

## **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; January 14, 2010.**

**(Minutes prepared by Richard Mahler)**

**Present:** Terry Timme (Chair), C.J. Law (SWSWA), Diana Temple (SWSWA), Ramon Arroyo (SWSWA), Alan Archer, Richard Mahler, Joseph Schindler, Ann Alexander, Chuck Fuller (guest), Arlan Lazere (guest). **Absent:** George Llewellyn, Avery Gentle, and Deanna Mooney.

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Terry at 4:04 pm.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Approval of the minutes from the previous two meetings as submitted was by acclamation.

### **Public Input**

Chuck presented information regarding the recycling of used tires with the possibility of shredded tires to use as playground or landscape mulch as well as landfill cover or in siting of houses. City councilor Tom Nupp is said to be seeking a local building code change to make such usage legal here. Chuck said most commercial shredders were very expensive but that WalMart contracts with Quest Recycling of Texas for a shredder that is trailer mounted for shredding of tires from various WalMart stores. He is awaiting more information from them about possible use of the Quest shredder in our community, perhaps putting Silver City on a regular route. C.J. said there are tons of tires stored at the landfill and SWSWA will be happy to get rid of them, but cannot afford to ship them out. Chuck noted that an EPA study has okayed shredded tires in terms of environmental toxicity.

Arlan asked about recycling operations at the Gila transfer station and whether the list of materials accepted for recycling there might be expanded to include glass. She also inquired as to whether scavenging could be allowed for dropped-off items residents considered useful. C.J. outlined reasons why recycling is limited at the transfer stations (i.e. safety) and said that state law tied SWSWA's hands as far as allowing scavenging. Once materials are dropped at the landfill or transfer station, he noted, they become the responsibility of SWSWA and liability concerns prohibit scavenging of them. C.J. suggested that people in the Gila area find a place on private land to deposit and exchange usable materials that have been donated.

### **Report from SWSWA**

#### **CJ Law**

C.J. outlined a major change in the way SWSWA handles recycling to be initiated through a 60-to-90-day pilot program that he expects will become permanent. The program will be implemented within a matter of weeks. Under this initiative, all recyclables will be trucked, unsorted to Friedman Recycling in El Paso, for sorting and shipment to vendors. Curbside pick-up will continue, although participants will be asked to separate their glass and leave the rest of their recyclables comingled. C.J. also said

Friedman will accept chipboard, catalogues, magazines and colored paper. Eventually, the company may also accept glass. SWSWA will provide the truck and driver to take local recyclables to El Paso. According to C.J., Friedman currently handles curbside recycling for both the city of El Paso and Doña Ana County, processing 2500 tons per day, of which only 5 percent is waste. (Typically, about 30 percent of SWSWA's recyclable pick-ups is unusable.)

The SWSWA board will make the final decision on continuation of the pilot program once data is evaluated. C.J. said it would cost \$14 per ton to dispose of recyclables in El Paso, potentially savings SWSWA \$50,000 per year. He said personnel would be shifted if the program is made permanent and there may be one or more layoffs.

C.J. reported that Ed's Recycling of Clovis, NM, has collected 25 tons of metal on site with a mobile crusher and expects to continue pick-ups at SWSWA in the future.

C.J. reported the landfill is proposing to cover open cells daily with a thin layer of crushed glass, chipped tires, or hydro-mulch to help prolong the life of each cell and reduce the amount fill dirt used for the required amount of coverage. He said SWSWA is requesting a permit for "alternate" supplemental usage from the state government's environment department and approval is expected. SWSWA would use the glass crusher it currently owns for the glass layer.

C.J. said the landfill had an unscheduled inspection recently from the NM Environment Department, with positive results and no deficiencies noted.

There was a general discussion of ways to improve recycling participation in Silver City. The consensus was that in order to reduce the waste stream while increasing the stream of recyclables some form of financial incentive may be the most effective route.

### **Ramon Arroyo**

Ramon reported on a Jan. 8 visit to the El Paso recycling facility, describing the size and scope of the operation. He noted that eight conveyor belts are used in hand-sorting the huge stream of recyclables there. Ramon seemed very impressed with Friedman's processing.

## **New Business**

### **Holiday Recycling**

In response to some apparent confusion and disruption related to recent holiday curbside recycling pick-ups, C.J. said that in the future SWSWA will follow the Town of Silver City's holiday schedule rather than one of its own.

### **Recycling Staff Discourteousness**

Asked to respond to residential customer complaints about alleged discourteousness over the telephone by a recycling employee, C.J. said: "We've dealt with that."

### **Recycle Truck Litter**

Asked to respond to complaints of litter created by items falling off the recycling truck in residential areas, C.J. said: "We've dealt with that, too."

### **Earth Day e-waste event**

Terry suggested and committee members seemed to support scheduling of an e-waste event on April 24 in conjunction with Earth Day. Terry reiterated that he has

been in contact with representatives of Albuquerque Recycling Inc., which did not feel there would be a large enough response to warrant coming to Grant County but would accept e-waste if we collected it and trucked it to them. They do not charge to accept computers, servers or most other e-waste. They do charge a modest disposal fee for TVs and CRT monitors. Terry outlined an estimated cost of \$974 for the event, which would include truck rental, insurance, fuel, advertising, and mileage reimbursement. Terry noted that Albuquerque Recycling Inc. expressed willingness to make a financial contribution to help cover costs.

Richard reported on his communications with recyclers and landfill personnel in Truth or Consequences, who showed interest in coordinating an e-waste event with Silver City. Richard said that Enchantment Electronic Recycling in Albuquerque had been recommended in addition to Albuquerque Recycling as a possible drop-off venue. He agreed to investigate matters further.

There was discussion of whether the event should be limited to a one-day collection or extended over up to a week, and whether collections should be made in the Mimbres, mining district, and Gila communities as well. A suggestion was made to collect fees from participants and to ask the Earth Day organizers to donate part of the proceeds from their Penny Park event. No firm decision on these items was made.

Richard volunteered to solicit commercial and institutional sponsors to defray costs of the e-waste event. He agreed to ask Mastercraft Metal Roofing about donation of a truck and driver. C.J. suggested asking for help or donations from WNMU, Ft. Bayard Medical Center, and Gila Regional Medical Center, each of which generates considerable e-waste. Someone wondered whether e-waste from the city or county government offices could be collected, while another person suggested getting the ReStore or Freecycle volunteers to cull donated materials for items that were in working order and could be sold by them. Terry thought we might get Aldo Leopold High School to help with the collection event itself. Other possible involvement might be sought from GRIP and from the new Green Chamber of Commerce.

Further discussion on an e-waste event will continue during the next meeting.

### **Committee membership**

By consensus, it was agreed that there is an opening for a new member on the recycling committee due to the continued non-attendance of one current member. The position will be posted as soon as possible. There was no specific discussion of a policy regarding non-attendance.

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting is slated for Thursday, Feb. 11, at 4 p.m. at the SWSWA conference room.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.