

## **TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (ISWR) ADVISORY BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2017

Members present: Phil Cameron, Don Baker, Katie Dahlgren, Andi Psmithe, Lorie Cahn (by phone), Jess Wireman

Others present: Johnny Ziem, TOJ Liaison to ISWR; Lisa Smith, Sustainability Coordinator St. John's Hospital; Tom Segerstrom, Teton Conservation District; Carrie Bell, ISWR Admin Assistant; Mari Allan Hanna, ISWR Waste Diversion and Outreach Coordinator; Caroline Sheahan, ISWR Financial Accountant; Kent Jaspersen, ISWR Solid Waste and Recycling Manager

3:15pm: Meeting called to order by Phil Cameron at ISWR

Motion to approve July minutes, Moved: Andi and Don, All in favor, motion carried.

### **Report from Board Chairman:**

- Welcome Carrie Bell, brief bio

### **Update on Bob Arndt**

- Thanks to those who responded to letter of recognition of Bob Arndt, please add contributions or anything anecdotally
- Check in on resolution and vacancy: start process of addressing the vacancy and strategically promoting vacancy - what skills Bob brought but also what the board needs.
- Phil will circulate the link to meal train for Melanie, we want to make sure she is well taken care of
- Paul Hansen brought up a concept Bob was passionate about- eliminating single use bags. Establish a plastic bag fee that would fund the trust that would go towards sustainability initiatives.

### **Old Bill's**

- Phil- I've been catching up with Mari Allan about activities at Old Bill's fun run. Giving through Old Bill's opened this week through the Sept 15. Mari Allan shared a list of past donors, set it up last year as a google sheet that board members could access it and can contact past donors if they wanted. Can be a reminder or a thank you for donations from last year. We can set up a call sheet so that's available. Mailer is going out to past donors 2013-2016. Call list will highlight those who were significant donors in the past and give them opportunity to renew. We can catch up at the Sept meeting about progress. We will be using some sponsored social media advertising, makes it easy and painless.
- Questions about 2016 match percentages with other County agencies will be clarified at next meeting.
- Mari Allan- I'm working on a mailing list that includes RRR members and cardboard customers and is larger; sending out twice as many postcards and emails this year.
- Mari Allan – postcards being printed now.

- Lori- one person I spoke with last year said that if he is sent a postcard instead of e-mail he will not donate.
- Mari Allan-we know who he is, and have addressed that. Traditionally we send out postcards and want to continue to do so for one more year.
- Lori- I am happy to email these individuals with personalized email (who do not want a postcard).
- Mari Allan- that would be great if you wanted to do that.
- Phil- I will get that list in excel from you, so we can track some of those contacts and put it up and share it with the board this week.

#### **Finance Committee Report, Caroline Sheahan:**

- Fiscal year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> of June. We had a great year. In a nutshell, we budgeted to use approximately \$1 million of our capital reserves and I am projecting that we will only need to use ~\$300,000. We won't have audited numbers until October. I will report on final tonnages in next month's staff report. Recycling markets have been great. That being said, China has announced that by the end of the year they will prohibit post-consumer plastics, mixed paper, and trace metals. Single stream programs are about to take a big hit. They will be required to increase the quality of their materials. Since we have a source separated program, we have a clean and easily sellable product. China has been initiating several bans. They are saying that some of the shipping containers that are on the way now will reach China by the time the ban is in place and will possibly be turned around. They don't want our garbage.
- Don- it only affects plastics #3-7 and mixed paper?
- Caroline- post consumer plastics and restricted fiber.
- Caroline- it will hopefully create infrastructure in this county. Recycling programs will be forced to clean up their streams. The surplus of comingled commodities will weaken pricing. Unsorted paper will have little value.
- Phil- it's going to be interesting to see what communities adapt and which fall off
- Kent- County government and contracts could fall through; public entities go away when the county can't sell commodities. I see trouble. And large conglomerates are seeing this; articles have been written, some of communities have started dual streams.
- Phil- when is the finance meeting?
- Caroline – Staff will be at WSWRA on the 31st. I'll e-mail the committee and see if they can meet the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Phil- any other questions on the finance report?
- Don- in Joe's absence, we were talking about last year vs this year's diversion rates. 40-36 % diversion rate. That includes clean fill. We do not have a lot of control over that, so once clean fill is out of this number we will have a more accurate number. Diversion rate is down, clean fill is down.
- Caroline- clean fill has created an artificial increase in the diversion rate. I will remove clean fill tonnages and provide new numbers.

#### **Hospital Sustainability Update from Lisa Smith**

- No numbers yet but we have been in practice with green health for two years; helps health care facilities to practice green operations., leadership development, and general support for sustainability initiatives. They give awards every year, 600 of them, but you must fill out applications. Caroline has helped. One section was 200 questions long, with a gap analysis from that report. It highlights what we are doing well. I presented to the St. John's sustainability committee yesterday. Develops goals every year, and we have to show a 15% recycling rate.
- Don- are you getting participation from others in the hospital?
- Lisa- mostly from the sustainability committee. I have the detailed numbers on recycled batteries, CFLs, and electronics. We are spending too much money for Stericycle to recycle e-waste. Much cheaper to bring it to ISWR. We are looking at our waste streams. We sent three people to a conference in Minneapolis, had 8 break out sections, and spoke with vendors that recycle regulated medical waste on site.
- Lisa's description of a new technology for medical waste disposal: It is a treated product that is safe but has a huge environmental impact and carbon footprint. It is a box the size of this room. It goes into a drum, is pressurized and put into a vacuum sealed bag which goes into waste stream. One has a grinder and grinds up sharps and bags.
- Caroline- and its decontaminated?
- Kent- bag is just going to get ripped open in the landfill anyway.
- Lisa- one of the reps could reduce from 81 cents to 41 cents per pound. We have to look at the cost of ownership of the tools, and look at cost of owning the product over a long period of time. Other sustainability goals at St. John's include an energy audit, to reduce medical waste, and to minimize what is deposited into red bag, or biohazard and sharps disposal. Lots of money savings in the OR.
- Johnny- the biohazards are dealt with in SLC?
- Lisa- yes, sharps...everything. There is blue wrap that goes around surgical kits, we use a lot of blue wrap. Before any surgery starts there is a lot of blue wrap. A 20 - pound bag is used for two operations. Julie Heemstra has talked to 4-H about the sewing groups, and maybe using the plastic to sew with.
- Johnny- 4-H has two semesters of sewing.
- Lisa- We are in the first stages of looking for an intern for next summer. We are also looking for "champions" in the hospital that can give 12 hrs. a week, mostly sorting and watering green walls, and give ideas for recycling help.
- Kent- I'd like to be involved.
- Lisa- I'll put you in touch with Doug Van Houten, he is very interested in this too. Food waste is priority would really support our application. We want to be in early on that when ISWR begins food composting.
- Don- Mari Allan has helped me find reuse opportunities for post-surgical supplies.
- Ma- Reuse Resource Guide for Lisa
- Lisa- we use a company called Stryker to help us reuse items used during surgery.

### **Staffing Update**

- Kent- Recycling Operator, Steve Schawe, from Grand Teton Lodge Company, he is experienced. Recycling Operator, Rodolfo Jimenez, previously with Teton County School District. They are both doing well. New Recycling Supervisor starting next week.

- Phil-how long it been since you were fully staffed?
- Kent-a couple months.
- Phil- and Rob Weed? (New part time Scale Operator at the Trash Transfer Station).
- Kent- he's doing well.
- Phil- so no vacant positions now?
- Kent- Steve is temporary, he's leaving in October, and we will start advertising soon. Hopefully have someone trained before he leaves in anticipation.
- Phil- do you feel that the hiring bonuses and incentives were effective?
- Kent- hard to say, mix of circumstances brought these guys to us. The only person who communicated an interest in the incentives was Rob Weed, and they do not apply to him because he's part time.
- Andi- so no current vacancies?
- Kent- correct.

### **PR committee**

- Mari Allan- JH Children's Museum and Teton County School District summer school partnership program ended today. Program teaches students about RRR using the theme of the eclipse. Students learned about the influx of waste and recycling anticipated during the eclipse and decorated themed recycling bins to use at the August Art Fair and the People's Market.
- The People's Market is a program of Slow Food in the Tetons, another ISWR community partner. This partnership is in support of zero waste event promotion and the operation of a weekly waste station at the market. The waste station utilizes separate bins for recycling, food waste, landfill bound waste and reusable plates.
  - Experienced recent success with the help of a dedicated group of students who volunteered at the waste station and educated market participants on zero waste practices. Having student volunteers was novel and effective. Plan to recruit more of these types of groups if possible.
  - Noticing that market participants seem more aware and cooperative, less hesitant at the waste station as the season progresses.
- Old Bill's ramping up.
- Caroline- have you seen the art installation up in the park?
- Mari Allan - Fab Lab high school students learned about the Zero Landfill initiative in Grand Teton National Park and worked with JH Public Art and designer, Bland Hoke. Have installation at GTNP, a river and a fish, made of aluminum can cut-outs. It's coming down this week. It also has recycling bins just before made from steel. Has ground recycled products incased in glass.
- Andi- any organizations that will hand out reusable water bottles during the eclipse?
- Phil- I think the last time I saw that they came from Public Health or St. John's.
- Tom- it's remarkable how little people trust their local water; people suspect water quality isn't good. More awareness may reduce single use water bottles.

### **Food Compost Pilot Update, Mari Allan Hanna**

- We have all the data and pictures. We are preparing a presentation for WSWRA and for the next board meeting.

- Learned a lot, one of the biggest hurdles is bin space-whether it's in the park or behind businesses in town.
- Odor is not an issue.
- Jess- the shuffle is the issue of organizing the right bins the right way.
- Don- what is the additive? (regarding odor control)
- Jess- unsure of the name of product or chemical, but it is plant derivative.
- Tom – travelling through Yellowstone is ok?
- Mari Allan- yes. Another issue is bagging- which bags compost well.
- Phil- how long is it going through?
- Jess- October.

### **Operations Contract with Terra Firma update**

- Mari Allan- Andy Schwartz stopped by. The contract with the County stipulates that \$10,000 worth of compost be made available to the community, but the County is not using it. Hoping we can bag it, and give it to community members to be used.
- Phil - could Old Bill's donors get a bag of compost?
- Mari Allan- a lot of communities have a drop off your waste, grab a bag of compost program.
- Caroline-Andy was very excited about the program
- For further discussion at a later date.

### **Paving Update**

- Caroline- paving is about to start.
- Johnny- paving on fresh asphalt?
- Caroline- no ripping it up.
- Phil- County Commissioners approved the paving contract.
- Caroline- working on weekends, completing one section at a time
- Phil- County Commissioners carefully vetted the contractor to ensure efficiency and success with this time sensitive project and minimize disruption to Recycling Center operations.
- Kent- Paving is starting next week Wed-Sun. Closing Recycling Center on the weekends for the duration of the project. 6-8wks till completion. Meeting next Tuesday to finalized the schedule. Won't work every weekend, but it'll be easier for the public to just say we are closed on the weekends.
- Phil- Mari Allan are there any time sensitive zero waste updates?
- Mari Allan- no, the annual Road to Zero Waste summary from fiscal year 17 and full Road to Zero Waste Strategy publication will both be completed by Christmas.

### **Updates from town**

- Johnny- getting recycling containers constructed.
- Phil- how many?
- Johnny- 20
- Phil- who's servicing those?

- Johnny- Kelly (Jackson Curbside Recycling) I think. Trying to get them out as soon as possible. They are solid blue containers, going to do plastic bottles and cans. But we had to design them to match our current trash cans.
- Mari Allan- when are they going in?
- Johnny- Carl and I have been working on it, I copied Heather, I don't know the specific time table.
- Don- how do they get here?
- Johnny- Jackson Curbside Recycling
- Kent- is everyone aware of the eclipse schedule?
- Don- yes it was sent out.

Motion to Adjourn: Phil ; Second: Don. Meeting adjourned 4:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Bell

ISWR Administrative Assistant

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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Jess Wireman, Board Member

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Phil Cameron, Board Chair