

## State Marketing Board for Recyclables Minutes

June 18, 2013  
9:30

Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce  
Fort Smith, AR 72901

State Board Members Present:

Don Curran  
George Wheatley  
Tim Freel  
Patsy Weidanz

Others Present:

T. Baridi Nkokhel Ft Smith  
RSWMD  
Carl Davis Davis Iron & Metal  
Teresa Bechtel ADEQ  
Randy Hall Sebastian Co RSWMD  
Ed Majors AR Econ. Dev.  
Commission  
Chad Hunter Times Record  
Charles McLane self/public

### Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

George Wheatley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Teresa Bechtel confirmed the media notification.

### Discussion and Agenda

George Wheatley requested everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Patsy Weidanz read the minutes from the previous meeting. Don Curran made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Tim Freel seconded and Minutes were approved.

The Board was scheduled to tour OK Foods the day before but were unable to do so due to a fire from a lighting strike. George Wheatley wanted to publicly thank OK Foods for making arrangements for the tour, even though it had to be cancelled.

Carl Davis spoke to us on several different topics. Davis Iron & Metal have been taking glass for the last 18 months. They had collected glass years ago but stopped due to lack of profit. They are working with Ripple Glass in Kansas City and started in April of 2012 and collected 273 tons for the year. They have collected 140 tons the first 6 months of 2013. Carl said he has been in the business for 40 years and has never had such a positive public responsive and it seems everyone wants to "Be Green".

They are also taking e-waste and working with ADEQ on this program. He is working with some local colleges in trying to start a recycling program on campus. Carl is also working with the Arkansas Legislators to help defer theft, especially copper. His company has been active in this program for the last 5 years. They spent \$100,000 on

software to keep photo ID's and fingerprints of their customers who have brought materials to sell along with details of the sale. Also, every week he sends a report to the police on all metals he has purchased from individuals. There are many laws on the books to help with the theft problem but they need to be enforced.

T. Baridi is with the Fort Smith Department of Sanitation and Recycling Collection Program gave our next presentation. T. Baridi told us he feels his job description should be a responsible Environmental Manager. His landfill is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> to also become a recyclable collection center. Fort Smith was one of the first to provide curbside collection. They do not do curbside glass collection but do take glass at the landfill collection site. They started collecting recyclables at the landfill for waste diversion because he does not consider something recycled until it is made into another product. They collected 2,400 tons of residential recyclables in 2012 and Fort Smith has an 80% participation rate. They started collecting waste and recyclables on the same day, which resulted in much cleaner products. They also collect yard waste in the amount of 700,000 lbs. a year, which gives Fort Smith one of the largest compost sites in the State. They sell compost for \$10 a yard back to the citizens. They began selling methane gas in 2007 with revenue of \$212,654 for 2012. There is a WPA bridge on the landfill site that has been hidden for 40 years and it now will become part of a walking trail for the city. Their landfill also provides for others outside of Fort Smith area. They serve 7 counties of which 400,000 people depend on this landfill. They turned 10 acres of swampland that was on the property into a city park they used as many recycled products at the park that they could.

Teresa Bechtel gave us a few updates that were of interest to the Board. A Benton County Judge is going to begin using 10% shredded rubber in their asphalt mix on County roads. Dr. Stacy Williams of the U of A, has submitted a report to the Arkansas Highway Department on use of shingles in asphalt mix. The report can not be released at this time until the Highway and Transportation Department responds. Teresa will get back with the Board when the paper is public.

Tim Freel gave us an update on his project with Tyson foods recycling shrink-wrap. They are discussing purchase of a dryer to cut down on the contamination. They are working through the problems at this time. Tim will keep the Board updated.

George Wheatley advised the Board that the city of Maumelle voted to enter into a single stream-recycling contract with Waste Management. He also told us that Tennessee has passed legislation on 1/1/2015 that any one knowingly disposing of plastics or aluminum in a landfill will be fined. He told the Board we need to keep an eye on how this new law plays out in Tennessee.

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned.

Patsy Weidanz  
Secretary

