

MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, REGULAR MEETING Held at Southwest Solid Waste Authority offices, 318 Ridge Road, Silver City, NM; JUNE 4, 2009 (Minutes prepared by Richard Mahler)

Present: Terry Timme (Chair), Alan Archer, Ramon Arroyo, C.J. Law, Deanna Mooney, Joseph Schindler, Diana Temple, Richard Mahler. Absent: Ann Alexander, Avery Gentle, George Llewellyn.

#### Call to Order

Chairperson Timme called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes

By acclamation, minutes of the May 7, 2009, meeting were approved as submitted by Terry.

#### Public Input- None

#### Report from SWSWA

CJ reported that he had not been notified of any change in the SWSWA county recycling contract, which is coming up for renewal at the end of the current fiscal year. Terry said County Manager Alex Brown had called him to dismiss rumors that cuts were planned in curbside pickup. In Brown's view, "we will ride out this tough economic times."

Ramon circulated statistics on recyclables collected over the last several years and there was a brief discussion of the trends. In general, recycling numbers are up, although overall diversion from trash remains low at about six percent. It was restated that public education should be a major goal. C.J. and Diana talked about brochures, stick-on labels, and refrigerator magnets as ways to circulate information about recycling.

C.J. said there are continuing problems with a few residents who place trash in recycling bins and SWSWA is considering removing their bins if misuse continues. Ramon said that overall there has been less trash among recyclables collected. Terry and others said there is still confusion about what plastics are not recyclable locally, such as pill bottles and food containers. C.J. said he is open to any suggestions on way to help educate people about recycling.

Ramon reported that the recycling roll-off bin painting was complete and all have been put into service. Because school ended before judging of bins could take place, it was decided to split the prize money among art teachers at all participating schools: In essence, "Everybody won."

Ramon reported that Master Fiber had picked up recyclables recently and prices were up slightly for cardboard (now \$40 per ton) and aluminum (now 25 cents per pound). Plastic, magazines, and scrap metal are not currently being sold due to low demand.

C.J. described a very difficult situation facing SWSWA in that the volume of trash collected (100 tons each day) has tripled expectations and it is necessary to prepare a new cell for containment. Cell Five is almost full and if a new cell is not ready and approved in time an emergency situation could result, with all trash diverted to the Las Cruces landfill at great cost and inconvenience. It will cost \$450,000 to prepare a new cell and future cells may face problems due to a

rising water table. (These cells are near the Tyrone water treatment plant.) C.J. reiterated the need to more people to separate their trash, particularly brush and cardboard. The next new cell, he said, will fill up in less than three years at the current rate of collection.

#### Old Business

In a Blues Festival wrap-up, Terry thanked everyone involved for making it a successful collection event. Ramon reported that we collected about 390 pounds of recyclables at Gough Park on May 23-24. Richard described the collection procedure, which was aided by Avery and Albert. Contamination was low and participation high. Diana asked why some of the 14 bins had sponsorship signs. Richard explained that only 10 bins were purchased with Keep New Mexico Beautiful funds; the others were bought with business donations. After posting sponsorship signs on these bins twice, they will now be retired. Richard also suggested solicitation of more vendor participation and stage announcements at the next event.

#### New Business

##### Viva Verde Expo

Terry mentioned that the Expo would be held June 26-28 and committee members agreed we should place several collection bins at venues used during the festival. Allyson Siwik of GRIP, a co-sponsor of Viva Verde, invited our participation. Richard agreed to meet with Ramon to work out a plan of action.

##### Crushed Glass

Alan mentioned an operation now underway in Albuquerque whereby recyclable glass is crushed and processed to be used in landscaping. C.J. said he would be happy to send SWSWA glass to Albuquerque if anyone was willing to cover the shipping logistics and costs.

#### Next meeting

Will be held August 27 at 4 p.m. at the SWSWA office.

#### Adjournment

We adjourned at 4:45 p.m.