

State Marketing board for Recyclables Minutes

March 1, 2017
1:00 p.m.

Morrilton Chamber of Commerce
Morrilton, AR

State Board members present:

Bill Burrough
Don Curran
Patsy Weidanz

Others present:

Edwin Wells, Wood Waste
Recycling
Melanie Wells, Wood Waste
Recycling
Renee McGhee, Action Shredding &
Recycling
Louisa Daniels, Green Bay
Packaging
Teresa Bechtel, ADEQ
Mayor Allen, Morrilton

Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

Bill Burrough called the meeting to order at 1:00. Teresa Bechtel confirmed the media Notification.

Discussion and Agenda

Bill Burrough welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested those in attendance to introduce themselves.

Patsy Weidanz read the minutes from the last meeting. Don Curran made a motion to approve the minutes read. Bill Burrough seconded and the Minutes were approved.

As provided by Act 1211 of 1995, section 25-16-903 and 25-16-902, the State Marketing Board for Recyclable voted on the stipend and expense reimbursement to board members performing official board duties. Patsy Weidanz made a motion to approve, Don Curran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The next item of business was election of officers. Patsy Weidanz nominated Bill Burrough to be Chair and George Wheatley Co-chair and Don Curran seconded the motion. Don Curran nominated Patsy Weidanz to be Secretary. Bill Burrough seconded and all officers were approved unanimously.

Edwin Wells from Wood Waste Recycling gave the first presentation. They recycle wood by products usually for fuel purposes. Their normal procedure is to haul rice hulls to Northwest Arkansas to chicken farms and back haul wood products. Paper Mills used

to be their best customer but due to the low cost of natural gas they have stopped buying wood products. They also hauled and sold sawdust for broiler fuel but there is no longer a market. Don Curran suggested that the sawdust could be used in soil to hold moisture. They make landscaping mulch from the wood chips for the last couple of years in their effort to adjust to market demand. Rice hulls are in abundance and they can store 600,000 pounds at their facility.

Renee McGhee from Action Shredding & Recycling gave the next presentation. Action Shredding is a non-profit Medicaid funded organization. They work with disabled individuals that shred confidential papers. They have 46 individuals that shred 1,000 pounds a day. They also recycle cardboard, magazines and newspapers. In 2016 they recycled 84 tons of shredded paper, 30 tons of cardboard and 20 tons of magazines and newspapers. In addition to shredding paper the clients learn to cook, clean and other life skills. The company had 9 customers 10 years ago they now have 300 customers and newly acquiring the City of Cabot.

Renee said it is very rewarding to see how the individuals react to having a purpose in life.

Don Curran reminded every one about the ARC Summit in Conway March 30.

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned.

Patsy Weidanz

Board Action Item

Following the meeting the Board traveled to Action Shredding and Recycling. During their visit, Teresa suggested that Renee contact Tim Freel (a former Board member) who runs a similar operation in Southern Arkansas to compare ideas and exchange successful processes.

The next day the Board went to Arkansas Kraft/Green Bay Packaging. The Board made some suggestions for materials that they are having a hard time reusing. The Board will continue to search for options so they will not have to landfill this material.