

SWAC Meeting Notes – June 2, 2009

Meeting started at 11:12 a.m.
Recess 12:25 p.m. to 12:35 p.m.
Reconvene meeting 12:35 p.m.
Meeting ended 2:30 p.m.

Present: Barbara Bell, Alex Leonard, Shon Pahio, Nimr Tamimi, Ted Vorfeld,
Steve Okoji, Christine Dochin, Paul Buklarewicz, Russell Ruderman,

Absent: Mike Gleason, Jes Foster, Mike Kaha

Staff Present: Ivan Torigoe, Mike Dworsky, Linda Peters, Chris Chin-Chance,
Suzanne Andrade

Consultants: Dan Pitzler, Ron Terry

DOH Rep: Lane Otsu - Absent

Approval of April 6, 2009 Minutes: Motion by Christine Dochin, seconded by Steve Okoji

Adjournment: Motion by Christine Dochin, seconded by Ted Vorfeld

Agenda

In accordance with the agenda, this meeting included the following topics:

- Call to Order and Announcements
- Statements from the public on agenda items – one speaker (a representative of Sustainable Kohala) stated that the Plan should consider having an individual representing ZW in DEM-capable, knowledgeable to incorporate composting, agriculture, interface with other activities. Could be from Recycle Hawai`i, or an independent expert.
- Approval of minutes from April 6, 2009 SWAC meeting
- Unfinished Business
 1. Comments, questions by SWAC members on implementation plan
- Future Agenda Items – Approve implementation plan
- Meeting Announcements - Tentative Date of next meeting July 2, 2009 in Kona.
- Adjournment

Discussion

General Discussion

- Barbara: Any thoughts about the implementation plan presentation?
- Draft document schedule? Barbara felt that SWAC should meet one more time. When? October? Final plan prior. Mike thought perhaps in September near the time of the public hearing?
- Does the SWD have any data about how many illegal dumpers there are? No hard data is available. Should we have numbers for doubters?
- Russell: Compostable bags would be good for Pay As You Throw, we should keep up with technology
- Barbara: Doesn't use trash bags; Pay As You Throw should accommodate that. Dan: Task force needed for Pay As You Throw implementation. Barbara: task force worked for bottle bill
- What about an ordinance delaying bans 1 to 2 years in front? Christine and Steve debated it. May not unfold as planned. Shon: tires, e.g. Mike supported both the carrot and stick approach. Steve, Environmental Protection Agency does things like that
- Barbara: Need to be sure recycling infrastructure is available in West Hawai'i - it always seems to lag there.
- Shon: The private sector has a lot of risk trying to second guess the County. It also seems like the County wants to control waste stream. Mike said that bans are separate from the public versus private issue; more a device to hasten desired behavior: we want waste with resource value to stay out of landfill.
- Shon, if you let private sector do it, price may be high, but market figures it out.
- Barbara: The County is just the Plan B for dealing with banned materials.
- Russell: Should County just build a building in West Hawai'i? Can we be flexible as to private versus public? Mike said yes, but the more the private sector does, the easier it is for programs to get implemented (funding, procurement).
- Questions on closed landfill remediation.

Implementation Plan

- Barbara: Emphasize business waste audits - suggest implementing prior to Extended Producer Responsibility policy" issues because they have a lot of bang for buck. Russell agrees with this.
- There sure is a lot of money being spent on plastic bags for Pay As You Throw. We should encourage permanent containers and recycled plastic, or possibly use off-the-shelf bags. Encourage it with bonus size: We should keep options open.
- Shon, Pay As You Throw will be very challenging to implement.

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- Barbara suggested a “Name that program” for Pay As You Throw.
 - Ted reminded that group that the bag concept was the end product of a discussion on all this. Shon felt that “bags” were not a final decision.
 - Ted, discussed crediting homeowners against prop tax.
 - Mike, Extended Producer Responsibility can have a long impact.
 - Steve, some strategies in Business/Visitor industry seem similar.
 - Christine, you need to repeat seminars for visitor industry yearly.
 - Ted, what is total number of reuse facilities? Linda, 5 now, 5 future
 - Steve, why so expensive for buy recycled policy? Dan, Many implications.
 - Christine, the budget helps fund existing staff programs. Mike, need money for new research/policy.
 - Shon, Why no cost for Department Of Education? Airports? Dan: these are State/Federal functions.
 - Barbara, may need to specify employees vs. contractors for council/union review
 - What is up with organics and zoning? Dan explained need to get code consistent with state requirements to facilitate composting.
 - Paul, is composting money based on Earth machine or Green Cone? Dan, both are appropriate. Barbara felt we should emphasize this, move it up in the schedule, at least some funds. Dan, suggested \$100K in year 2.
 - Linda, County parks and places would be expensive for bins, etc., Linda and Dan will talk.
 - Shon, are we really banning organics? Dan, no, encouraging diversion only, composting is super-expensive, we recommend banning Greenwaste. Shon, it is a really large percentage--not a small problem. How super expensive? Dan, “It depends.”
 - Christine, can that be accommodated by private sector?
 - Russell feels we can do a lot in backyards. Shon feels we need big facilities.
 - Steve, there will be incentive through Pay As You Throw.
 - Dan, to collect food, we’d need separate bins at Recycling and Transfer Stations, very expensive and complex.
 - Barbara: How about composting at Recycling and Transfer Stations, maybe schools could do it
 - Dan, also West Hawai’i greenwaste composting facility might expand function to food waste

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- Shon noted that food waste contaminates all other waste. Food composting is NOT an unproven technology, do it! At least do a study on a large-scale composting facility
 - Paul suggested a small commercial incubator project
 - So, include study of feasibility of it in the organics ban.
 - Christine, has looked for properties with appropriate zoning, they're almost impossible to find. Shon thought we should use the West Hawai'i compost site at the landfill for food composting. County spent a lot of money on that, we should use it! Linda, We can. Need to work with Department Of Agriculture, Identify the best technology (not just compost).
 - So, call the West Hawai'i facility "organics"
 - Paul suggested do pilot projects that do proof of concept with odor control.
 - Shon suggested that we try differential tipping fees, might encourage private haulers to collect and deliver it separately
 - Barbara suggested moving recycling and licensing requirements up to Year 1
 - Shon suggested making 0 dollar tasks more clear. Dan said that he would do so.
 - Dan, ok

Concluding Remarks

SWAC will provide comments on the implementation plan. Agreed that there should be a meeting prior to September try for early July.

SWAC seemed pretty comfortable with most plan elements, with some added work to be done on organics.