate payments, because otherwise the facility will continue to experience lost revenue from materials going elsewhere.
- vi. What would it take for the BCRC to operate two shifts?
- vii. Members would like to resume the quarterly reports to keep abreast of operations.

Jeff noted that Boulder County was behind in their payments since August because of a new accounting process that was initiated, and then the flood pulled RCD staff away from being able to deal with payments. Revenues have gone down since 2009, while expenses stay the same. This is reflected in the gate payments. The benefit of having a municipally owned facility is that it won't go out of business, but it is hard to remain competitive with the market. If there were requirements placed on the commercial sector that would lead to significantly larger volumes and the need for two shifts. If this additional material is received there currently is not enough storage space to store this material inside for processing on a second shift. This is where funding from a sustainability tax would be helpful in that it would allow for infrastructure improvements to manage more material and staff to process it. This year, the facility had one of its highest years in tons processed and isn't in danger of entering a downward spiral loss of tons, and therefore loss of revenue and not being able to pay well for material, therefore losing more tons and more revenue. The Eco-Cycle contract is up in 3 years.

Other facilities run by large, private companies have the revenue to operate double shifts, recovering more material and therefore producing more revenue. These private companies also have other revenue sources (their own collection, composting facilities, etc.) Larimer County is the only other facility that publishes their rates for gate fees, and these are not market rates; they are based on a contract with Waste Management. The private companies do not publish their rates. Hilary noted that the concerns raised by the haulers may need to be discussed with the Board of Commissioners.

Action: There will be a follow up discussion on gate fees at the next meeting.

6. Zero Waste Update: RCAB Survey Follow up (Presented by Hilary Collins)

Hilary referred to a memo provided in advance, attached. Seven options for how to change the membership makeup were discussed. There was agreement that any hauler that would have representation on the board should be licensed and have significant stake in Boulder County. In

addition, board members should have zero waste in mind as the ultimate goal. The commissioners should consider applicants to ensure that future board members are indeed the appropriate choice. Tim Plass made a motion to combine Option 4 with the amendment to read “Recommend two additional seats for Western Disposal Services and one other hauler” and Option 7 to recommend more representation by elected officials. _____ seconded the motion. The vote passed with 11 in favor and one opposed. **Action: Based on this policy direction, County staff will present proposed bylaw changes at the next meeting.**

7. Vice Chair Election

Lisa Friend made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting. Tim Plass seconded the motion and noted that he is in favor of a more formal election process for selecting the chairs. He also suggested that staff provide language about how the bylaws could be changed in regard to how the chair persons are elected. The motion was unanimously approved. **Action:** Staff will provide bylaw change options for discussion at the next meeting, and it was agreed that the Board will also review the sections of the bylaws that deal with RCAB’s purpose, policy development and review responsibility roles.

8. Shortened Community Reports

Longmont - Charles Kamenides – The city is holding its first Hard to Recycle events over the weekend. Non-Longmont residents are allowed to attend.

CU Recycling– Jack DeBell – the CU Recycling facility is to be relocated and will expand.

COB – Tim Plass – It is now a requirement that all city residents west of Broadway will use bear-proof containers for trash and compost.

Eco-Cycle – Suzanne Jones – Two events are coming up: on April 4th there will be a celebration of Eric’s 25 years as Executive Director. On May 10th there will be an open house at 6400 Arapahoe to celebrate new Eco-Cycle/ReSource location.

Lisa Skumatz – Superior will change how E-Waste and shred events are run. This will allow for greater success.

Jamestown – Bridget Johnson – Continued progress on recovery. No houses that were destroyed will be rebuilt in the flood plain. Information on how people can help can be found in the Jamestown newsletter – sign up at www.jamestownco.org. Volunteers are needed for a debris removal project over the weekend.

Boulder County – Lisa Friend – On April 7th there will be a Zero Waste discussion. Compost workshops are also beginning this month.

Lafayette – Tom Dowling – the city is dealing with a lawsuit on the ban on fracking, and city council members will be attending a workshop on energy efficiency at RMI Elab.

Louisville – Mark Persichetti – An RFP has been issued to haulers for an extension of the city’s three-stream curbside collection program. A survey of residents found that 90% are satisfied or very satisfied with this service.

Lyons – Dan Matsch – The town has just finished an intense planning process with FEMA. 10% of the town participated in creating action items for rebuilding and recovery, and sustainability features strongly in the town’s plans.

CRC – Dan Stellar – CRC is looking forward to continuing to be part of RCAB. They should have a board member application in soon. ReSource is having a sale over the weekend.

9. Next Month’s Agenda Items

The agenda will include:

- Proposed changes to the bylaws regarding membership, and elections
- RCAB’s annual report to the Commissioners
- Compost permitting issues – a report on latest information, if possible

10. Meeting Adjourned: 6:15 PM



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: April 23, 2014

Present: Jack DeBell – CU Recycling, Juri Freeman – At Large, Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Jane Curtis Gazit – Nederland, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Charles Kamenides – Longmont, Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward, Lisa Skumatz – At Large.

Active Members Not Present: Frank Bruno – At large, Tom Dowling – Lafayette, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle, Lisa Morzel – At Large, Tim Plass – Boulder.

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Sustainability Office, Mark Wesson – RCD/Sustainability Office.

Guests: Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland, Mark Doherty, County Attorney’s Office, Randy Moorman – Eco-Cycle, Kathy Okon – Boulder County, Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation.

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order/Introductions.** A quorum being present, Mark Persichetti, Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Note: The order of the agenda was changed

2. **Approval of Minutes.** Lisa Friend made a motion proposing two changes to the February minutes: a clarification of the February minutes approval and inclusion of Holly Running-Rabbit as the second on item #6, the bylaws motion. Lisa Skumatz seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. .
3. **Standing Topic: Review of bylaws amendments, and Election of Vice-Chair as tabled from last month.** Hilary reviewed a PowerPoint slide presentation provided in advance. Amendments (see revised bylaws attached) were discussed and voted upon as follows:
 - Membership (Slide 2) Lisa S motioned and Holly seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - Election of Officers – timing (Slide 4) Lisa S. motioned and Bridget seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - Election of Officers – how selected (Slide 5) Dan M motioned and Lisa S seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - Election of Officers – who designates staff (Slide 6) Lisa S motioned and Bridget seconded. Unanimously approved.
 - Election of Officers – how resignations are handled (Slide 7) Lisa S motioned and Lisa F seconded. Unanimously approved
 - Purpose (Slide 8) Jack motioned and Holly seconded. The vote was 8 in favor, no opposed.
 - Policy development (Slide 9) Lisa S motioned and Jack seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Review responsibility (Slides 10 and 11) Lisa S motioned and Bridget seconded. Unanimously approved.
4. To conclude the bylaws discussion, revised slides were reviewed with all changes indicated in red, and the changes were approved in their entirety by consensus. It was agreed that this approval of final amendment language would meet the requirement in the bylaws (Article IX Section 1) that all amendments be submitted in writing at one meeting and approved at the next.

The election of the Vice-Chair was tabled again until the May meeting.

5. **Resource Conservation Division Update: Compost Education Program.** Mark W reviewed a PowerPoint slide presentation provided in advance. He noted that 1,000 to 2,000 people have attended RCD's backyard composting workshops in the past 10+ years. It was suggested that some of these people be contacted to find out if they are composting so as to gauge the success rate of this education. It was noted that some homeowners associations (HOAs) try to ban this activity.
6. **Special Topic: Annual Report from RCAB to BOCC:** This item was tabled until the May meeting.
7. **Special Topic: Community Annual Reports:** Lisa S handed out the RCAB Community Reporting Forms that each community is asked to complete for 2013, and reviewed the questions for clarity. Jack noted that institutions aren't able to answer some of the questions and requested changes to the survey to address these problems.
8. **Community Reports:**
 - Eco-Cycle – May 10th event open house celebration and concert, Hard to Recycle events May 3rd and 17th Superior/Lafayette
 - Lisa S. Superior is considering a single-use bag fee
 - Jamestown – Long term recovery relief staff Sue Anderson and her staff have resigned.
 - Received 117,000 GOGO grant for park enhancements
 - Cisterns are now in Jamestown
 - Stream corridor project plan still happening
 - Rocks that were blasted being used to help with erosion control on stream beds.
 - Mennonites are coming to rebuild nine houses in Jamestown
 - Jamestown Newsletter – let Bridget know if you would like to receive this.
 - Lisa F provided in writing –
 - Action Item for Councils: The Board of Boulder County Commissioners will likely have made a decision about future sustainability funding. Please share the news with your councils.
 - The link for the Commercial Diversion Tool our office previously recommended for your review did not direct to the appropriate page. This link works better: <http://www.denvergov.org/environmentalhealth/EnvironmentalHealth/EnvironmentalQuality/CommercialWasteReduction/tabid/445104/Default.aspx> Look for “Commercial Pick” towards the bottom of the site.
 - Construction RFP is drafted, but we are re-considering whether to release it. An RFP for what is virtually a no-cost service does not seem to be in anyone's best interest.

The County has, instead, asked for a proposal about next steps in deconstruction advising.

- The Paint Bill in the state legislature was to have been heard April 17. Hilary can provide an update.
- Zero Waste efforts in the mountains are progressing. Hazardous material collections have been scheduled, along with electronics collection event. Staff plans to survey transfer station users later this month.

9. Next Month's agenda items:

- Bylaws
- Election
- Special Topic – Follow up on Recycling Center from March Meeting
- Resource Conservation Division Update: Spring Cleanup successes in 2013 and plans for 2014
- Special Topic: Complete Community Annual Reports
- Topics for the year ahead (tabled until June)

10. Any other Business - none

11. Meeting Adjourned: 6:40 p.m.



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes: May 28, 2014

Present: Jack DeBell – CU Recycling (phone), Tom Dowling – Lafayette, Juri Freeman – At Large (phone), Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle, Charles Kamenides – Longmont, Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Lisa Morzel – At Large, Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder, Lisa Skumatz – At Large (phone), Dan Stellar –CRC, Martin Toth - Superior

Active Members Not Present: Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland, Frank Bruno – At large, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Sustainability Office, Mark Wesson – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (BCRCD)/Sustainability Office.

Guests: Deb Gardner – County Commissioner, Jeff Callahan – BCRCD, Lou Perez – BCRCD, Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal, Veronica Martinez – BCRCD.

1. **Call to Order/Introductions.** A quorum being present, Mark Persichetti, Chair, called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
2. **Approval of Minutes.**
Bridget Johnson made a motion to approve the April, 2014 minutes. Lisa Skumatz seconded. All members present approved, except Lisa Morzel, who abstained.
3. **Standing Topic: Approve bylaws amendments**
Lisa Morzel made a motion to approve the amendments and Bridget Johnson seconded. All members present approved the motion, except Martin Toth, who abstained.
Action Item: County staff to forward amendments to Commissioners for approval
4. **Standing Topic: Elect Chair and Vice Chair**
Lisa Skumatz made a motion for option 1, verbal nominations and voting, and Tim Plass seconded, expressing he is for transparency. The motion was unanimously approved. There was a clarification that the ballot is by majority vote. Lisa Skumatz nominated -Mark Persichetti to continue as chair, which was seconded by Tim Plass. Mark Persichetti nominated Lisa Skumatz for chair, and Bridget Johnson seconded. Lisa Skumatz declined her nomination and said she would accept a nomination for vice chair. No one opposed. By acclamation, Mark Persichetti became the board chair.

Tim Plass nominated Lisa Skumatz for Vice Chair and Lisa Morzel seconded. Shari Malloy nominated Lisa Morzel for vice chair and Charles Kamenides seconded. Lisa Morzel declined the nomination. In the absence of other nominations, Lisa Skumatz was elected Vice Chair by acclamation. **Action Item: County staff to forward election slate to Commissioners for ratification, following bylaws approval.**

5. **Special Topic: Annual report from RCAB to BOCC**

Lisa Friend requested a motion to approve the draft report for presentation to the County Commissioners. Tim Plass moved and Lisa Skumatz seconded.

It was suggested that since there is a dearth of land or infrastructure to make progress in construction and demolition (C&D) diversion, that this report be used to ask Commissioners to seriously consider addressing this issue. It is agreed that though this is an important issue, since this is a report on what RCAB accomplished in 2013, this might not belong in this memo. It was suggested this topic be put on the agenda in the future. There is a clarification that RCAB made recommendations with concern to C&D and ZW Funding that should be followed up on.

Present board members unanimously voted in favor to forward the report to the commissioners. **Action Item: County staff to forward report to commissioners**

6. **RCD Update: Follow up on Recycling Center report from March Meeting – Presented by Jeff Callahan** (see PowerPoint presentation for information covered in the slides)

Three questions came out of the meeting in April - Why are rebates so low? How are the rebates determined, and can the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC) offer higher rebates? The main points and summary of Q & A are below:

- A chart was presented documenting rebates offered by companies throughout state. (see PowerPoint)
- There was clarification on the difference between a spot delivery (a one-time payment for a one-time delivery) versus a negotiated contract price.
- There was clarification on the interchangeability of the terms “rebate” and “gate payments” or just “payments,” all of which were used to mean the same thing in the presentation.
- It was noted that that Waste Management loses money from recycling.
- The BCRC is a \$5 million dollar enterprise that must stand on its own.
 - County General Fund and Enterprise Fund (recycling center revenues) are completely separate.
 - In 2013 the BCRC experienced a \$60,000 deficit. No profit has been put into the enterprise fund in 3 years.
- Rebates are determined following this process: Revenues from the sale of materials are calculated; Eco-Cycle’s expenses for operating the facility are subtracted from the remaining revenues; the County expenses are subtracted, and the remaining funds are available for rebates.
- April 2014 was a good month for revenues so rebates are now up to \$8/ton from \$5/ton
- In response to an increase in payments shown in the chart, it was explained that in July of 2011, China bought up as much material as possible at very high prices – high rebates were given to haulers in return. China then established the “Green Fence” barring contaminated materials and prices returned to more “normal” levels.
- Comment: the graph showing gate payments (rebates) paid out by the BCRC per month does not show what the payments were per ton of material coming in; this would be useful info to have.

- Other reasons for China not buying as much material are that they have strengthened their recycling capabilities and people worldwide are buying fewer newspapers (online sources for news are becoming more predominant).
- Question: How many tons were processed at the facility last year? The response was 48,000.
- Comment: A discrepancy in tonnage numbers was pointed out. The math shows that processing costs \$100/ton whereas other processing facilities are known to operate at around \$65/ton. The reasons for this are unknown and understanding this discrepancy would be an important step.
- There was some discussion on how the BCRC could get more volume and run a second shift, which would reduce overall cost of operations, so that rebates to haulers could be increased.
- There was a suggestion that RCAB should be more involved in the renewal of the operations contract next year.
- Comment: Bridget Johnson, speaking as a hauler, commented that it is not beneficial for her to bring materials to the recycling center (because she can get paid much more by bringing them to Larimer County) but she does anyway to help her company's green footprint. If there was greater incentive to bring materials to the BCRC, haulers would. She does not agree with current structure of the system and believes that a fund should be set aside for haulers so rebates are commensurate to the market.
- Jeff Callahan pointed out that some commercial single stream material is going elsewhere and that this is the material we need to receive in order gain more revenue and in turn offer higher rebates to haulers, which would provide incentive for them to bring materials to the BCRC, closing the circle. Best Way came to BCRC when they were building their new facility. This caused a bump in tonnages of material processed. They stopped when their facility was completed. Delivery of recyclables from the Boulder County hauling community has not decreased.
- Summary – Alpine/WM bid on competitive contracts for other communities and therefore the communities go with the highest bid possible. The BCRC can't do this.

Summary of discussion following the presentation

- Jeff Callahan said that he was not entirely sure how private companies are set up so that they are able to pay higher rebates. It is difficult to project what rebates can be paid because it is impossible to know what the expenses for the year will be.
- Cost per ton for processing has risen significantly over time.
- Suzanne Jones made a point that a lot of work is going into improvements that could process more tons and make the facility more efficient, and overall we are moving in a good direction. Many opportunities could be possible with funds from a sustainability tax.
- Jack DeBell suggested that a subcommittee be formed to help Jeff respond to these issues.
- Question: How much material processed at the BCRC is residential? Answer: about 80%.
- Jeff said it is difficult to compare recycling facilities to each other. Operating costs have remained even keel mostly, but market prices vary greatly. If markets decrease, there is

less revenue available for rebates. Running two shifts would improve this, which is why there needs to be a much greater supply of commercial materials being delivered to the BCRC. There would be significantly greater volumes and more valuable material.

- Sub-Committee - Tim Plass moved to form a subcommittee as Jack DeBell had suggested. Charles Kamenides seconded. The vote was unanimously approved. Staff will seek direction from the county attorney on whether these meetings need be publicized. The purpose of the committee will be to examine alternatives the County could consider to optimize the tonnage, cost, and hauler payments for recycling at the BCRC.

7. **Standing Topic: Community Annual Reports**

- Lisa Skumatz quickly went through the results from the RCAB survey documenting diversion rates throughout the county.
- 0 means no, 1 means yes
- A question was posed on how to get data from all the large commercial material that is being sent to Denver and not being processed here.
- A summary of the final overall diversion report will be presented at the June meeting.

8. **Community Reports**

- Lisa Friend - As a supplement to written report presented in advance, said there is a presentation on international markets coming up in Colorado Springs on Tuesday, June 10th
- Lisa Skumatz - Superior is proposing a bag fee
- Tom Dowling – It is time for Lafayette to join its neighbors... going to move toward curbside composting. It is on the Council agenda for July 1.
- Dan Stellar - CRC going to be offering rebates to flood victims. Resource will waive their gate fee and discount materials from June 16-30. He asked for help promoting it through list serves, etc.
- Bridget Johnson - Jamestown - FEMA going to pay for 10 feet of waterline for every resident. The lower bridge has a new water meter recording real live data – it tracks flow rates, and can provide more warning.
- Jack DeBell – Friday will be the last day that CU recycling facility will operate. A new facility will be built this summer.
- Dan Matsch - Lyons – The Lyons Spring Cleanup will be held on June 7. A wide range of materials will be accepted.
- Mark Persichetti - Louisville – The city's 5-year hauling contract ends this year. An RFP was issued to continue this service. All 3 proposals received confirmed that the hauler will bring all recyclable materials to BCRC.
- Hilary – Boulder County -the County wants RCAB to help establish two new working groups to focus on infrastructure, and education and outreach. She requested that RCAB add this to topic to next month's agenda.

9. **Next Month's agenda items:**

- Set topics for the year ahead
ACTION: Lisa Friend will send out last year's topic list
- Working groups discussion

- RCD Update – Spring Clean-Up Report
- Special Topic: Report on Boulder County BuildSmart C&D Diversion
 - Maybe hold off a month
- Discuss results from RCAB survey

10. **Any other Business:** None

11. **Meeting Adjourned:** 6:38pm



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Informal Notes: June 25, 2014

Present: Jack DeBell – CU Recycling, Juri Freeman – At Large (phone), Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Charles Kamenides – Longmont, Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Lisa Morzel – At Large (phone), Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder

Active Members Not Present: Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland, Frank Bruno – At large, Tom Dowling – Lafayette, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle, Lisa Skumatz – At Large (phone), Dan Stellar – CRC, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward, Martin Toth - Superior

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability, Mark Wesson – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (BCRCD)/ Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability.

Guests: Michelle Barnes – CRC, Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder

A quorum of 10 RCAB members was not present and so no formal business could be conducted.

Notes:

1. Presentation on the City of Boulder Strategic plan and their single-use bag fee program
Jamie Harkins, Business Sustainability Specialist for the City of Boulder, provided a brief presentation. PowerPoint slides are attached.

There was a question about the legality of requiring businesses to recycle/compost: The answer was that yes, there are ways to do this.

There was a question about the enforcement of current regulations: The response was that it is difficult to enforce things such as Construction and Demolition diversion unless a community has an inspector to go out and enforce the regulations.

2. Other business

It was noted that Art-Parts is still interested in presenting to the RCAB. They have approached the City of Boulder about 6400 Arapahoe being a home for their collection/distribution operations. They need around 2500 square feet. It was suggested that a few minutes be set aside in future agendas for public comment and this could present an opportunity for Art Parts to speak.

3. Community Reports

- **Tim Plass** - Boulder is continuing to move forward with bear-proof compost containers for all residents west of Broadway. They are hoping to have those in place by August. They are being tested in Montana.
- **Michelle Barnes** - There is a promotion at ReSource for flood victims, which is offering discounts through the end of June. Also for flood victims, CHaRM is waiving its gate fee and offering a 30% discount on drop off of certain materials as well as discount on compost tea. CRC has created a community report and will send it to RCAB members in an email.
- **Jack DeBell** - The CU Recycling facility is being relocated. Contact Jack if you are interested in the discount offer that Rubbermaid has made to CAFR – a 30% discount on certain products. Minimum purchase is case quantities; free shipping over \$500. CU has submitted an updated flood recovery plan to the state. FEMA suggested possible assistance to help mitigate future disasters, perhaps through developing resource recovery parks? Could this be a multi-county plan?
- **Charles Kamenides** - Longmont's Rhythm on the River event is coming up – the city expects 30,000 people to attend. It is going to be Zero Waste event again this year, and Charles is looking forward to a high diversion rate (It was over 90% last year). A lot of people in Longmont are recycling electronics, and people are knowledgeable on what to do with their waste. Longmont is continuing to put recycling bins out into the parks system.

Question: What is the turnaround time for special collection events in Longmont? Not too long, between 10 and 15 minutes, but lines can appear long. The city might have to do something about the traffic during events. Dan Matsch says people show up early, so they had to hire an off-duty cop to stop people from illegal dumping.

- **Dan Matsch** - Lyons hosted a clean-up day on June 7th. Lots of CHaRM items were received – just over 3,000 lbs of electronics. The event was scheduled at the last minute, so the Town ordered some roll-offs for trash that weren't needed.
- **Lisa Friend** - Lisa submitted her written report in advance of the meeting:
 - Councils are encouraged to support the two new Zero Waste working groups and also be aware that both Lafayette and Louisville have recently increased their commitment to Zero Waste services – both recycling and composting.
 - The **Paint Bill** in the state legislature was signed by Governor Hickenlooper and will take effect July 1, 2015, or sooner if ready. Boulder County staff members are helping with design and promotion of the new initiative.
 - Boulder County will be coordinating Zero Waste efforts at the **Boulder County Fair** again this year. Volunteers are needed for this important work – especially at the more popular events. Let Mark know if you are interested in helping out.
 - Preventing **Food Waste** continues to be a popular topic for communities throughout the U.S. Some RCAB members might recall the presentation we received from “American Wasteland” author Jonathan Bloom on this topic two summers ago. A special forum will take place Oct. 16 in San Francisco:
www.ZeroFoodWasteForum.org Let Lisa Friend know if you are interested in this topic. The City of Boulder and Boulder County are considering sending a team to the forum.

- **Mark Persichetti** – The Louisville council rejected staff’s recommendation to hire Republic Service and after much public testimony directed staff to negotiate with Western Disposal Services. There was concern about transporting material out of the county, as Republic had proposed, because of the emerald ash borer quarantine. The vast majority of people have small containers for the Pay as You Throw system (PAYT), so Western will raise their rates 22%. There were comments that Republic’s bid did not truly represent PAYT, as Western’s did. All recyclable materials will go to the Boulder County Recycling Center, but there is no local stipulation for compost. Mark also noted that a year ago the city decided to do a Greenhouse Gas / carbon footprint study. The results haven’t been formally presented to city council yet but probably will be posted on their website soon. Broomfield is the only other city that has done a study like this. The price was \$10,000.



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, July 23, 2014

Present: Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland, Jack DeBell – CU Recycling (phone), Tom Dowling – Lafayette, Lisa Friend – Boulder County (phone), Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown (phone), Lisa Morzel – At Large (phone), Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder, Dan Stellar –CRC, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward (phone), Martin Toth – Superior, Lisa Skumatz – At Large (phone)

Active Members Not Present: Charles Kamenides – Longmont, Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability, Mark Wesson – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division/ Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability

Guests: Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal, Leigh Cushing – Boulder County Public Health, Elizabeth Montalbano - Boulder County Public Health, Jamie Harkins - City of Boulder, Randy Moorman – Eco-Cycle

1. **Call to Order / Introductions (4:51 pm)**
2. **Acknowledge Informal Notes for June 2014 (No Quorum)**

Jack DeBell requested that the notes be changed to read that he was at the meeting in person and not on the phone. Approval of the May minutes was omitted from the agenda and so needs to be added to the August agenda.

3. **Special Topic: Establish Working Groups, Presenter – Hilary Collins**

Hilary referred to a handout provided in the packet. Two new working groups are proposed to address Zero Waste (ZW) Infrastructure and ZW Education & Outreach. The intention is to move forward collaboratively and county-wide.

Infrastructure Group

It is important to know about our existing infrastructure (for recycling, composting, construction & demolition (C&D) materials, and CHaRM materials), how this infrastructure can be improved, and what additional infrastructure is or will be needed. This is a valuable analysis, even though the sustainability tax is not being pursued at this time. This work also ties into the City of Boulder’s zero waste strategy. The possibility of Louisville having land and being willing to partner on a new facility was mentioned.

Boulder County staff will chair the working groups, and conduct research. The infrastructure working group is different than the RCAB recycling center operations subcommittee in that the working group will consider infrastructure countywide, not just the recycling facility. Some of the subcommittee analysis will feed into the working group analysis. The compost study that Eco-Cycle, the County, Western Disposal, and the City of Boulder are collaborating on will shed light onto what type of composting infrastructure might be needed. A recently issued request-for-proposals (RFP) for optimization of the recycling center is independent of the sub-committee but will be helpful to the subcommittee’s work.

Education & Outreach Group

The Education and Outreach working group will work on county wide ZW messaging. “How to” messaging is community specific, but messaging on how to change behavior and create more diversion should be similar across the county.

Comments and Questions

Shirley wants more information about the optimization committee. Are there any guidelines for how these committees and working groups run, what is the purpose and scope, how will they be organized, who is going to vote, what about reporting, is it going to be formal? As the different committees make recommendations, conflict of interest is a concern. How much time is involved?

Dan Stellar – Most of the bullet points are things that are difficult to do in a group setting – heavy duty research and analysis - is the idea that the group will divide up the work, with individuals doing research on their own and this is discussed at the meetings, or will the group make these decisions during the meetings?

Staff Response: The intent is that these two working groups will be informal, can meet as-needed, and will report back to RCAB to support recommendations RCAB will make to the Commissioners. Staff will do research and/or pull existing or new research results into the process.

C&D will probably be the first topic for the infrastructure working group to focus on. It is necessary to establish what infrastructure and funds are needed.

Can non-RCAB members be part of these working groups? How does the selection process work for non-RCAB members? The working groups don't have to be too structured or “formal”.

Staff Response: RCAB members will decide whether they want to be part of these working groups. Yes, attendance by non-RCAB members is encouraged, especially those with expertise to bring to the discussions. The time commitment is flexible – if it is too much for members to make time for, we can look at that and adjust meeting times accordingly. The group agrees on the need for these groups, but roles need to be clear. Different meetings will likely focus on different topics. The agenda for the first meeting should be to focus on what we already know and define what we can realistically accomplish. Meetings will begin in August if possible. The proposed list of invitees (on the handout) will be used for now, and additional invitees can be added if needed. A quorum will not be required to conduct business.

Lisa Skumatz reported that the Recycling Center Optimization Subcommittee has begun meeting. She chairs these meetings, and nine RCAB members are involved. Fourteen issues will be worked on over the next 2- 3 months, and the subcommittee will reporting back to RCAB on ways to optimize tonnage, improve the cost-effectiveness of the facility, hauler incentives and payment methods, recapturing materials that used to be collected and aren't any more, how many tons that could be recycled are going to landfill, etc. If more RCAB members wish to attend, they can contact Lisa Skumatz to find out when and where the next meeting is.

Lisa Skumatz made a motion to move forward with forming the two working groups. Shirley Garcia seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Standing Topic: Community-Wide Diversion Report, Presenter: Lisa Skumatz

Lisa reported on the highlights and gaps in the reported data for 2013. (The report will be posted to the RCAB website.) Reasonably reliable numbers were obtained for residential diversion. Regarding policy, the report shows percent of communities that do policy actions and the percent of population affected by policy actions. To estimate tonnage, the survey used a weighted average of county-wide diversion and population.

Residential diversion was just under 40% county-wide, which is better than the 35% for 2012. Boulder County's numbers suffered due to flood. The City of Boulder's numbers helped the overall diversion rate, as well as Louisville's numbers. Pay as You Throw (PAYT) programs and community yard waste collection were very significant in raising the final diversion numbers. The numbers in the Generated Per Capita column are a bit suspect, so there is need for improvement there. Roughly 90% of communities have embedded recycling, and 95% of the population has PAYT trash collection.

Q & A

Where are communities that are not composting yard waste putting it? Answer: This is not reported in this survey. Based on observations and previous waste analysis studies, it's going to landfill.

How about grocery stores? Much of the non-purchased food products are still usable and could be donated, but much of it is being disposed of in the trash. Answer: Food waste is one of our suggested discussion topics for RCAB; it would be beneficial to explore this issue.

Any thought into generating energy from our compost? Answer: High tech solutions for low generating streams do not make economic sense. It is suggested that we focus on inexpensive, more effective and more practical steps first.

The methodology used where a community is assigned one or a zero depending on whether it is has or hasn't got a particular service or policy has the effect of smoothing out data. For example, the county's PAYT ordinance affects different parts of the county differently, similarly in Lafayette half the residents live in HOAs that aren't covered by the city's curbside recycling (and soon composting) program. Next year it is suggested that the survey be adapted to reflect the variation that exists in some communities.

5. Standing Topic: Choose Agenda Topics for the Year Ahead, Presenter: Lisa Friend

Lisa referred to a handout provided in the packet. She proposed moving forward with the listed Standing Topics and the RCD Updates as written, and, based on results from a Survey Monkey poll, moving forward with nine of the eighteen Special Topics (bullet numbers 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18).

Q & A

How were the county and city prepared for flood and what lessons have they learned to become better in the future? How do we divert toxic materials from getting swept up by water? Could we have recovered more? Answer: We can look at answers to these questions in October, when we have tentatively scheduled a report on the flood. The County does have a Natural Disaster Plan and Disaster Debris Plan.

Only three RCAB members responded to the poll. Some members expressed concern that such a small number of responses were being used to drive decisions and thought that the whole board should provide input on the topics to be covered. Some members would rather use Survey Monkey so that the list of topics doesn't need to be discussed at length. There was extensive debate as to how to approach this issue. Some members urged other members to devote more attention to the surveys, polls, and handouts sent out by staff.

It was also noted that it is hard to determine which topics are most important. All 19 topics are important, but which ones will lead to recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners? It is most important to choose topics on which RCAB can make meaningful recommendations to the Commissioners. It was suggested that every quarter we have, as a standing topic, making

recommendations to the Commissioners. Staff was asked to revisit this item at the August meeting within the context of RCAB priorities and recommendations.

Lisa Skumatz made a motion to have members contribute to the survey monkey survey, and then discuss this at the next meeting. Lisa Morzel seconded. Vote – 10 voted in favor, 1 abstained.

6. Community Reports (2 minutes each)

- City of Boulder – There is an important study session on the city’s zero waste strategy July 29th, more to report next month
- County – The County’s report was submitted in writing. Two additions were that the Commissioners have decided not to move forward with the Sustainability tax, and the compost study is moving forward.
- Broomfield – The City diverted almost 80,000 lbs during their HAZMAT collection
- Lafayette - Residential composting was added to the city’s curbside collection program as part of a new contract with Republic Services. The service does not include all HOAs. A utility tax of 2% is being considered, focusing on energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Louisville – Has signed a 5-year contract with Western Disposal Services for residential curbside recycling and composting. The GHG emission report from Minnesota has been completed and will be posted on the city website soon.
- Superior – A plastic bag fee will be proposed to the Board of Trustees on Aug 25th
- Center for Resource Conservation – Jared D’Arcey has left CRC, so ReSource is hiring a Senior Manager.
- CU Recycling – Volunteers are needed to come to home football games to help with Ralphie’s green stampede.

7. Next Month’s Agenda - Tentative topics:

- RCD Update – Spring Clean Report (2013 & 2014)
- Special Topic: Working Group and Sub-Committee reports
- Special Topic: C&D report

It was agreed that the sub-committee report can wait one month, but the spring cleanup report and the C&D report should be included.

8. Any Other Business

A public comment period (maximum 10 minutes) will be added early in the agendas for future meetings.

It was noted that The RCAB is now a 22 member board, with 2 vacancies. Bryce Isaacson has filled the designated Western Disposal Services seat. Frank Bruno has vacated his At-large seat. The Commissioners’ office is recruiting for the two vacancies. To help get the word out, county staff will send out a notice to the county licensed hauler list inviting haulers to apply for the hauler seat.

It is suggested that it is already time to start thinking about the ZW Funding grants and that this year a matrix be developed to help facilitate better decision-making.

Mark P made a motion to adjourn and Tom seconded.

The meeting adjourned: 6:40 p.m.



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, August 27, 2014

Present: Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland, Jack DeBell – CU Recycling, Tom Dowling – Lafayette, Lisa Friend – Boulder County, Shirley Garcia – Broomfield, Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal, Bridget Johnson – Jamestown, Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle, Charles Kamenides – Longmont (phone), Shari Malloy – At Large, Dan Matsch – Lyons, Lisa Morzel – At Large, Mark Persichetti – Louisville, Tim Plass – Boulder, Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward (phone), Lisa Skumatz – At Large (phone).

Active Members Not Present: Juri Freeman – At Large, Martin Toth – Superior, Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation.

County Staff: Hilary Collins – Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability, Mark Wesson – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (BCRCD)/ Commissioners’ Office/Sustainability.

Guests: Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal, Jamie Harkins - City of Boulder

1. Call to Order / Introductions (4:50pm)

2. Approval of Minutes May and July, 2014

The May minutes were corrected to indicate that Juri Freeman attended by phone. In the final line of Section 6, RCD Update, the term “hauler funding” was changed to “hauler payments.” Jack DeBell made a motion to approve the May minutes with the corrections, Tim Plass seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Bryce Isaacson was found to have been omitted from the list of members present at the July meeting. Lisa Friend moved to approve the minutes with Bryce noted as an attendee; Tom Dowling seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment - None

4. Standing Topic: Discuss priorities and choose agenda topics for the next 12 months

Hilary reviewed a PowerPoint presentation provided in advance (see presentation and memo from the Board of County Commissioners in the Meetings Handouts). She began by acknowledging the commitment and expertise of the board and thanking members for their hard work. Chocolate bars were kindly received. A memo from the Commissioners providing specific direction was noted.

The main points and summary of Q&A are below:

- The County Commissioners have asked RCAB to focus and make recommendations on policies, programs and infrastructure needed to significantly increase waste diversion in individual municipalities and across the county, and especially to increase commercial recycling, residential and commercial composting, and C&D diversion; and to pursue collaboration on messaging and bin signage.

- Overall the county is at a 30-40% diversion rate; well below desired goals.
- There are three big pieces of waste stream: commercial, residential and construction and demolition (C & D). Close to 44% of commercial is being diverted, according to RCAB's latest survey, but we need to look at these numbers more closely. If 20% is construction, then much of that is recyclable in Boulder County now (aggregates, cardboard, clean wood, and metal – we have markets for these materials now. These are the main components of the C& D waste stream).
- Bryce noted that 35% of C & D waste brought to Western is recycled. Getting lots of used drywall, not recyclable. Only scrap from new drywall is recyclable.
- Staff proposed to break the year into a six-month research phase and a six-month action phase. Other research outside of RCAB will feed into this process so that we can be in a position to make recommendations later. Less time will be spent on hearing reports on existing activities. There is an opportunity to really be organized and clear about what funds are needed for, if Boulder County decides to pursue a sustainability tax in the future.
- The “year” ahead was clarified as through August 2015.
- Suzanne suggested that RCAB focus on each of the priority areas, focusing entire meetings on one topic. Many members agreed that RCAB should focus on topics individually with in-depth study session-type meetings, so that a topic has been thoroughly reviewed and recommendations can be made.
- If there were recommendations to give to the Commissioners, RCAB would not have to wait until next year to make them; they can be made as they come about. Topics could be paced allowing time for all necessary information to be included.
- Dan noted that RCAB can do the brainstorming on specific topics and then the working groups and subcommittees can take that information to work on ways to move forward.
- Jack proposed that for each topic, the board look at existing data collection, regulatory mechanisms, incentives, signage, barriers, and whether these could fold into an IGA.
- Suzanne proposed that different RCAB members help lead each topic, rather than all discussions being led by county staff.
- It was suggested that quarterly written reports from RCD for RCAB's review would save time. Lisa S felt the reports from RCD should be in person and are important. She also reported that Recycling Center Optimization Subcommittee should be finished with their research before the end of the year.
- Staff will look at the original IGA language for RCAB to see what it says about the quarterly reports. (Note: Lisa Friend looked and the IGA says nothing about reports. The IGA will be posted to the County website.)
- There are some general business items, such as zero waste funding, that will need to be addressed at times, so not all the meetings will be focused on one specific topic.
- It was suggested that each community report be given in written form when the RSVPs are collected.
- It was decided to discuss compost next month (September) and C&D next. RCAB's September and October meetings will be dedicated to compost. Lisa F reported that a final draft of the compost capacity report should be ready in mid-September.

- Topics to be discussed with compost - how to get HOA's involved, markets, education, backyard, infrastructure, collection.

5. RCD Update: Spring Cleanup Report – For information

Mark W. reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (see Meeting Handouts). The main points and summary of Q&A are below:

- Boulder County spends approximately \$14,000 per year on the Spring Cleanup project, mostly on trash collection roll-offs for the several community events. The communities currently fund diversion collection at the events, with some communities doing more than others. The county would prefer to move towards funding diversion at these events.
- Bridget noted that 2014 was the first time in 12 years that Green Girl didn't provide free recycling collection at the Bar-K spring cleanup, which is why the community needed an extra trash roll-off (which turned out to be unnecessary). People just don't want to pay for recycling service here, so if the county was to provide that service, it would be well received.
- Hilary suggested that RCAB recommend that the county only pays for diversion. Concern was expressed that this change would not be well received by some of the communities involved.
- RCAB suggested that the following items be considered for this program:
 - Tire collection, hazardous waste collection every few years, more equitable funding for communities, consideration whether risk of dumping in the mountains still exists, more education, and total costs of county subsidy including the transfer station costs.
 - Reports without an action component should be avoided – next time provide RCAB information ahead of time and then the committee can better provide feedback.

6. Next Month's Agenda

The September and October agendas will focus exclusively on compost. A written flood update was requested.

7. Subcommittee and Working Group Reports

Lisa Skumatz summarized what the Optimization Sub-committee has done thus far (see Meeting Handouts).

8. Any Other Business

Zero Waste Funding: Hilary reported that Jeff Callahan had planned to attend the meeting to suggest to the RCAB that it consider changes to the County's zero waste funding program at its September meeting.

The main points of discussion included:

- \$50,000 is allocated each year for this program. It funds a variety of projects. Some feel that in the last few years the projects haven't been as strong, which suggests the possibility that these funds be better used elsewhere?

- It was suggested that this funding be considered along with other funds being expended by the County - for example, on the spring cleanup program, etc., and to consider what is most important for diversion.
- The Board agreed that the 2015 funding cycle should go ahead as normal; strong projects being funded and any remaining funds used elsewhere.
- A sub-committee was formed to evaluate this year's proposed projects (Shirley Garcia, Lisa Morzel, Lisa Friend and Hilary Collins). The subcommittee will use a matrix to evaluate all the applications and will consider how the program could be improved. Better reporting of project success and impacts was requested. It was also suggested that the County website should list the current successes of the grant program and all prior recipients. This should remain on the web site year-round. Mark will supply details of projects funded to the subcommittee.
- Maybe there should be a comparison made between past recipients and how successful they were at their diversion expectations.
- Mark will send info to subcommittee on all programs.

Hilary also reported that the recycling center is now posting the amount to be paid for recyclables at the beginning of each month, and haulers are to receive payment within 45 days of the close of the month in which the material was delivered.

9. Community Reports

Bridget reported continued progress on Jamestown's recovery after the flood. 82% of the population is reconnected with water, the school back in operation, a concrete buffer has been installed where Joey Howlett's house collapsed to prevent further destruction during future mudslides. There is a Sept 12 open house planned with music, commemoration, and the mayor will speak at 6 pm.

Tom reported that Lafayette Energy efficiency tax of 1% (moving to 2% the next year) is on ballot for this fall.

Adjourn: Jack DeBell moved to adjourn and Lisa Friend seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:34pm



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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Sept. 24, 2014

Present:

Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Tom Dowling – Lafayette
Juri Freeman – At Large
Lisa Friend – Boulder County
Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown (phone)
Suzanne (Zan) Jones – Eco-Cycle
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Shari Malloy – At Large
Dan Matsch – Lyons
Lisa Morzel – At Large
Mark Persichetti – Louisville
Lisa Skumatz – At Large

County Staff:

Jeff Callahan – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division (BCRCD)
Hilary Collins – Commissioners'
Office/Sustainability

Guests:

Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal
Dan Gudel – Waste Connections
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Matanya Horowitz – Cognitive Robotics
Elizabeth Montalbano – City of Boulder
Anne Peters – Gracestone Inc. (arrived for Special
Event portion of the meeting)
John Shepherd – Shepherd Sustainability

Active Members Not Present:

Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland
Shirley Garcia – Broomfield
Tim Plass – Boulder
Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward
Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation
Martin Toth – Superior

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order by Chair, Mark Persichetti / Introductions (4:49 pm)**
2. **Approval of August 2014 Minutes** – Minor changes were recommended for the August minutes, including clarification that Bryce Isaacson had attended the July meeting and that Mark Wesson had provided the Spring Cleanup presentation. Lisa F. moved approval of the amended minutes; Tom D. seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Public Comment** – Matanya Horowitz with Cognitive Robotics in Golden reported that his company is a start-up interested in sorting Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris. He hopes to have a prototype for demonstration later this year and wanted to introduce himself and the company. His contact information is matanya@cognitiverecycling.com; 720-470-0812
4. **Priority Topic: Composting**
 - a. Zan reviewed the key findings of the draft Compost Capacity Study commissioned by Boulder County, the City of Boulder, Eco-Cycle, and Western Disposal (the PowerPoint was provided with meeting documents). The capacity study predicts a doubling of compost in the county, which Zan thinks is a conservative estimate: tonnages will be much higher when the county achieves its zero waste goals.

- Lisa M. asked about the amount of organics not being collected. Zan reported infrastructure working group members will look at the capacity analysis to see whether they agree with the assumptions and the math.
 - The study shows the County has access to sufficient physical capacity for organics processing in the region, but that Western's site is currently available only to Western Disposal customers. Bryce clarified that haulers of residential organics are allowed to access Western's facility but that some contractors don't choose to use it.
 - The study also determined a new regional facility with capacity of 30,000 tons per year would cost about \$4 million to build plus an estimated \$1 million for site acquisition (10 acres) and estimated annual operating costs of up to \$700,000 per year. If such a facility were to be constructed, there is no guarantee local tons would be delivered to it.
 - Some discussion about anaerobic digestion options followed.
 - Suzanne discussed the report's four recommendations, summarized below:
 1. There would not appear to be a compelling need to develop stand-alone compost capacity in the county at this time. Boulder County could explore avenues that expand access to the Western site.
 2. To increase participation in organics collection by the commercial sector, investigate means of providing increased financial incentives or developing a mandatory ordinance. These tools require significant public education and outreach.
 3. The City of Boulder could consider a feasibility analysis of anaerobic digestion for municipal food scraps at the wastewater treatment plant.
 4. Consider a targeted analysis of commercial organics generators to determine current composting participation levels and future potential volumes of organics.
 - Next steps: The infrastructure committee will make recommendations.
 - Lisa F. will send the report to RCAB members once the city of Boulder has approved the final draft. (Boulder County, Eco-Cycle and Western Disposal have approved release.)
- b. Lisa reviewed the Existing Conditions Report provided in the packet.
- Jack asked about the potential for intergovernmental cooperation including compost supply agreements. Dan M. suggested that planning would be a good cooperative opportunity. Hilary suggested agreements with organics suppliers and Western Disposal that could form the basis for a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.
 - Mark P. suggested some consistency in reporting could also be agreed upon
- c. Lisa S. provided an update presented a review of program and regulatory options.
- Lisa noted that a spectrum of options is available for "Aggressive" vs. "Less Aggressive" communities and that strategies include incentives, taxes, mandates and bans as well as facilities, lobbying, and expensive education.
 - She discussed "easy" options on the commercial side, including lobbying for better standards at the state level and adding space for containers. Additional commercial options were addressed. Clarifying notes are included below:
 - Require organics plans of businesses – recycling plans are common; why not organics, too?
 - Education on bidding and contracts helps businesses get the most effective and cost-effective diversion service.

- Business recognition programs – do these lead to any change? Lisa thinks they do but hasn't seen any measurement on it.
 - Encourage cooperative agreements in neighborhoods – joint collection or pay a fine – the local jurisdiction could work with the hauler to arrange billing.
 - Food scraps embedded in the cost for all consumers: Not just food-generating consumers. This makes the cost quite low. Is this getting into “rate regulation”? Bryce says such approaches are legal in Colorado. Lisa S. says this is how Boulder multifamily rates are designed.
 - Charge taxes on trash but not on recycling or organics. This improves finances, and uptake with a trash tax is significant! Our trash bill is so low, however, that the tax would have to be quite high to be effective. City of Boulder trash tax is 85 cents a cubic yard.
 - ABC for food: certain businesses generate all beverage containers (ABC); some programs require them to recycle or lose their liquor license. Perhaps this approach could also require food diversion.
 - Disposal bans for food or organics is more aggressive, however a mandatory diversion program with enforcement might be easier.
 - Contract incentives are paid to haulers to encourage them to get businesses beyond food waste collection: Haulers that meet a certain diversion percentage would get some type of financial incentive for meeting the goal.
 - Differential tipping fees might work with a private landfill.
 - Hilary and Zan would like to see a list sorted by ease of implementation and highest impact; let's get a menu of options.
 - Jeff offered the county attorney to look at short-list initiatives in the light of powers that municipalities might have. We are not sure, for instance, what the legality of a ban might be.
 - Jack: Do we know what municipalities are doing these? Very few are doing these in Boulder County, Lisa S. says. Can we plot who is doing what? Do we have the data to indicate what's effective?
 - Next steps: Lisa S will come up with a commercial options package based on feedback. Maybe we can do the residential side next month.
- d. Lisa S, Zan and Hilary provided subcommittee and working group reports
- Lisa S. The Recycling Center subcommittee met this week and discussed progress on 13 topics. The next meeting is scheduled for mid-October. The group has some data requests out. The numbers gathered thus far are interesting and need more drilling down.
 - Zan: The infrastructure working group met to focus on infrastructure and talked about agreement on baseline numbers for the amounts of organics we produce and how much we think we can divert now and into the future. Will next look at the compost study numbers. The idea of the working group is to look at infrastructure options across many issues, not just compost.

Discussion:

- Looking at what infrastructure we think we need to have to process compostable materials. Dan from Eco-Cycle gave an overview of criteria we want to look at: distance to facility, tipping fee, and technology used to process the materials. (Including compostable ware and soiled paper in compost requires different processing than straight food.) We need to look at these variables. We are basically competing with the landfill, which offers some of

the cheapest disposal costs in the country at roughly \$20 per ton plus travel. We need to find a compost situation that would be competitive.

- Let's look at what we have or would like to have. Had heard about A1 and Heartland. Discussed physical capacity at Western, and discussed access. Bryce will present on Western's facility next time.
- Kurt Kowar from Louisville discussed a roughly 10-acre site next to their waste water treatment plant not yet permitted for compost but historically used for bio-solids. Staff has permission to approach the county and offer the site as a zero waste infrastructure option. Longmont is interested in a closer transfer site.
- Joe Gierlach, the Mayor of Nederland spoke at the meeting about the town's decentralized composting approach idea – which would use beetle-kill wood and compost in a new system for forest management.
- The group also talked about comparing existing facilities and options with the cost of building a new facility but did not look yet at the cost of a transfer site.
- Hilary reported on the education working group. Initial accomplishments were to set boundaries of what would and would not be considered (education being a broad topic). The group looked at current conditions and will come up with a matrix to zero in on what is needed.
- Hilary will send out reminders about the working group meetings.

5. Next Month's Agenda – October's agenda lists continued study sessions on composting and questions about the flood report, the latter of which will be provided in writing for information and any necessary discussion.

Discussion:

Jack: Let's look at more work on the Lisa S. ideas to organize categories and advance techniques and tools.

We need to discuss the viability of the scenarios and make recommendations. Lisa S. and Lisa F. can work together on this. Would Lisa S. want to cover residential topics, too? The summary should go faster next time.

Bryce: Are we hoping to come out of the October meeting with recommendations? We had discussed after the two-month mark, moving out of each block with recommendations: Is this still feasible? It's a bit of a tall order: We are still working through some information and options.

Lisa S. can send out some ranked options before the next meeting. Let's have people come to the meeting knowing what they think would be most helpful in their communities. No dot voting. Let's get to a draft recommendation for the BOCC by the November meeting. This gives staff more time to work with Lisa S. and look at a menu of options. The Infrastructure work group, too, can look at some recommendations.

Zero Waste grant applications are due Nov. 4. Therefore, the Zero Waste grant subcommittee will bring recommendations to the November meeting. Charles K. will join the grant evaluation subcommittee.

6. Other Business – If your community is planning something for America Recycles Day, Nov. 15, let Lisa F. know. EPA Region 8 has offered to send a dignitary if anyone has an event planned. The County has no plans.

7. Community Reports – Prior to giving her report, detailed above, Lisa S. offered congratulations to RCAB members Jack DeBell and Juri Freeman, who join Lisa S. and the Colorado Association for Recycling’s Marjie Griek as front-range residents elected to the board of the National Recycling Coalition.

Boulder County, Erie, Jamestown and Lyons sent written reports, copied below (following the notice of adjournment). Lisa F. added to hers that Boulder County and the city of Boulder are considering purchase of the Re-TRAC diversion tracking and reporting software, widely used in the U.S. Darla Arians from the BCRC can be asked to present about this next meeting.

Lisa S. has finished entering this year’s county report data and will distribute to all via email.

Longmont sponsored a household chemical collection day: 458 residents came through. It was a big event, though the data for tonnages and gallons collected is not back yet. Part of the diversion is latex paint recycled via Boulder County. Also, a Hard-to-Recycle event a few weeks ago was really well attended. No data is available yet to share with anyone. Like many communities, Longmont will benefit from a pharmaceuticals drop-off this coming weekend (Sept. 27). The city’s will be at Longmont United Hospital.

On behalf of Superior, Lisa S. reported the town council was asked to support a bag fee but has asked for something bigger – not just the fee but a larger package, on which the committee is working. This recycling plan would be the first one in Superior.

A grassroots issues group in Lafayette has begun a door-to-door campaign for an energy futures tax, which will be on the city ballot this autumn for possible citizen approval. The tax would help reduce the city’s carbon footprint.

8. Special event: Jeff Callahan’s Retirement

Jeff is retiring from Boulder County on October 10. He was hired by the County after a national search and came from a successful career in waste management in New Jersey. Jeff began working for the county in 1996 and served as director of the Boulder County Recycling and Composting Authority, which was created after passage of a 1994 sales and use tax. Jeff managed design and construction of the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC) and procurement of its operator. When the new county Resource Conservation Division was created, he gained responsibility for the division and its many programs, including various transfer stations and the Hazardous Materials Management Facility.

Jeff retrofitted the BCRC for single stream, designed the county hauler ordinance that requires Pay-as-you-Throw pricing, supervised the zero waste program at the Boulder County Fair and saw many other county programs expanded and improved. Jeff also contributed expertise to other county capital projects, including the Eldorado Springs sewage treatment plant. He retrofitted buildings for the Boulder Emergency Squad headquarters and the new headquarters for the Longmont emergency unit. Jeff played a significant role in response to fire and floods and managed the debris removal program for the Town of Lyons after the 2013 flooding.

Jeff thanked and credited Hilary for her attention. He has worked with Hilary, Shari and Lisa Morzel from “day one.” He cited a “very fun and rewarding career here in Boulder County” and said he was very proud of the BCRC, which he has operated for 13 years. He praised the work of Boulder County Building Services and Eco-Cycle in keeping the center well maintained and said he is happy to be able to turn it over to Boulder County “unscathed” and ready to go another 13 years.

After discussing the Eldorado Springs project, Jeff received a “Mountain Strong” hat from Hilary. Bridget conferred the thanks of Jamestown. Lisa M. spoke of changes since the recycling center was started: “Communities had a lot of different kind of visions,” she said, adding “Jeff was not in the easiest place.”

Anne Peters observed: “Your leadership has been great . . . You basically took this organization from nothing.” She went on to detail Jeff’s vision and actions to create the Recycling Center: “If Jeff hadn’t been here, we wouldn’t have been able to morph through all the stages that we’ve been through to get where we are today.”

Additional recollections followed Lisa M’s motion to adjourn at 6:34, seconded by Jack DeBell.

* * * * *

Text of Community Reports:

Boulder County Report

The Compost Capacity Analysis co-sponsored by Boulder County, the city of Boulder, Eco-Cycle and Western Disposal Services should be completed before the RCAB meeting. A copy of the study will be posted to the County’s web site and reviewed by the Infrastructure Working Group. Ask Lisa for the final “Findings” and “Recommendations,” which should be available by RCAB meeting time.

America Recycles Day will be November 15th. Boulder County programs are not planning anything special for the date, which falls on a Saturday this year. We can, however, promote local activities through our county outreach programs.

Staff will speak about the challenges of managing woody flood debris while under Emerald Ash Borer quarantine at the SWANA state conference in Estes Park and at the Colorado Association for Recycling annual meeting at Red Rocks, both in October. The ash borer infestation threatens neighboring counties, who are interested in learning from Boulder County’s experiences.

The Colorado Product Stewardship Council (CoPSC) received the 2014 Nightingale Policy Advancement Award for its work on paint stewardship from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) at its 29th Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in August.

CAFR poster contest winner: Congratulations to Boulder Kindergarten student, Elizabeth Brandt, of Eisenhower Elementary School, Boulder, who was a winner in the Colorado Association for Recycling’s recycling poster contest. Colorado K-12 students and youth organization members showcase their artistic talent and their commitment to the environment by participating in this annual contest. Elizabeth’s poster “Compost Your Food Waste” will be featured in CAFR’s 2015 Calendar, and all 12 winning students received a copy of their artwork in a recycled-content frame. <http://cafr.org/events/posterContest.php>

Erie Report:

The Town of Erie Operation and Maintenance division hosted the 9th annual Spring Clean Up at the Denver Regional Landfill on Saturday, May 3, 2014. The event is offered as a service to the Town of Erie residents allowing disposal of a variety of items at no expense to them.

Town of Erie staff assisted residents with directions, confirming residency, and ensuring compliance with landfill regulations and assisted residents with unloading for the various services offered at the Service Center.

This year's clean up went very well with a lot of participation, at least 1,320 drop offs were made between the landfill and the Service Center. Total of 691 loads for the landfill and 629 loads for the Service Center recycling. Due to the amount of material received, vendors had to make more than one trip to the Service Center to haul off items.

- Landfill – There were 691 loads (66 autos, 468 pickups, 157 trailers) dropped off at the landfill in 6 hours. This compares to 339 loads dropped off in fall of 2013. Total savings to Town residents was \$45,233.15.
- Goodwill of Denver – There were 85 loads dropped off at the Goodwill of Denver that filled a semi-trailer full. This compares to 19 loads dropped off in fall of 2013 for Habitat for Humanity.
- Electronics – There were 238 loads of electronics dropped off resulting in 6,509 pounds of electronic equipment being recycled. This compares to 10 loads in the fall of 2013.
- Paper Shredding – There were 136 loads for a total of 4,380 pounds. This compares to 3,600 pounds in the fall of 2013.
- Paint – This was a new service added this spring. There were 113 loads of paint received.
- Scrap Metal – This was a new service added this spring. There were 57 loads dropped off.

The Operation & Maintenance division will host the next 9th annual Fall Clean Up on September 13, 2014, and hopes to continue partnering with the same vendors for this event as well as possible additions.

Jamestown Report:

The 1 year flood celebration went really well last weekend. We had a Senator, two Boulder City Council members, State Representatives and other big-wigs up to see what the town had put together. There were many visitors to the Friday night presentation at the town hall. Local artists sold art & flood bowls made from flood debris to help raise money for the never ending town-rebuild efforts, there was a flood video playing throughout the evening of the destruction that ripped through Jamestown, there was a speech by Mayor Tara at 6 pm and lastly people were encouraged to take photos with the American Red Cross & their 1,000 faces project that was setup outside the town hall event Friday night.

Saturday there was a big celebration for just residents in the Big Park with a huge rock Labyrinth dedication (over 30 residents helped create the labyrinth including the whole green girl family)! It's located by the tennis court at the big park and is just amazing to walk through and experience. Many locals read poems, the JES school kids sang songs, there was a huge bonfire and end to the last year of stress and road craziness. The town is really excited to have built a temporary new fire house at the big park and is currently looking into the possibility of composting for residents.

- 95% of the town now has running water
- The Mennonites are still in town helping to rebuild at 3 different homes
- The old Fire Station was just ripped down and removed

Lyons Report

Hauler's Ordinance – Lyons' Sustainable Futures Commission has developed a draft hauler's ordinance that would require solid waste haulers operating within the town to apply for an annual operating permit and submit an annual report. The goal is to gather data on the volumes of trash, recyclables, and compostables being collected on residential and commercial routes in Lyons. The ordinance is modeled on Boulder County's ordinance. The SFC expects to send a final draft to the Lyons Board of Trustees in October.

Expanded Spring Cleanup – in an attempt to increase diversion options and community involvement in Lyons' annual spring cleanup event, the SFC is also developing a plan to set the schedule of the event for a specific weekend that can be repeated annually, and is considering adding a town-wide yard sale and/or free exchange event to be held either the weekend before or on the same weekend as the cleanup event



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Oct. 22, 2014

Present:

Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland
Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Lisa Friend – Boulder County (phone)
Suzanne (Zan) Jones – Eco-Cycle (phone)
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Dan Matsch – Lyons
Lisa Morzel – At Large
Mark Persichetti – Louisville
Tim Plass – Boulder
Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward (phone)
Lisa Skumatz – At Large
Martin Toth – Superior

Active Members Not Present:

Tom Dowling – Lafayette
Shirley Garcia – Broomfield
Juri Freeman – At Large
Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Shari Malloy – At Large
Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Hilary Collins – Commissioners'
Office/Sustainability
Austin Everett – Commissioners'
Office/Sustainability

Guests:

Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal Services
Darla Arians – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division
Frank Bruno – Western Disposal Services
Polly Christensen – Longmont City Council
Sarah Linke – Boulder County Public Health
Kara Mertz – City of Boulder (phone)
Elizabeth Montalbano – Boulder County
Public Health
Toby Russell – (CEO) Natural Capitalism
Solutions
Kim Schlaepfer – Natural Capitalism Solutions
John Shepherd – Shepherd Sustainability
Nick Sterling – Natural Capitalism Solutions
Susie Strife – Sustainability Coordinator,
Commissioners' Office

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Persichetti called the meeting to order at 4:57 p.m. with the understanding that no formal business would be conducted without a quorum. A quorum was achieved at 5:04 p.m.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Special Introduction – Darla Arians, Interim Manager, Boulder County Resource Conservation Division

Darla received her degree from Naropa University with a concentration in Building Sustainable Environments. While at Naropa, Darla served as the Recycling and Waste Reduction Coordinator, and founded the Naropa zero waste program in 2002. For the past (nearly) five years, Darla has worked for the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division, coordinating all aspects of compost, trash, recycling and hard-to-recycle collection programs and contracts. She has spent extensive time working in the Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF) and recycling center programs as

well. She has also served as the chair of the county's internal Green Purchasing Zero Waste Subcommittee, secretary of the Colorado Product Stewardship Council, and chair of the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) Policy Committee. Darla volunteers on the CAFR Summit Planning Committee.

4. Approval of Minutes – After a quorum was gained, no changes to the September 2014 minutes were suggested. Lisa M. moved approval of the draft minutes; Jack D. seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

5. Special Report: Data Collection/Analysis

Darla Arians reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (copy posted with the October meeting handouts). The Boulder County Resource Conservation Division (BCRCD) is in charge of licensing all of the waste haulers operating in the unincorporated county and collecting data from them each year. Staff members run into problems with inconsistent data, including challenges with hauling routes not matching up with municipal boundaries and the large amount of staff time required to compile data from the haulers.

The categories of materials have changed over the years, and data on some materials is not being captured. To try and solve these challenges, the BCRCD has collaborated with the City of Boulder to align the two jurisdictions' reporting systems, update online reporting, and add more detail about where the collected material is going.

Both the EPA and CU use versions of the "Re-TRAC" collection data software with positive results. A copy of the software will be purchased by BCRCD and the City of Boulder in 2015 and run as a pilot. All of the licensed haulers will be contacted and their data managed by the BCRCD. After the first year, the BCRCD will be looking for other communities to cost-share the program expenses: The purchase cost will be split by Boulder County and City of Boulder in 2015. Total cost to Boulder County is \$7,491.00. The annual subscription fee is \$3,606 – to be split by Boulder County and City of Boulder in 2015. This amount could be split between additional parties in the future.

Q&A

- Lisa S. has been working since 2006 to bring Re-TRAC to Boulder County; in the last two years she submitted a joint RREO grant proposal with Re-TRAC to buy the program for the state. The application was unsuccessful.
- Dan M. asked whether the haulers all log on to the same system when reporting: Yes, they will either have a drop-down menu or a button depending on set up of the user interface.
- Question about other sources of funding. Answer: the county charges a licensing fee to cover the cost of the service.
- As new haulers join is there a mechanism to introduce them to this program? Yes, the BCRCD watches for new haulers and follows up with them to get them licensed.

- Could this be combined with or replace the county survey that Lisa S. performs each year for RCAB? Yes, that is a possibility.
- How does this system address data issues? It doesn't really; it helps track flows and is a more streamlined report, which is easier for the haulers.
- Would the haulers have access to run reports, or is it just the county? Limited reporting capability is available, however each municipality would not be able to look up others' data, and haulers could not look up other haulers.
- At some point doesn't the information become part of the public record? Not individual haulers' data, however, the collective data does.
- Susie says the Commissioners are interested in offering a sustainability matching grant to Boulder County communities again in 2015, which might help support this effort.

Boulder County Sustainability Program Impact Analysis (Zero Waste Component) –
Presentation by Toby Russell (CEO) and Nick Sterling, Natural Capitalism Solutions

Summary: Susie Strife Introduced Toby and Nick and explained her intentions in recruiting Natural Capitalism's assistance. Before the sustainability tax was retracted from this year's ballot, Sustainability staff was trying to figure out a better way to track some of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of county services. Last spring a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out to help evaluate program impacts: Natural Capitalism was hired.

Mr. Russell gave a brief overview of the project: The goal is to gain increased visibility for the sustainability program, while identifying gaps in measurement and creating metrics that will enable county staff to compare different programs. The plan will also identify various improvements that can happen within the county's sustainability program, and provide recommendations for innovative yet feasible programs. Phase one, the data collection and gap analysis, should be completed by the end of December. Simultaneously Natural Capitalism will be working on creating a drafting tool and performing a "landscape review" that looks at best practices across the country. Phase two will be the program reviews and recommendations. In order to gather sufficient data, Natural Capitalism staff will look at operational costs, environmental impacts, and social impacts. The programs being examined under "waste" are single-family residential programs, multi-family residential programs, commercial, industrial, construction and demolition, composting infrastructure, recycling infrastructure, HMMF, and the Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE). The evaluation will examine data over the past three years to create an average. Future benefits can be projected based on these averages.

Q&A

- Are parks and open space endeavors included, especially mitigation and biomass coming out of the mountains? Not to date. Natural Capitalism staff are working with parks and open space on specific items to be reviewed. The analysis will develop a baseline, that excludes flood experiences last year.

- Is there any plan on doing a dashboard to give the community an idea of where we are and where we are going? No doubt, we have needed this tool for a long time and the proposed sustainability tax is really the catalyst for starting it. “This is going to be very community-facing at the end of it. All the data collection it is a good opportunity to let the community know where we are, where we want to go, and what progress we’re making.”
- Could your analysis somehow incorporate or acknowledge the regulatory environment, the potential for intergovernmental agreements, and what kind of metrics and outreach would be needed? Yes.

6. **Priority Topic: Composting**

ACTION: Study Session to explore composting policy, program and infrastructure improvements needed to significantly increase organic diversion in individual municipalities and across the county.

Subcommittee and Working Group Reports

Optimization Subcommittee – Lisa Skumatz

Lisa introduced and reviewed the draft of a report by the optimization subcommittee provided with the October Meetings Handouts. The subcommittee is studying the effectiveness of the Boulder County Recycling Center (BCRC).

Q&A

- How long are the (BCRC sorting) shifts currently? 8 hours.
- In regards to the cardboard problem, have there been discussions with Western Disposal about the possibility of handling some of the recycling center’s cardboard, and what resulting costs or revenues might be? It’s partly a flow and process problem, Western Disposal has not been contacted about that opportunity, but the BCRC could discuss that with them. Currently problems arise from only having one shared baler, which means that the cardboard is processed after other materials and must be stored on site, causing storage problems. One solution would be to acquire another baler so that newspaper and cardboard can be baled simultaneously, thus not giving Western a commodity that could bring increased profits.
- Isn’t everything more expensive to run in Boulder? What does Western Disposal have to deal with compared to other haulers? A: Without a detailed budget for comparison, the topline comparison is “not favorable” - that includes talking to haulers and facilities in the Denver area.
- Comment: The conclusions being presented do not represent everyone on the optimization subcommittee. Ongoing discussions will take place.
- How does the subcommittee report fit with an analysis commissioned from the Kessler Group? Are they working independently or can they overlap? A: The subcommittee is not

analyzing how the (BCRC) facility is laid out. The Kessler analysis is a county funded study; the scope of work should be available to compare the reports. Kessler successfully responded to an RFP to have an outside consultant compare BCRC data against the country and region.

- Comment: It would be unfortunate if we had two sets of findings that weren't congruent or were refuting one another.
- Comment: The RFP was looking for an outside consultant to examine management and plant operations, and take confidential information to run their analysis then publish results that don't reveal proprietary information. It will look at per-ton costs, and are there ways to look at operational and financial efficiencies.

Infrastructure Working Group – Tim Plass and Charles Kamenides with input from Suzanne Jones.

Tim and Charles reviewed the compost capacity report, which found there is no compelling need to develop stand-alone composting at this time. It suggested Boulder County explore avenues that expand access to the Western site. The working group will meet one more time to finalize recommendations.

Preliminary recommendations:

- Goal should be a level playing field with a publicly accessible facility that drives diversion countywide.
- Explore how Western's facility could be opened to all haulers.
- Look at the relationship needs to address equity, governance, pricing, long-term viability and community value.
- Investigate future alternatives to the Weld County's digester for food waste as a transfer option, because that facility is designed to handle contamination issues and could have a lower tipping fee.

The speakers emphasized that these are preliminary recommendations and more research needs to be conducted. There was a commitment that Eco-Cycle and Western would sit down and hammer out some common ground on facts; they will then report back so the committee can analyze the information and move forward.

Q&A

- Comment: We have to be careful that when private facility or community does something the community wants them to do (such as building a facility to handle yard waste), the investor can feel confident that government is not going to come in and subsidize the establishment of a whole competing facility. "You undermine the people willing to invest and take those initial steps."
- Comment: This is also an opportunity to put more energy into smaller-scale compost operations. The report includes that there is a lot of value in backyard composting and that midsize (composting) is not happening now.

Education and Outreach Working Group – Hilary Collins

Key interests are collaboration, consistency, efficiency, and funding around educational messaging and signage. Door-to-door distribution has been very effective at getting information across, however it is more time-consuming and expensive than other options. There are a number of gaps, including the lack of consistent messaging specifically on “why to compost” rather than “how to compost.” Another gap is the inconsistency of information across communities; examples include differing information on different websites.

Preliminary recommendations include:

- Formalizing educational collaborations through an IGA (intergovernmental agreement)
- Prioritizing in-person commercial and residential support services
- Looking to the EnergySmart model for a successful example of advising services
- Extending incentives for commercial recycling to all communities
- Examining efficiencies in translation and training and working towards collaboration between communities
- To share and build on existing resources and to find additional funding to support expanded education

The working group will finalize these recommendations and get them back to RCAB by November’s meeting.

Q&A:

- How did you make the conclusion that there is not enough education? A: When programs are rolled out and there is little follow-through, they are not working. There is also a lack of consistent information across the board. When community residents go to a county website they should be able to find information on programs, even if their city does not currently offer them.

Report on Programmatic and Regulatory Options – Lisa Skumatz

Lisa Skumatz reviewed a PowerPoint presentation (copy posted with the October meeting handouts), continuing a discussion begun at the September meeting.

Q&A

- Can you give us the top 5 options? A: They vary for different communities; in communities that don’t have contracts it is more complicated, everybody should be requiring reporting. This body (RCAB) and the respective communities should all be lobbying cities and states about how onerous the siting specs are (for diversion facilities).

Compost Recommendations/Discussion: Some information is still lacking, recommendations will be tabled until the November meeting.

7. November Meeting/Agenda topics

After discussion about winter holidays, Lisa S. moved the November meeting date be set for Nov. 19 and the December meeting moved to Dec. 17. _____ seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Final recommendations on compost infrastructure, programs, policies, education, outreach, and signage
- Zero Waste Funding recommendation

8. Any Other Business

Comment: The current quorum system is quite frustrating, RCAB should think about alternative systems. Q: Can a proxy be used as a substitute? A: Not currently, according to bylaws. This discussion will be added to the December 17 agenda.

9. Community Reports - Questions on written reports only

- Lisa S. will be submitting a waste diversion plan to the Town of Superior Oct. 27.
- Bear-proof garbage and compost container rollouts in the City of Boulder are going well.

10. Adjournment:

Charles K. moved to adjourn at 6:43 p.m. Dan M. seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned.



Sustainability Office

Street Address: 1325 Pearl Street 13th Boulder, Colorado 80302
PO Box 471, Boulder, CO 80306 • Tel: 303-441-4565

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - November 19, 2014

Present:

Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Juri Freeman – At Large
Lisa Friend – Boulder County
Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal
Suzanne (Zan) Jones – Eco-Cycle
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Shari Malloy – At Large
Dan Matsch – Lyons
Lisa Morzel – At Large
Mark Persichetti – Louisville
Tim Plass – Boulder
Holly Running-Rabbit – Ward
Lisa Skumatz – At Large
Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation

Active Members Not Present:

Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland
Tom Dowling – Lafayette
Shirley Garcia – Broomfield
Jeff Stewart - Other Hauler (Waste Connections)
Martin Toth – Superior

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Hilary Collins – Commissioners’
Office/Sustainability
Austin Everett – Commissioners’
Office/Sustainability

Guests:

Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal Services
Darla Arians – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division
Kara Mertz – City of Boulder
Susie Strife – Sustainability Coordinator, Boulder
County Commissioners’ Office

1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Persichetti called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

Tim Plass moved approval of the Oct. 22, 2014 minutes as written; Suzanne Jones seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment – None

4. Priority Topic: Composting

Subcommittee and working Group Reports

Note: Lisa Skumatz’s report on the Recycling Center Subcommittee was incorrectly included under the composting topic and was moved to later in meeting.

Infrastructure Working Group

No report, but it was noted that at their next meeting the working group will review a matrix of compost facility options.

Education and Outreach Working Group

Hilary gave a presentation (see November meeting handouts) reviewing the working group's progress on composting education, outreach and signage. The group reviewed existing messaging and vehicles, what is working well and what isn't, gaps that exist and improvements needed. The group's recommendations were:

- Pursue consistent messaging and outreach, formalizing this collaboration through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA), supported by input from other partners
- Measure, share and build on existing resources and add to them
- Prioritize effective social marketing techniques
- Extend incentives to all communities
- Build efficiency in language translation and training
- Find funding for a pilot program and to support expanded education, advising and incentives

Hilary elaborated on the IGA concept noting that this approach also has potential for collaboration on other things such as diversion tracking/hauler data requirements, business recognition programs, advising services, and deconstruction plan requirements.

Comments and Q&A

- What is the pilot program? A: The IGA could be kicked off in a small way with as many communities who want to participate on collaborative education.
- Bryce encouraged making public or showcasing gardens using local compost to increase public awareness. Jack suggested the information could include price point and product comparisons.
- Juri asked about the scope of the IGA? A: It would include what the parties decided they wanted to accomplish.
- Lisa M. asked about the potential for all communities to sign on to the IGA? A: IGA's take time to build, the latest five-year IGA for hazardous materials management took 10 months to process since it was similar to the previous IGA it replaced, but not all communities in the county participate. A "zero waste" IGA is completely new and the level of difficulty will likely have to do with how much money is involved.
- Tim noted that an IGA is a lot of work only for composting. Does the scope just say people are on board with messaging or is there a financial cost to the governments involved? A: The IGA could be broader than just composting; it could cover multiple aspects of zero waste.
- Lisa F. asked how RCAB could begin to support this concept moving forward.
- Dan M. noted that an IGA is going to be our best tool, and could have great value but there will likely be a monetary aspect to it.
- Holly stressed local markets, saying there should be an ordinance that all compost stays within the county. Composted food scraps make good compost to grow food.

- Suzanne suggested that RCAB keep a list of expectations, desired actions that could be moved forward through an IGA.
- Jack made a motion that RCAB adopt the recommendations but there was no second.
- Dan S. suggested the working group spend a few more sessions on this before we vote to present it to the county commissioners.
- Juri thought the IGA should be addressed separately.
- Hilary asked about when the working group should refine its recommendations - now or when all the priorities have been addressed? It was agreed that the working group should conclude its work on composting sooner rather than later.
- Dan S. suggested the recommendation be more specific for example, the county should pursue consistent messaging so that it is more actionable.
- Mark encouraged RCAB members who are interested to make comments at the next education and outreach working group meeting.
- Tim noted that the haulers and nonprofits play an important part in consistent messaging and we should find a way to include them in the collaboration.
- Mark thought that RCAB should provide a detailed recommendation on potential funding and not leave it up to the County Commissioners to find funding.
- Lisa M. stressed the importance of metrics as a baseline and to show growth and positive change.
- Charles thought that some communities might be more receptive if an IGA encompasses more than just composting, and instead includes the entire zero waste spectrum.
- The working group was asked to return with more detailed, specific recommendations.

Compost Recommendations/Discussion

To be discussed next month.

RCAB optimization committee

Lisa S. presented a PowerPoint presentation (now added to the meeting handouts) that summarized the RCAB Optimization Consensus Report dated November 13, 2014 (included in the meeting handouts).

Comments and Q&A:

- Holly asked about opportunities for higher revenues and if this is mainly from scrap metals. A: Yes.
- What about accepting source-separated materials? A: That's how operations can be changed but the plant is not currently laid out to do that.
- There is also consultant study of the recycling center in progress. Suzanne noted that a draft is currently being reviewed by county RCD staff and Eco-Cycle.

- Charles noted that he didn't see inefficiencies in the plant, so that is not the reason for the higher expenses.

Note at 5:57 pm Lisa S. began chairing the meeting due to Mark's early departure.

Lisa M. moved to accept the report as presented, and Bryce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Priority Topic: Recommendations from Subcommittee on Zero Waste Funding for 2015

The meeting handouts included a chart summarizing the applications received and the subcommittee recommendations. Charles presented, noting that 14 applications were received and the subcommittee met to evaluate and recommend funding. The recommendation was that 9 entities be granted money:

- Full-funding of \$10,000 recommended for the Boulder County Resource Conservation Division to purchase equipment for a compost drop-off in Nederland. (Infrastructure Program)
- Full-funding of \$9,960 recommended for the City of Lafayette to engage in education about new compost opportunities in seven neighborhoods with populations that include high numbers of the elderly and Latinos. (Education Program)
- Full-funding of \$2,352 recommended for the City of Lafayette to purchase additional Zero Waste stations. (Infrastructure Program)
- Full-funding of \$10,000 recommended for the City of Louisville to engage in Zero Waste education targeted at individuals who use larger garbage containers. (Education Program)
- Full-funding of \$5,179 recommended for the Town of Lyons to purchase Zero Waste stations for municipal buildings. (Infrastructure Program)
- Partial-funding of \$2,104 recommended for the Town of Lyons to provide incentives for Zero Waste volunteers at community events. (Education Program)
- Full-funding of \$4,600 recommended for a new group, Bands for Lands (supported by Sustainable Revolution) to offer an "Xtreme" Zero Waste event in Longmont for Earth Day. (Education Program)
- Full-funding of \$5,805 recommended for the Town of Ward to support and document monthly recycling collection services and a single, summer CHaRM event. (Education Program)

Comments and Q&A:

- Holly asked why the Earth Club was denied funding. A: Their numbers needed more definition. They will be asked to apply again with better documentation.
- Dan M.: We've been trying to contract to do composting in Ned for a couple of years but the equipment hurdle has been unpassable thus far.
- Juri moved to forward the funding recommendations to the BOCC> Shari seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. December Meeting/Agenda topics

- It was agreed that the Board will continue to focus on composting until recommendations for this priority area are completed. Lisa S. will distribute a score item before next month's meeting.
- Lisa F. will prepare an existing conditions report for the next priority area i.e. Construction and Demolition (C&D), and this will only be discussed if time allows.
- It was agreed that Outlook calendars seemed effective at addressing quorum issues, and having some food was a good thing too. Hilary said staff would strive to put all the documents into one PDF.

7. Any other Business

Lisa F. attended an interesting webinar on recyclable materials. The speaker noted that the recycling industry wants to fight against the consumer changes towards light-weight but unrecyclable materials such as juice packs. The speaker suggested the industry might need to accept that some waste is inevitable.

8. Community Reports

Lisa F. reported that the county is wrapping up a 14-month project to drive Zero Waste in the mountains, funded by the USDA. One element was a partnership with the Town of Nederland and Boulder County Forest Health to begin accepting pine needles and dried grass for composting at both Community Forestry Sort Yards. Though needles and dried grass are recommended to be removed from gutters and the proximity of structures in the mountains, there had heretofore been no effective method for diverting the material. The USDA and Nederland partnered to pay for 10 roll-off containers of needles that were sent to composting from the mountains: A diversion of more than 20 tons! More details on success of the USDA project will be shared when the final report is completed next month.

Bridget reported that all Jamestown residents now HAVE water and water is now 100% potable!! The town water supply is working really well even under these horribly cold conditions. More concrete and work will be done on infrastructure when the weather gets better. Jamestown has 6 working community groups helping to create the vision of what rebuilding Jamestown looks like in the next year. These groups will commence just before Christmas to share their ideas with the town board. Rebuild Jamestown is happening! All road work to Jamestown is complete (pavement, signage and edging as of Oct 30th). There will be 2 more weeks of final erosion work and then any additional work will be in the scope of work for road rebuilding next spring. (Be careful if you come up to town, the new road freezes faster than the old one in places and there are harsher turns to town now!). The town is looking at making a decision to where the new Anderson Hill bridge will be located (property lines, legal issues) currently and hopes to make a decision in the next two weeks so an RFP can go out for builders.

Charles: City wide leaf collection in Longmont picking up and composting leaves. Now getting into holiday recycling, also now have a Styrofoam recycling option.

Dan M. noted that Lyons contracted with Natural Capitalism Solutions before the flood to come up with a sustainability action plan; since the flood it has shifted and integrated FEMA. A draft is headed towards the Board of Trustees.

Holly commented that Ward would be very glad to receive a grant to help with recycling.

Tim noted that the City of Boulder is in the process of updating their zero waste plan and creating a strategic action plan which will include a framework for making decisions on their trash tax. The city is also considering ordinances to recycle commercial materials in the city, and for food generating business / multi-family units to have mandatory composting. The plan will be brought to Council in January or February 2015. The city also added meat and dairy to acceptable compost items.

Suzanne reported that Eco-Cycle has put out a holiday guide that will help people to reduce waste over the holidays.

Adjournment

Lisa F. moved to adjourn; Lisa M. seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2014

Present:

Alexander Armani-Munn – Nederland (phone)
Tom Dowling – Lafayette
Lisa Friend – Boulder County
Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Dan Matsch – Lyons
Lisa Morzel – At Large
Mark Persichetti – Louisville
Tim Plass – Boulder
Holly Running-rabbit – Ward
Lisa Skumatz – At Large
Dan Stellar – Center for Resource Conservation

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Hilary Collins – Commissioners' Office/Sustainability
Austin Everett – Commissioners' Office/Sustainability

Active Members Not Present:

Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Juri Freeman – At Large
Shirley Garcia – Broomfield
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Suzanne (Zan) Jones – Eco-Cycle
Shari Malloy – At Large
Jeff Stewart - Other Hauler (Waste Connections)
Martin Toth – Superior

Guests:

Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal Services
Darla Arians – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division
Leigh Cushing – Partners for a Clean Environment / Boulder County Public Health
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
John Shepherd – Shepherd Sustainability

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Mark Persichetti called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Dan Matsch noted that two of three comments regarding the committee reports infrastructure and outreach should be attributed to Dan Stellar rather than himself. The minutes have been updated to reflect this. Lisa M moved to accept the corrected November 19, 2014, minutes, Holly seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. **Public Comment – None**

4. **Priority Topic: Composting**

4a. Subcommittee and working Group Reports

Infrastructure Working Group

Tim reviewed the criteria for a compost site and explained the options matrix, see handouts. The purpose was to get a sense of the pros and cons for each site and which

should be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners. The hope is to have recommendations ready to share with the RCAB by January or February's meeting.

The goal is a level playing field: a publicly accessible facility that drives diversion county-wide:

- It should be open to all haulers including municipalities and residential contracts
- The relationship needs to address equity and have guarantees regarding pricing, governance, long term viability, and community values
- Any facility needs to be licensed with a good water quality protection and well managed
- It should produce or lead to U.S. Composting Council Seal of Testing Approval (STA) certified compost that is well marketed
- It should have transportation costs competitive with landfills for major population centers
- It should have lower Greenhouse Gas (GHG) impacts and the overall solution addresses any community disadvantaged by facility's location
- Any facility needs to meet the immediate needs of communities that are moving forward on zero waste in the upcoming years
- RCAB also would like to see a significant portion include in county-produced compost or other resources

Q&A / Comments

- Bryce: If the city of Boulder passes an ordinance that requires commercial composting, Western is willing to open up its facility to other commercial haulers.
- Holly: Where do fossil fuels play a role in decision making? A: There is another analysis underway examining distances and transportation costs that will be shared with RCAB after it is shown to the working group. We do not have a good model regarding GHGs in regards to compost.
- Charles: I don't think that the City of Longmont will have a viable facility to process compost nor as a transfer site; the recycling facility does not have room.

Education and Outreach Working Group

Mark presented the update. The Education and Outreach Working Group met on the 15th and created a plan of action to address countywide compost messaging. The working group is creating a marketing sub-group to work on congruent signage/for residential and commercial audiences in Boulder County.

The general feeling is that there is a large amount of information already available on websites managed by haulers and local municipalities. There is a need to aggregate and combine the messages that already exist, remove overlap, and then explore if any further gaps of information need to be filled.

The working group has also established the need for a bi-annual 'stakeholder' group (any individual who will use the composting message). At its next meeting, RCAB will receive more specific information regarding the working group's goals and potential needs for 2015.

Mark said that the recommendation to proceed with an IGA is moving forward and will be discussed further by the working group. The next subcommittee meeting will address messaging. Lisa F suggested the larger IGA discussion be talked about with the RCAB, rather than in the subgroups, to keep the information publically accessible. A: The point emphasized was that the subgroup thinks an IGA would be a good vehicle for moving this issue forward.

Compost Recommendations/Discussion

Organics program concepts developed by Lisa S were handed out. Lisa reviewed options and explained possible ways to sort them by: score, politics, tons, city cost, and generator cost. Residential recommendations are on one side of each handout and commercial recommendations on the other (see handouts).

After discussion, the Board agreed to next consider the top scoring recommendations (in terms of diversion score) for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

5. Priority Topic: C&D Diversion

Lisa F. talked about existing conditions (see handouts) and gave a brief overview of current progress. She does not feel that the group has as much information as is needed and suggested the draft report be supplemented over the next few weeks for further review in January. It was noted that Boulder County's BuildSmart recycling requirement applies only to residential C&D in the unincorporated area.

Q&A / Comments

- Lisa F. wondered whether Boulder County needs as large a facility as recommended in the 2010 C&D study. Dan M. observed that there has been a major change locally because the Tri-City Recycle Center operated by Recycled Materials Company (located Southeast of Erie) has closed. Now the nearest C&D facility is in Henderson, Colorado. Dan thinks people will be unwilling to drive to Henderson.
- Bryce noted that Western Disposal's C&D sorting service is only getting about 34% reusable materials from the C&D loads received.

- Holly: Recap residential vs commercial? A: There are some, mostly voluntary, programs for residential. There are none for commercial.
- Tim: Are there other communities we should be looking at that have had success with their programs? Lisa F: Most of them have \$75 a ton tipping fees. Lisa M: but that is outside of Colorado, it might be instructive for us to read further into it.
- Tim: What are the tipping fees in Washington State? A: \$75-\$90 per ton.
- Lisa M: last week some local decision-makers attended an Eco-Cycle program and discussed a local cardboard ban. A: Boulder County has no authority to ban, so that would need to be done by the individual cities.
- Holly: can we have an IGA wish list for items such as this cardboard ban?

The group agreed that after the Center for Resource Conservation presentation about “why divert” C&D, the topic should be addressed by the infrastructure and education subcommittees, which would bring recommendations back to RCAB.

6:05 Mark turned over leadership to Lisa S.

6. January Meeting/Agenda topics

After discussion, the Board agreed to focus on the 2015 agenda review, a report from Resource Conservation and the Kessler report in January. Compost will be discussed only if recommendations have been presented for consideration.

Darla noted that if the Kessler report is ready before the January RCAB meeting, an outside consultant will likely present it to the board.

7. Any other Business – none

8. Community Reports

- Lisa F: The USDA report is completed. This program was designed to collect 1,165 tons from Boulder County’s mountain communities and actually documented 1,411 tons - almost 250 more than planned. The final report will be sent to RCAB. Also, the manager’s position for Resource Conservation has been announced and posted on the Boulder County website.
- Jamie: The City of Boulder is drafting its Zero Waste Strategic Plan, and has been having working group meetings to develop the commercial recycling and compost ordinance.- The draft plan and options for that ordinance will probably go to Council around mid-February. Tim and Lisa M. expressed enthusiasm for commercial recycling and composting.

- Charles: Longmont is preparing the recycling center for the holidays, collecting lights and wrapping paper items and also has started collecting #6 white foam block. Discussion of polystyrene recycling processing and markets followed.
- Holly: Ward got a recycling grant so they are very happy and excited.

Adjournment

Lisa F. moved for adjournment at 6:27 p.m. Lisa M. seconded the motion. Because some members had left during the update section, no quorum was available to vote on the motion, and the group disbanded.