

MINUTES OF THE RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN OF SILVER CITY, REGULAR MEETING

Held at Southwest Solid Waste Authority offices, 318 Ridge Road, Silver City, NM; June 17, 2010.

(Minutes prepared by Terry Timme)

Present: Terry Timme (Chair), C.J. Law (SWSWA), Diana Temple (SWSWA), Ann Alexander, Chuck Fuller, Ron Groves. **Absent:** Deanna Mooney, Alan Archer, Eddie Polanco (SWSWA)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Terry at 3:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting as submitted was by acclamation.

Selection of committee officers

Secretary No one volunteered to act as secretary however Chuck said he had his digital recorder and voice recognition software and would try using that to take minutes.

Vice-Chair Terry volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair.

Chair Chuck volunteered to serve as Chair.

Public Input None

Report from SWSWA –

A. CJ Law CJ reported that there had been some bookkeeping mistakes in the past and the recycling intake was actually about 20% greater than previously thought. They are now making about 5 trips/week to El Paso to Friedman recycling. When asked if there had been any problems with the material from SWSWA reported by Friedman, CJ said he had not heard of any. Western Fibers of Hollis, OK has contacted SWSWA about buying cardboard to use to make insulation. They will take compacted cardboard for \$60/ton. This is less than SWSWA was getting when they were still baling cardboard. CJ said he is discussing loose cardboard with them but it would not generate any revenue. Terry mentioned that Gordon West in Santa Clara had expressed interest in obtaining cardboard to use for insulation and possible mulch. It was mentioned that he might be able to provide a mulch for the landfill at a better cost than \$26/100#. Considerable discussion was held about fluorescent light bulbs, both long tubes and CFLs. Some of the “recycling” operations may create a significant risk for the people operating the equipment. At the present time it appears that proper landfill disposal may be the preferred disposal method. SWSWA is attempting to compile a list of addresses of curbside recyclers. Estimates are there are about 900 households that recycle. SWSWA added a new commercial account, the Buckhorn, that has significant recycling. A recycling bin has been placed in the parking lot of the Grant County Administration building at the County’s expense. The former recycling supervisor, Ramon, has moved to the landfill side driving a truck and has been replaced by Eddie Polanco. More curbside bins are needed as those obtained from NM Recycling Coalition are getting low.

Old Business –

A. EarthDay recycling and e-waste event

EarthDay recycling was an outstanding success in the eyes of community and town council. There were probably somewhere around 250 attendees (about 220 cars, 3 bicycles (same guy 3 times), and I would estimate 30 or so walk-ins). Evenly divided between town and county. Inventory of Materials Collected: 156 CRT monitors; 82 Televisions; Weight of e-waste **5 tons**. SWSWA recycling truck was almost completely full!

Terry thanked all the committee. It was very interesting where people heard about it:

Desert Exposure: 35

Gila Forum: 11

Banner/posters: 13

SC Daily Press: 77

Ann’s email: 22

Radio/TV: 11

SC Sun-News: 24

Alan Archer: 21

Other: 9

Most people had no problem contributing \$10 for each TV or CRT monitor. Collected \$1579.97 at the event and subsequent checks for \$125. Still waiting on a \$250 check from the trucking company that failed to show up. With the approval of the mayor and town manager that money is being held by GRIP, the major sponsor of EarthDay, to help with next year’s event.

Of the \$5000 from Freeport we spent \$428.50 for two banners, \$5 for EarthDay registration fee, \$47.72 for safety vests and gloves, \$208 for an ad in Desert Exposure, \$796.28 for ads in SC Daily Press, and \$2207.14 to Abq Recycling for collection and the TV fee. That leaves a balance of \$1307.36 still with SWSWA. CJ said he would like to get written instructions from Richard Peterson of Freeport McMoRan on what to do with the remaining money but it could no stay at SWSWA. Terry will contact him.

The only negatives from the e-waste event were the failure of the contracted trucking company to show up. That resulted in Abq. Recycling having to leave stuff overnight and bringing a rental truck down on Sunday. That truck could not quite hold everything so they had to leave behind 10 TV's and some other junk, including batteries which they do not accept anyway. There was also considerable friction between the Abq crew and one volunteer from Freeport. There was some discussion about the fact that there are no recyclers of alkaline batteries.

Suggestions for next year:

- 1) Have city bring a 4 yd³ trash container.
- 2) Make up receipts for people that ask for them
- 3) Location was fine but would have been tricky with a 53' semi.
- 4) Selection of recycling company?

B. Blues Festival Recycling

Terry relayed an email he received from Richard Mahler regarding the Blues festival recycling:

“We were more successful than ever, collecting more than 26 full 30-gallons bags of recyclable plastic bottles and aluminum cans, plus some cardboard, aluminum foil, and glass. We literally filled up the entire SWSWA flatbed truck with our recyclables.

Special thanks to Town of Silver City Public Works Director Peter Peña, who gave us the key to a storage room at Gough Park that gave us a place to stow the recyclables Saturday and Sunday night. We filled it to the brim!

Thanks also to the Mimbres Region Arts Council, which actively solicited out participation this year and publicized our efforts in the festival program. They also offered volunteers to help out.

Chuck, Deanna, Avery, and Ron from the advisory committee joined me in helping set up, maintain, and take down the bins. Deanna's husband and Ron's wife helped out, too.

Eddie Polanco, the new recycling supervisor at SWSWA, arranged for picking up and returning the bins and bags as well as collecting the recyclables. The collection was so successful this year that we ran out of bags and I had to buy extras on Sunday morning. We have a very well-educated crowd and received almost no trash or glass.

I have two suggestions for next year:

- 1) Try to get SWSWA to deliver the bins directly to Gough Park on Saturday morning and to send a truck on Sunday night to pick up the recyclables. This was done in 2009 with Albert and worked very well, although it requires some effort and donated time on SWSWA's part.
- 2) Improve vendor involvement. Some vendors are participating, but many are not. We have made only token efforts to get them in the loop. It was suggested that we should get MRAC to encourage the vendors to recycle more. It might be plausible to place a 6 yd recycling bin there or a large painted container.

New Business –

A. Recycling bins needed for “Jump into summer Family Fun Day” at Penny Park June 26th 10-2. Chuck will coordinate

B. Terry reviewed the System Based approach for RAC goals for Town Council Strategic Planning Session June 28.

He said the committee needs to tell how our goals apply to town's comprehensive plan (2004) and mission statement (2010) and tell why is RAC needed and how will it improve the system. Terry read the Mission Statement for the town: “Silver City is the hub of an inclusive community settled within a small town that through guided growth, honors and preserves its historical, cultural, and natural heritage while facilitating jobs, health, and educational resources such that the residents and visitors may enjoy and protect the recreational opportunities of the area and high quality of life.”

Terry mentioned that our previous goals statement was project based: “As a committee we strive to follow these directives to the best of our ability and will continue to do so with the approval and support of council. A specific goal we have that addresses these directives is to initiate and coordinate special recycling events that encourage greater public participation in recycling or fill a recycling need not currently served by Southwest Solid Waste Authority (i.e., electronic waste an/or possibly in the future household hazardous waste). “

Terry suggested the following possible revision: “As a committee we strive to follow these directives to the best of our ability and will continue to do so with the approval and support of council. The committee is needed to help

preserve the natural resources in the community through increased recycling. This will enhance and protect the quality of life in Silver City.” The committee approved this unanimously.

C. Rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling:

Terry mentioned a program that English Bird of the NMRC relayed to him: “Call 2recycle.org” After some discussion it was decided that we did not have a suitable location to engage in this program. Terry mentioned that Radio Shack recycles rechargeable batteries. Cell phones we collect are currently recycled through El Refugio.

D. City website information

The information on single stream recycling that Chuck had prepared for the city website was discussed. CJ agreed to review it and relay any corrections to Chuck. Terry said he will help Chuck get it to the town clerk for uploading.

E. Post Office Recycling

Terry relayed information he had received about a recycling program at a post office in Alto, NM. Since we now have single stream recycling that will take most all junk mail and catalogs that are currently entering the trash stream at the post office it is an opportune time to see if we can get the local post office to adopt a program. CJ said he would be willing to discuss the details with the postmaster after Terry renews the discussions with the postmaster that Richard Mahler started a few years ago.

F. New Committee member recruitment:

There is an opening for one committee member and Terry suggested everyone should look for a suitable candidate. CJ suggested that the committee look into expanding the committee’s representation to include the SWSWA’s entire service region.

Next meeting: July 15, 3pm

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30