

State Marketing Board for Recyclables Minutes

June 19, 2015
9:00 a.m.

Ecotech Consumer Products
603 N Monitor Rd.
Springdale, AR 72764

State Board Members Present:

George Wheatley
Don Curan
Matthew Buchman
Patsy Weidanz

Others Present:

Vance Brock, NW Rags Inc.
Randell Shelton, Shingle Resource
Recycling
Leah Saffian, Washington CO.
Sophia Stephenson, Washington CO.
Jeanelle Harris, Ecotech Consumer
Products
Teresa Bechtel, ADEQ
Robyn Reed, Boston Mtn SWP
Robert Hunter, ADEQ
Doug Thompson, NWA Dem-Gaz
Collen Muldoon, Ecotech Consumer
Products

Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

George Wheatley called the meeting to order at 9:00. Teresa Bechtel confirmed the media notification.

Discussion and Agenda

George Wheatley welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested everyone in attendance to introduce themselves.

Patsy Weidanz read the minutes from the last meeting. Don Curan made a motion to approve the minutes read. Matthew Buchman seconded and the Minutes were approved.

Vance Brock from Northwest Rags gave our first presentation. Northwest Rags began operation in 1997 recycling clothing. In 2014 the company recycled 2 million pounds. He just shipped 80,000 pounds that had taken about 1-½ weeks to collect. NW Rags recycles clothes, shoes, purses, belts, etc. Today he wanted to focus on clothing. He arranges for recycled clothing to be sent to third world countries instead of the landfill. There are 500,000 people in Northwest Arkansas and if each person would recycle one shirt it would keep 83 tons out of the landfill. If each person recycled one pair of jeans it would keep 275 tons out of the landfill. He is trying to educate people to start with

recycling one or two items. If everyone in the country would recycle 4 items a year every human on the African Continent could be clothed. Three fourths of the country is very poor.

The clothing that is not wearable he has made into rags for businesses. The labels are recycled and are sent to Missouri where they are made into insulation.

Randell Shelton, Managing Partner for Shingle Resource Recycling gave the next presentation. Randell has developed a process to break down and separate all the components of residential and commercial shingles. He is going through the patent process now.

He does not have to grind the shingles. He can recycle all solvents of shingles with no pressure. There is very little energy used and the chemicals are non-hazardous, with no gas emission. Very little space is required and he can handle 10,000 gal in 2,000 sq. ft.

He is in the early stages and he says it is a commodity that can be reused. They would like the facility to be located in Northwest Arkansas. However they are in early talks with the Port of Little Rock, who has a large amount of shingles that need recycling.

Don Curan advised us the Arkansas Highway Department is allowing a shingle mix in asphalt. Don has made arrangements for Sarah Klemschmit; P.E. Field Materials Engineer from Missouri to give a presentation in Mountain Home at the Arkansas Recycling Coalitions Summer meeting. She will discuss how Missouri is using shingles and other materials like tires in their roadways. Missouri used 641 tons of recycled materials in their roadways in 2013.

George Wheatley asked for public comments. Robyn Reed said Fayetteville is looking at a regional recycling facility partnership.

Robert Hunter advised that ADEQ is meeting with Solid Waste districts to discuss various issues like regulation changes, steel industries and e-waste.

George Wheatley ask that the minutes reflect the Board toured Pratt & Whitney the afternoon before. Pratt & Whitney takes jet engines and rebuilds them after so many hours. They deal with 50,000 different parts and employees 185 people. They are very involved with recycling issues.

George Wheatley thanked the attendees for all the recycling and sustainability leadership that is being shown in Northwest Arkansas. Proof of their leadership are the statewide rewards that have been received. Pratt & Whitney and City of Fayetteville received the ENVY award this year.

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned for a tour of Echotech.

Patsy Weidanz