

State Marketing Board for Recyclables Minutes

June 22, 2016
1:30 p.m.

1st Community Bank
Batesville, AR

State Board members present:

George Wheatley
Patsy Weidanz
Don Curan
Bill Burrough

Others Present:

Thomas L. Floyd
FutureFuel
Connie Stracener ADEQ
George Lattus WRHS
Jan Smith WRRSWMD
Teresa Bechtel ADEQ
Sara Sexton WRRSWMD

Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

George Wheatley called the meeting to order at 1:30. Teresa Bechtel confirmed the media notification.

Discussion and Agenda

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

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

Thomas Floyd, Associate Env. Biologist with FutureFuel gave the first presentation. FutureFuel purchased the Eastman Company in Batesville. They have 500 employees. FutureFuel produces Performance Chemicals, Custom Chemicals and Biofuels. They have their own patent for the performance chemicals. The Custom Chemicals are designed for other companies with their own specifications so they do not have any patents on these chemicals. Their Biofuels are made from a wide range of fats and oils such as chicken fat, beef tallow, pork lard and “yellow grease”. They also use some Soybean Oil, Corn Oil and Cottonseed Oil. They have improved their Biofuels and have a very high quality product.

The plant is very energy efficient and they pull 35,000 gallons of water from the White River a minute. They heat the water, cool and clean it and then return the water to the River. Other energy sources are Biodiesel, Petroleum fuel, natural gas and coal.

Some of their results in recycling at the plant in 2015 are as follows:

- 4,000,000 lbs. of Sulfuric Acid
- 12,500,000 lbs. of Triglycerides (fats/oils)
- energy recovering 24,000,000 lbs. or 144 billion BTU's

Thomas told a story about one company's trash is another company's treasure. They had a sister plant in Texas where their treatment plant water had a pH problem and they were having to purchase and add Sulfuric Acid to the water. The plant in Batesville had an abundance of sulfuric acid so they recycled their acid to Texas. Problem solved!

Thomas did say there are road blocks to recycling and some of them are regulatory constraints, safety constraints, economics and customer specifications where the customer will not let FutureFuel use recycled material.

George Latus, from White River Medical System gave the next presentation. George told us the medical field has been slow to work on recycling efforts. His hospital has a 250-bed capacity and they average 100-125 patients a day, with the emergency room seeing an average of 80 patients.

Most of their recycling efforts have been in shredded office paper, cardboard and plastics. They are working on food and linen items.

One area he has not been able to make any headway, is the plastic used in surgery. They have a lot of IV bags and tubing at this time but there is no way to recycle because they are considered biohazards. He would be open to any suggestions on how to find a way to recycle these plastics.

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned.

Patsy Weidanz