

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of May 17, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Conference Room C
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates
P. Christine Urbach, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Michael Theroux, Theroux Environmental Consulting
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
Ed Wheless, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Task Force
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Austin, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Jim Binder, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Chip Clements, Clements Environmental
Kevin Chen, Southern California Edison
Bill Davis, BlueFire Ethanol
Ben Gibson, Cerrell Associates
Sue Higgins, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Virginia Jauregui, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Carl Pederson, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Joseph Norbeck, University of California, Riverside
Stephen Rush, Wise Landfill
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Mark Wittenberg, Cerrell Associates
Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 22 AND APRIL 19, 2007

The minutes of March 22 and April 19, 2007 were unanimously approved, Jeff Yann abstained.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

During the week of May 6, representatives of ARI and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works met with representatives from the City of New York (Bureau of Sanitation and the Bureau of Economic Development) and the financial firms of Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs. The purpose of these meetings was to exchange information on the status of the County's and New York City's respective conversion technology projects, and to discuss requirements needed for participation by the financial institutions.

Dr. Martin moderated a session on conversion technologies at the Waste Expo held in Atlanta, Georgia on May 6. Mr. Alva and Mr. Skye were presenters at the Southern California Waste Management Forum's annual business meeting on May 10, 2007. The City of San Diego has contracted ARI and Mr. Clements as consultants for the City's long term waste management plan. Mr. Clements noted that he provided a presentation to the City of San Diego on May 16 on Los Angeles County's conversion technology project. Mr. Skye made a presentation at SWANA's Western Regional Symposium on May 1 in San Luis Obispo, CA; Mr. Mohajer moderated the session. Mr. Theroux noted that the City and County of Santa Barbara released an RFP for a Consultant to Evaluate Conversion Technologies for Use at Tajiguas Landfill on May 9.

IV. UPDATE ON FACILITATION CONTRACT

Sue Higgins provided an update on the status of the facilitation contract. ARI has completed the information gathering and facility tour phase, and is in the process of completing the technology/site evaluations, funding research, public outreach, and the draft report. Because the framework for the conversion vendors and MRF sites is developing, ARI recommended that the Subcommittee choose the best means to present their findings in the final report. The options are the following:

I. Ranking/pairing of technologies and sites

II. Identification of acceptable technologies and sites, including a strengths/weaknesses analysis, followed by a competition for selection of projects(s) for County support (no ranking, no pairing)

III. Ranking of technologies by category and identification of acceptable sites, followed by competition for selection of project(s) for county support (no pairing of technologies/sites)

Staff recommended option II as providing the County with a proactive position while creating a firm date for the completion of the process. Following discussion, Mr. Yann motioned that the Subcommittee proceed forward on option II, unless it is determined that it is incompatible with the Puente Hills CUP. The motion failed. Mr. Alva recommended that the Subcommittee take extra time to discuss the issue further, prior to the half day session.

V. MRF EVALUATIONS

Mr. Clements commented that the some of the shortlisted conversion technology vendors wanted to make direct contact with the MRF operators and begin their own discussions. Mr. Clements will be touching base with the MRF operators in preparation of entering the negotiation phase, based on the information approved at the working session.

VI. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH CONTRACT

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Wittenberg provided an update on the public outreach contract. Representatives of Cerrell Associates met with members of the Board of Supervisors' staff, and mentioned that they had received positive feedback regarding conversion technologies. Cerrell has been working with the City of Los Angeles to improve communication between the City and the County of Los Angeles on their related conversion technology projects. Mr. Gibson noted that Fox News aired a national news story related to conversion technologies and Los Angeles County, which featured Mr. Alva and Los Angeles City Councilman Greig Smith. The story is also expected to air on local Fox affiliates.

VII. PRESENTATION BY FULCRUM ENERGY – TED KINESH

The presentation was rescheduled for July.

VIII. PRESENTATION BY BLUE FIRE ETHANOL – BILL DAVIS

Bill Davis of BlueFire Ethanol provided a presentation dealing with his company's acid hydrolysis process. BlueFire has operated a pilot plant in Orange, CA and is in the preparatory stages of developing two commercial biorefineries. Both biorefineries will be co-located next to Southern California based landfills and are expected to collectively produce approximately 20 million gallons of ethanol annually.

IX. PRESENTATION BY WISE LANDFILL MANAGEMENT – STEPHEN RUSH

Stephen Rush provided a presentation on his company's ethanol fermentation process which uses non-toxic fungi to process materials. Mr. Rush mentioned that the technology is capable of converting biomass and organic materials into ethanol and other byproducts.

X. PRESENTATION BY VIRESKO ENERGY - JIM GUTHRIE

Jim Guthrie and Joseph Norbeck, PhD, of Viresko Energy provided an overview of their company's hydro-gasification process, which can convert any carbon based product into a synthetic diesel fuel. Dr. Norbeck mentioned that Viresko's technology can convert MSW, coal, wood, biomass, and biosolids.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION

No discussion ensued.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE, TBA

The next meeting will be a half day working session, scheduled for the week of June 3. Dates will be sent to members by email to select a time that works for most members.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.