

SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2009

1. Call to Order & Introduction

The meeting of the AB 939 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group was called to order by Susan Weisbart, Chair, at 3:10 p.m., on Monday July 13, 2009.

Roll Call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Member Jurisdictions Present

Jim Rodkey
Rene Rosales
Deanna Pressgrove
Oscar Santana
Frankie Riddle
Diana Beck
Susan Weisbart, Chair
Robert Edwards
Diane Christiansen

Agency

City of Blythe
City of Coachella
City of Cathedral City
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Rancho Mirage
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
Riverside County Waste Management

Member Jurisdictions Absent

City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Palm Springs

Others Present

Mike Veto
Renado Gouldlock
Jennifer Salciccoli
Debbie Morris
Gregory Trueblood

Burrtec
Burrtec
Burrtec
HF&H Consultants
HF&H Consultants

CVAG Staff Present

Katie Barrows
Linda Rogers

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Susan Weisbart, Chair.

3. Finalization of Agenda & Additions and Revisions

No additions or revisions.

4. Public Comments

None.

5. Committee Member & Director Comments

None.

6. **Correspondence**

None.

7. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair for FY 2009/2010**

Susan Weisbart suggested that this committee take on a chair rotation. Discussion ensued. Nominations were opened and Frankie Riddle and Bruce Williams were nominated for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

The consensus of the committee was to elect Frankie Riddle as Chair and Bruce Williams as Vice Chair.

8. **Update on Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)**

Diane Christiansen reported that the permanent HHW facility opened on July 11 in Palm Springs at 1100 Vella Road. A flyer announcing the opening of the new facility was distributed to the committee. Diane stated that on opening day, residents were redirected from the ABOP site to the new HHW facility. Diane explained that the schedule has been reduced for the HHW temporary events and added that the County is experiencing high costs for compliance. Diane commented that due to the economic outlook of her department, there is a need to be prudent right now and scale back on the number of temporary events especially since there is now a regional facility. Waste Management Department will continue with two events a year in Blythe. Events will also be continued out at the eastern end of the valley. There has been lots of support from the Cities of Cathedral City and Palm Springs and Diane expressed appreciation to city staff. Both Diane Christiansen and the Chair urged members to get information on city websites. Information is also available on the Riverside County Waste Management Department website.

Diane also added that jurisdictions need to promote source reduction to our residents through public education.

A discussion ensued regarding types of products that were reusable such as paints and cleaning products and a mechanism for the public to come and pick these items up through a reuse program. Eventually there will a reuse store at Lamb Canyon.

9. **Used Oil Program Update**

Debbie Morris thanked the TWG for the opportunity for HF&H to assist with the Used Oil Grant administration and management; she noted they will be starting the fourth year. Debbie Morris provided an overhead presentation featuring some of this year's used oil events. Debbie announced the winner of the drawing contest and the runners-up for this year. Some of the prizes donated were a bicycle and gift certificates and Debbie thanked the cities that donated the items. One of the changes that will be made this year in the drawing contest will be to ask for the cities' involvement. The majority of the entrants for this year's contest were mainly from one school, and Debbie stated that she would like to see participation from more schools. Debbie Morris described the

various elements of this year's used oil program; i.e. having a bilingual banner made, making the events more family-oriented and the radio coverage. Debbie also discussed the results of this year's events. A comparison was provided in a staff report in terms of the number of oil filters recycled and the percent increase/decrease for each of the cities.

Debbie discussed some next steps -- the 2009/10 cost reduction alternatives, annual report coming due on August 15, and application for the 15th Cycle Used Oil Block Grant due by July 31, 2009.

Debbie Morris will be putting together a budget for the 2009/10 events, trying to reduce expenses since the grant funds will be cut by 45%. If jurisdictions have individual questions or ideas on how to further reduce the budget, city staff were urged to present their ideas and discuss at September's meeting.

10. Discussion on Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy

Katie indicated that one of the questions asked by the California Integrated Waste Board (CIWMB) for the Used Oil Program was whether or not CVAG had an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy in place. Staff inquired if other jurisdictions have such a policy in place and if not, have jurisdictions considered adopting one. It was noted that the following jurisdictions have such a policy: Indio, Cathedral City, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and Riverside County. The City of Indian Wells has a policy but not in writing. Susan Weisbart indicated that the Sustainability Pledge which the Mayor's signed had some environmental language in it. Discussion ensued regarding those jurisdictions that had a policy. Diane Christensen commented that if jurisdictions are applying for grants, they could be excluded if the jurisdiction does not have a policy in place. There was some discussion that this was a good reason for CVAG to have an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy in place. Models of the policy are available on the CIWMB website. Susan Weisbart suggested that at the September meeting, those cities who have a policy could share those with the group. The Chair requested that those cities which have a policy in place please forward a copy to Katie Barrows.

11. Used Carpet Recycling

Susan Weisbart stated that Bruce Williams requested that this item be deferred until September's meeting.

12. Update on the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) Conference, August 2-5, 2009, in Rancho Mirage

Katie Barrows stated an inquiry came in from Heidi Sanborn with the California Product Stewardship Council. The committee was reminded that last year CVAG adopted the California Product Stewardship Council Resolution. Ms. Sanborn was interested in knowing if other cities had adopted the resolution as well. Ms. Sanborn would be happy to meet with any staff or make a presentation to any city council since she will be down for the CRRRA Conference on August 2-5. Katie indicated that she would forward Heidi Sanborn's e-mail, and those jurisdictions interested, could contact her if they desired to do so.

Katie Barrows asked about the conference in terms of things that highlight local programs. Susan Weisbart believed that most of the slots had been filled, and the local piece that they will do is that there will be a field trip. Oscar Santana, City of La Quinta, also asked about the status of this. At a prior meeting, the City of La Quinta had offered to give out DVD's on the LEED certified Vista Dunes project. Oscar Santana inquired if this was something the committee would still like the City of La Quinta to do. Susan Weisbart stated that this was on the CRRA schedule in terms of the field trip but was surprised to learn that no one had yet contacted the City of La Quinta. Susan Weisbart agreed to contact CRRA and follow-up. The field trip visits will be to the MURF in Fontana, CalBio, Lamb Canyon, the LEED certified Vista Dunes project in La Quinta, and the Living Desert. The local piece in the schedule will be the Curiosity Quest film and someone will be there to narrate it. The Curiosity Quest film is the result of five cities that pulled together to sponsor an episode on wastewater which was filmed at Coachella Valley Water District.

13. Green Waste Subcommittee Update

Katie Barrows reported that the Green Waste Subcommittee met in June to discuss the issue of palm material. The meeting was called following the discussion at May's TWG regarding the options for dealing with palm fronds and other materials. Ted Dumas with SCR addressed the TWG in May indicating that he was no longer able to accept palm material. The subcommittee identified two issues with the palm material: (1) what is the current capacity for recycling palm in the Coachella Valley; and (2) what are other options for using palm materials as erosion control and the potential for market development.

Susan Weisbart stated there is a capacity in the desert for the palm materials between two other facilities. There was further discussion and the Chair asked the committee to think about any future landscaping plans that the jurisdictions have in terms of things being planted, and to think about what you are going to do with the green waste and how you are going to address it. Susan Weisbart addressed user responsibility and asked the committee to think about what other ways palm materials can be utilized and to consider in landscape agreements and ordinances.

14. Legislation Updates

None.

15. Consent Calendar

Approval

15A Approve Minutes of the May 11, 2009 Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group.

It was the consensus of the committee to continue this item and resubmit the minutes for approval in September.

16. Announcements

- CVAG Committees go dark in August.

- The next meeting of the Solid Waste & Recycling Technical Working Group is scheduled for September 14, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II