

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

Minutes of November 19, 2015, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Helmowski, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)*
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Eugene Sun, Mayor, City of San Marino
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Miguel Zermeno for Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Jim Stewart for Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Larry Levin, Juniper Hills
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Traacey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Daniel Goodwin, Oberon Fuels, Inc.
Timothy Hall, CalRecycle*
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

*Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the October 15, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Eugene Sun and seconded by Mr. Wayde Hunter, and it passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION BY DAN GOODWIN OF OBERON FUELS, INC. ON CONVERTING ORGANIC WASTE TO DIMETHYL ETHER (DME)

Mr. Dan Goodwin provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on converting organic waste into dimethyl ether (DME) and its potential for air quality improvement compared to diesel. DME is a molecule generated from methane that can be converted into a clean burning, non-toxic renewable alternative fuel.

IV. DISCUSSION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

Ms. Traacey Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) provided the Subcommittee with an update on planning for the County sponsored Conversion Technology (CT) Conference. Ms. Anthony reported that the conference will be rescheduled from its original tentatively scheduled date of January 27, 2015, to likely sometime in February. She also stated that a working agenda is underway, and a number of speakers have been proposed.

Mr. Clark Ajwani commented that Public Works Administration is currently reviewing the County's CT Draft White Paper. Mr. Skye commented that comments from peer reviewers have been incorporated, and approval of the document is anticipated sometime in early December. Mr. Ajwani commented that the tentative date for the conference is dependent on the approval of the White Paper and scheduling around the availability of an influential keynote speaker.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Subcommittee discussed various topics covered at the November 18, 2015, Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit in

Pomona. Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that discussions at the event centered on Zero Waste and the existing challenges of defining the concept. Mr. Skye commented on how the various complexities of State regulations continue to stifle the advancement of sustainable waste management and the ongoing challenges of how best to define recycling, while Mr. Mohajer expressed concerns over proposed legislation for a Statewide 90 percent reduction of organic waste going to landfills by 2025.

Mr. Jim Stewart commented on the frustration some jurisdictions have expressed with new regulations imposed by the State for the management of organic waste, citing the lack of necessary available infrastructure and capital needed to achieve the goals as mandated. Referencing the CT Conference, he added that significant emphasis should be placed on the event's speakers, recommending that nationally notable figures in the field be invited to speak so as to provide a comparison of how successful other regions of the country have been with CT as compared to California. Mr. Mohajer expressed frustration with the continued resistance of CARB and CalRecycle to recognize the potential CT has in advancing sustainable organics management and greenhouse gas reduction.

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee that Public Works will be attending and hosting a CT booth at the VerdeXchange Conference which will be held in Los Angeles January 24-26, 2015. He also mentioned the Global Waste Symposium will be held in Indian Wells January 31, 2015 through February 3, 2015.

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee that Jacques Franco of the University of California, Davis, will soon be rejoining the Subcommittee. Mr. Davis currently serves as a Science and Policy Fellow at the University's Policy Institute for Energy, Environment, and the Economy.

VI. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Anthony reported to the Subcommittee that ARI had completed research on various options for a small-scale organics recycling project to manage cafeteria food waste at Public Works Headquarters. ARI's findings have been summarized in a memorandum currently under review by staff.

Ms. Anthony updated the Subcommittee on ARI's progress with the County Sheriff's Department for a potential anaerobic digestion (AD) project at the Pitchess Detention Center. In late October, ARI gathered input for preparing a first draft Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitation on the project. ARI initiated

informal discussions with several AD operators to gain their input on key procurement parameters that would make the project more cost effective, enhance its appeal with potential investors, and to ascertain industry preferences regarding project structure and certain risk allocation. Mr. Skye commented that the RFP is in very early stages of preparation and anticipated to be released sometime next year.

Mr. Mark McDannel commented on the progress of the pilot food waste program at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson, a two-year demonstration program agreement the County Sanitation Districts (CSD) has entered into with Waste Management, Inc., to deliver up to 84 tons of pre-processed food waste slurry per day. Although the facility has not substantially increased the volume of material processed since the project began, Mr. Skye commented that the County anticipates a greater volume of food waste currently processed at the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility will soon be diverted to JWPCP for AD processing.

Mr. Skye reported that staff is also currently assisting with the work of an AD project at the Lancaster Landfill.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 15, 2015, AT CR&R ANAEROBIC DIGESTION FACILITY

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee that the next Subcommittee Meeting would be held December 15, 2015, at the CR&R Anaerobic Digestion Project in Perris.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.