

State Marketing Board for Recyclables Minutes

March 6, 2014
9:30 a.m.

Southeast Economic Dev District
Pine Bluff, AR

State Board Members Present:

Don Curran
George Wheatley
Matthew Buchman

Others Present:

Daniel Marks,
Jefferson Co. Judge's Office
Matt Earnest,
Jefferson County Recycling
Glenn Bell,
SE AR Reg SW District
Andrew C. Armstrong,
SE AR Reg SW District
David Steinmetz
James R. Willits,
American Composting
Robert Hunter, ADEQ
Teresa Bechtel, ADEQ

Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

George Wheatley called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. George Wheatley confirmed the media notification.

Discussion and Agenda

As provided by Act 1211 of 1995, section 25-16-903 and 25-16-902, the Board voted on the \$60.00 stipend and expense reimbursement to board members for performing their official board duties. It was voted on and passed unanimously.

It was recommended by Don Curran that the current chairman, co-chairman and secretary continue to serve. It was seconded by Matthew Buchman and passed unanimously.

George Wheatley requested everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. He welcomed Matthew Buchman to the Board.

Teresa Bechtel read the minutes for Patsy Weidanz from the previous meeting. Don Curran made a motion to approve the minutes read. Matthew Buchman seconded and Minutes were approved.

Jim Willits gave a presentation on his composting facility, American Composting. His facility has been taking wood waste since 2005 and has received 3 million 600 thousand cubic yards. Since the ban on yard waste going into landfills, he has received over 2 million cubic yards of yard waste. In a 2 ½ year period, he has taken 30,000 tons of food waste.

Since 2005 and November, 2013, he has produced 303,884 cubic yards of compost and 2,864 tons of recycled metal. He has a system that takes metals out of grass and leaves.

Jim said he has an O Type Facility Permit and he goes through EPA and ADEQ training and follows EPA guidelines. He sells his product to landscapers and small merchants.

He stated American Composting makes high quality compost and it takes a huge volume of waste for composting. He has provided tours of his facility to people from Russia, Japan, and Singapore.

Jim has his own menu for odor control. He also stated yard waste does not need to be collected in plastic bags but biodegradable plastic bags or paper sacks.

Andrew Armstrong and Jim Willits decided to meet in the future to go over plans for Andrew to begin composting in his District. In order to cut transportation costs on compost material, Jim suggested that he use a flat semi-trailer to haul it. Jim stated that good quality compost markets itself.

Chicken litter composting was discussed by Andrew Armstrong and Jim stated that if done correctly it smells like burnt chocolate.

Andrew Armstrong talked about the tire situation in Southeast Arkansas. He said that Pine Bluff is getting into a regional mind set. The District already partners on tires and e-waste. Tire processing went from not making any money to having a little to help facilitate equipment purchases. Presently, Southeast Regional Solid Waste District is making 2" wire free chips for BTU. Andrew said that they do not have a market for their tire chips and would give them away right now, rather than landfill them.

Andrew would like to see a statewide marketing effort for tires. They do not have enough volume alone to get a broker's attention. West River Valley is making tire chip mulch and the price currently is \$240 to \$250 a ton. West River Valley would take SE Arkansas District's tires but the transportation cost is prohibitive.

Southeast Arkansas District purchased 39 miles of abandoned railroad track several years ago. This track runs from McGehee, Arkansas to Tallulah, Louisiana. They have been working with Louisiana to get the line back up. They have some transportation contracts in place and will have it operational in 2015. This will be a boost for Southeast Arkansas.

George Wheatley gave a presentation on the accomplishments of the Marketing Board for the last few years. He highlighted the facilities and areas of Arkansas visited, the glass market that was promoted by the Board, the web page developed for informational purposes, the Ark

Industrial Byproducts they co-sponsored for Arkansas, and their work with the Highway Department encouraging the use of shingles in roadways.

Teresa Bechtel gave updates on the Special Provision that the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department put in to place this February. They will allow 3% pre-consumer or 3% post-consumer shingles from residential sources in roadways. It will have to be requested by contractors and others in order to be used. The Board decided to send a letter to let the Contractors, County Judges, and Municipal League to let them know that this Special Provision exists.

Teresa contacted Missouri DOT and they do not keep exact estimates of money saved from using shingles and recycled asphalt but they estimate that they saved \$30,420,529 in 2013. They use an average of 3.8% post-consumer shingles in their mix and 24% recycled asphalt.

Green Cities Operation Committee has been working with Children's Hospital and UAMS to collect their food waste. Organix will be collecting their food waste soon.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Prepared by Teresa Bechtel