

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; February 11, 2010.

(Minutes prepared by Richard Mahler)

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

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 meeting as submitted was by acclamation. Diana noted that she has not been receiving e-mail copies of the minutes, a situation Terry promised to rectify. He also mentioned that he receives relevant feedback from city councilors and staffers in response to circulation of the minutes to them.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Report from SWSWA

Diana Temple

Diana reported on behalf of general manager C.J. Law, who was absent due to illness. She said SWSWA expected to reach a final fiscal agreement with Grant County by the end of the week concerning use of a truck to haul recyclables from the landfill to the Friedman processing center in El Paso. The arrangement is expected to be an intergovernmental trade. She said the truck is expected to make the round-trip once a week, depending on the volume of material coming to SWSWA.

According to Diana, the 60-to-90-day pilot program for recycling by Friedman will begin within a couple weeks. As outlined previously, all recyclables will be trucked, unsorted, to El Paso for sorting and shipment to vendors. Curbside pick-up will continue, although participants are now being asked to separate their glass and leave the rest of their recyclables co-mingled. Eventually, the company may also accept glass, but in the meantime a permit is expected to be approved from solid waste authorities that will allow a SWSWA crusher to process glass for use as landfill cover fill. Diana said SWSWA plans to make a new brochure for distribution to the public that describes the changes in recycling. Terry volunteered to make changes on the Gila Community Forum, an on-line bulletin board.

Diana said SWSWA has applied for a grant from the NM Recycling Coalition to pay for purchase of more curbside recycling bins.

Ramon Arroyo

Ramon said SWSWA had started asking residents to separate glass for curbside pickup the previous week. He said Friedman would be accepting all #1 and #2 plastics, including clamshells and food containers, as well as catalogues, junk mail, magazines, chipboard, colored paper, and envelopes. He said he would obtain a complete list from Friedman for distribution to the committee and others.

In answer to questions, Ramon said possible changes on Tuesday recycling pickup routes are being considered. He said he was unaware of any personnel changes planned under the new recycling system, but deferred to C.J. on the subject. He noted that Las Cruces, which does not have curbside recycling, is sending two full trucks a day to Friedman.

New Business

Grant County Health Council

Terry reported that the GCHC had received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to help identify issues related to the health of area residents. He was advised that these might include issues that present obstacles to recycling. The council, he said, is interested in helping to improve participation in local recycling activities.

Earth Day e-waste event

The committee reached consensus in support of scheduling a combination recyclables and e-waste collection event on Saturday, April 24, in conjunction with Earth Day, which will again be a community-wide celebration focusing on Penny Park. Activities there are scheduled from 10 am to 2 pm.

There was a discussion of the best places to hold the collection event and options included: the old Long John Silver property on Highway 180 and the parking lots of Wells Fargo, Edward P. Jones, or Western Bank, as well as the empty lot across the Penny Park that was used last year for a collection event. Chuck agreed to contact the owners of the Long John Silver and Western Bank properties about permission. Terry agreed to contact the owners of the property across from Penny Park. It was felt that we need plenty of room in order to accommodate one or more trucks and various residents dropping off e-waste from their cars.

The consensus was that we would accept general recyclables as well as e-waste, plus pots and pans. (Terry described a pots and pans collection event recently held at a Whole Foods store.) Chuck reported that CFLs are difficult to recycle, although Terry mentioned one big-box retailer that will accept them for proper recycling.

Chuck said he was likely to attend a Feb. 19 meeting of the new Green Chamber of Commerce, being organized by Mattie Eagle of Material Good.

This group was suggested as a good place to promote our e-waste collection event.

Terry reported that the nonprofit Gila Resources Information project had agreed to act as a fiscal agent for the e-waste event so that checks could be processed for any related donations and costs. There was a discussion of whether to ask residents to pay the vendor-assessed \$5 or \$10 disposal fee for CRTs and TVs. The consensus was that all who can afford to pay should be asked to do so and hardship cases would be subsidized. The feeling was that people should not be turned away if they cannot pay this fee.

Terry will inquire about using Aldo Leopold High School students as volunteers. Chuck, who serves on the local Habitat for Humanity board, that he will inquire about having a ReStore representative be on hand to glean saleable electronics, although a question was raised about how we could plug in items on-site and whether a vendor might allow cherry-picking.

Richard and Terry summarized their conversations with representatives of Albuquerque Recycling Inc. and Enchantment Electronic Recycling about the cost of their coming to Grant County to collect and truck our e-waste. Both expressed concern that Enchantment could not estimate a cost at this point. (Albuquerque Recycling later estimated a charge of \$750 per truckload, excluding TVs and CRTs).

Richard reported on his communications with recycling personnel in Truth or Consequences, who are very interested in coordinating an e-waste event with Silver City on April 24, a regular collection day in T or C. Richard also summarized recent communications with the Rio Rancho recycling coordinator about e-waste events there and with MasterCraft Metals about support. The former gave many tips and the latter said they were likely to make a financial donation.

Richard said there was some interest from WNMU in participating, although they now have e-waste picked up by Westec Industries, which also serves Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold. Richard said Richard Peterson, representing Freeport, said the company was "very interested" in supporting our e-waste event. (The company later said it would donate up to \$5000 and possibly employee volunteers to help make our collection event a success.). We await responses from Ft. Bayard Medical Center and Gila Regional Medical Center as well as possible donations of e-waste from the city and county.

A question was raised about when and where household hazardous waste might be collected. Ramon said he did not know if SWSWA would be likely to do one any time soon.

Further discussion on an e-waste event will continue during the next meeting. (An inquiry to Westec about participation is pending.)

Committee membership

Terry reported that notice of an opening for a new member on the recycling committee has been posted by the Town of Silver City on its website and ads would soon begin running in local media, soliciting applications.

Next meeting

The next meeting is slated for Thursday, March 18, at 4 p.m. at the SWSWA conference room.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.