

## **State Marketing Board for Recyclable Minutes**

March 25, 2015  
9:30 a.m.

Searcy Chamber of Commerce  
2323 South Main Street  
Searcy, AR 72143

State Board Members Present:

Matthew Buchman  
George Wheatley  
Don Curan  
Tim Freel  
Patsy Weidanz

Others Present:

Jimmy Swain Bryce Corp  
Cherie O'Mary ARC  
Becky Rheinhardt, AEDC  
Teresa Bechtel, ADEQ  
Buck Layne, Chamber of Commerce  
Jan Smith, WRRSWMD  
Sarah Sexton, WRRSWMD  
David Morris, Searcy Mayor  
Terry Rutherford, Searcy  
Sanitation & Recycling

### Acknowledgement of Notification of Media

George Wheatley called the meeting to order at 9:40. Teresa Bechtel 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.

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

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

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

George Wheatley introduced the Mayor of Searcy, David Morris. George gave a little history of how he and David have been working together since 1995 on various projects. Mayor Morris welcomed the Board to his city and gave us some history and progress that Searcy has accomplished. They have received many awards though the years. One of which is the Searcy fire department is 1 of 9 fire departments in the world to have an ISO of 1. They also received the "Recycler of the Year" award in 2010.

Terry Rutherford gave a presentation on the recycling efforts of Searcy. The recycle center is a part of the sanitation department. All 45 employees are crossed trained to work in either department. Searcy does have curbside recycling once a week. They have 8 bins that are pulled behind a truck that goes to the various neighborhoods. Their recycling center is a drive through that will take recycled materials not only from residents but from those living in the county. Last year the city of Searcy recycled a total 1 million 650 pounds of materials.

Jimmy Swain from Bryce Corp gave the next presentation. Bryce Corp is a film conversion company which means they make flexible packaging for food products, examples are candy wrappers, chip bags, confections and some pet products. They also make printer cartridge wrappers for HP. Bryce Corp is a Memphis based company and came to Searcy in 1976. They started with less than 50 employees in 2015 and now have 440 employees. Their average employee has 9 ½ years of service. They make 8 billion packages a year.

In the beginning they sent 95% of used materials to the landfill and in 2014 they sent 1.65% of materials to the landfill. They are always looking for opportunities to upgrade and make their facility more energy efficient and are using T8 and LED lighting. They have learned how to use less ink in their packaging. Between the years of 2005 to 2014 they have reduced their natural gas usage by 40%. In 2010 Bryce Corp joined the EPA Energy Star program and in 2011 they joined the Supplies Ethical Data Exchange (SEDEX).

Bryce is trying to locate a facility that will recycle their cardboard glue barrels. Don is going to check and see if he can locate a market and Teresa is going to send him the link to the RENEW, material exchange website to post this material. Bryce is always exploring new technologies to improve the plant process and become more sustainable as well as protecting our environment.

Sarah Sexton and Jan Smith from White River RSWMD gave the last presentation. The White Rive District began in 1991 and is made up of 10 counties. Searcy is their largest city. They have 7 recycling centers in the district. They also have trailers that travel around to different locations in the district to collect e-waste. Some of their centers recycle glass.

They have developed a web site that is very user friendly: [whiteriverrecycle.org](http://whiteriverrecycle.org). Their biggest challenges are fluorescents and household chemicals. They have 2 pilot projects under way:

Horseshoe Bend is collecting cooking oil to recycle.  
Fairfield Bay is collecting old paint that is undergoing a drying process.

Their grant process is a 75/25 match program.

After the presentations, George ask for public comments. Teresa Bechtel shared an article in The Arkansas Green Guide featuring our own Don Curran.

Teresa Bechtel told the Board about a meeting that was held at Economic Development in January with Randell Shelton and several other individuals from various organizations. He has a process that breaks down shingles into their individual components. The most valuable is the asphaltic crude and can be used in roadways. He is obtaining a facility in Central Arkansas to process the 47,000 cubic yards of shingles at the river port. He hopes to eventually open a facility in Northwest Arkansas also. Teresa is planning on seeing his process in April and reporting back to the board at the next meeting.

Cherie O'Mary reminded everyone that the ARC award deadline is coming up. She will also have a Solid Waste training session for employees that need training on sustainability at the next conference.

Having no more business the meeting was adjourned.

Patsy Weidanz