



Sustainability Office

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Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – February 24th, 2016

Present:

Darla Arians – Boulder County (phone)
Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Shirley Garcia – Broomfield
Holly Hughes – Ward
Bryce Isaacson – Western Disposal
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown (phone)
Suzanne (Zan) Jones – Eco-Cycle
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Neal Lurie – Center for Resource
Conservation
Dan Matsch – Lyons
Lisa Morzel – Boulder
Mark Persichetti – Louisville
Tim Plass – At-Large
Jeff Stewart – Other Hauler (phone)
Camille Thorson – Nederland
Heather Wood – At Large (phone)

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Leigh Cushing – Commissioners'
Office/Sustainability
Austin Everett – Commissioners'
Office/Sustainability

Guests:

Kevin Afflerbaugh – Western Disposal
Services
David Bebak – Boulder County
Ron Flax – Boulder County Land Use
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Kara Mertz – City of Boulder

Active Members Not Present:

Stephanie Walton – Lafayette
Juri Freeman – At Large
Shari Malloy – At Large
Martin Toth – Superior

1. Call to Order

Dan Matsch called the meeting to order at 4:48pm.

2. Approval of January 2016 Minutes

Mark Persichetti moves to approve the minutes, Holly Hughes seconds the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Update on board changes so far this year, and process on filling seat vacancies

The board currently has two vacancies, and applications for the positions have been submitted. The Commissioners are reviewing the applications. There will be an update at the next meeting.

4. Public Comment / Community Reports

- Longmont City Council has directed staff to come back with an ordinance for enhanced organics collection, and a pay-as-you-throw program. Anticipated launch of Spring of 2017.
- CU would like to meet with any other public sectors which are required to file a Zero Waste plan. Jack would like to meet with others and the Governor's Office

to get more clarity around state regulations. CU has also put out an RFP for collecting the 24 tons of books clothes and appliances that will be left behind when students move off campus in May.

- The Nederland Sustainability Advisory Board has developed a community agriculture sub-committee. They are working with the non-profit called Victory Gardens on community gardens. They are also developing a potential farmers' market type event focusing on local products and Zero Waste.
- Boulder County applied for an extension permit for the Allenspark transfer station. This station has been operating since '82 and if the permit is granted it will allow the county to use the other half of the lot for composting or other waste diversion activities.
- Lyons has had 23 houses taken down from the 2013 flood, 7 houses still to go. The town is also considering moving the location of their recycling drop-off center.
- The City of Boulder is knee deep trying to implement the Universal Zero Waste Action Plan. The city has also seen a 69% reduction of plastic bags at stores where the bag fee is applied.
- PACE is restarting Zero Waste bin incentives. They have also begun a campaign with the Longmont Downtown Development Authority to spread the word about the bin program.
- Jamestown has 2 new houses being built; and another eco-house has just been completed. Lefthand Canyon has been closed for reconstruction.

5. Working Group Updates:

The RCAB infrastructure working group has been working to develop a list of recommendations to present to the commissioners. They shared their matrix of priorities and goals.

Construction & Demolition (C&D) - the infrastructure group recommends that the county scale up some of the existing facilities and programs that aim at recycling and reuse of "soft" C+D materials like lumber, fixtures and other reusable materials . A program like the one currently proposed has the potential to significantly increase diversion, and also help the City of Boulder and the county to enforce current diversion requirements.

The group also recommends investing in community-scale compost solutions, one of which could be an organics campus. There is a need for increased composting for mountain town businesses.

A board member asked if there is a way to bring Western's compost tip fee down? Not likely. The \$77/ton covers their operations costs. Until someone else comes up with a number that is based on real studies, land prices and operations costs there is no other reference points to know a comparable rate to run a compost facility.

One working group member pointed out that the subsidies possibility was added without much group input, she is worried about subsidizing the price difference between composting sites as the amount of commercial compost increases.

It has been identified that Western Disposal has capacity but that the fees are cost prohibitive for some entities, so the subsidies were proposed as a way to help increase access to Western's facility.

C&D aggregate facility:

This is a need in the county, but has been placed in the low-priority tier due to infrastructure costs.

Mountain town infrastructure:

The drop-off facilities are aging and becoming outdated, the potential diversion increase is low but this is considered a priority to ensure the mountain communities are treated equitably.

Notes on Matrix:

What is the lifecycle of the planned Boulder County Recycling Center equipment upgrades? Equipment is generally expected to last for 10-20 years.

What is the solar buyout? The county has a lease-to-purchase agreement for the panels that currently help supply power to the facility.

Optical scanner vs bailer timeframe? There is not currently funding for the optical portion, there is enough funding for the cardboard bailer and the building improvements. The current paper bailer is running over capacity.

Totaling the matrix columns gives a 15-26 million expense range over 5+ years. What about land and additional costs that cannot be ignored? You could separate out the two proposals that require land and have them in a postponed section until there is more clarity on land identification. The county is going ahead with forming a land use/sustainability task force to look for appropriate land. The RCAB infrastructure group will help identify the needs of RCAB to this task force.

Is there a way to use some of the open space agricultural land for a compost facility? Ron has looked into that but it is not possible due to the wording of how the land was bought that it will be used specifically for agriculture. Ron will look into thresholds of how much compost is too much and triggers problems.

Members wondered if we are missing any opportunities to expand markets. Some cities like Austin Texas are really taking on local market development that may be something Boulder County could model.

A question was asked about where the \$100-300k numbers came from for a compost transfer station, Jaimie based it on previous research as the city of Boulder considers potential sites. Members raised concerns about the possibility of community disruption if a compost transfer station were built on the 6400 site.

Members would like to see how the matrix compares with the Zero Waste priorities that were previously developed. It aligns on education and informational programs more than infrastructure.

It was suggested that the group focus on a C&D transfer station rather than compost because there is currently no C&D facilities but there is current compost facility access. Compost is a priority for the City of Boulder because there will be a dramatic increase in compost collection as early as June with the new Zero Waste ordinance.

One member thinks that there will be more impacts than have not been accounted for and that the minimum numbers are not realistic by that standard.

The costs in a matrix are the initial startup costs, and this is meant to be big picture information, once the Commissioners' give approval to the proposals RCAB can get into the weeds on other costs such as location and staffing.

One member warns that if the City of Boulder does not implement its compost solutions in a considerate manner the political firestorm could impact public perception come November regarding the Sustainability Tax.

The group is not ready to vote on this priorities list and recommend that Leigh presents this information as a working draft during her next meeting with the Commissioners. Jack asks that the infrastructure group check which of these priorities are tied to the counties sustainability goals.

6. Adjourn

Shirley Garcia moves to adjourn and Neal Lurie seconds the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.