

# Solid Waste Committee

## Minutes

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Solid Waste Committee was called to order by Chair Caleb Hargis at 1:00 p.m. on May 17, 2023, at the WRCOG office.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Hargis led members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

- City of Beaumont - Sue Foxworth
- City of Calimesa - Mari Shakir
- City of Corona - William Carrasco
- City of Eastvale - Simone Blackwell
- City of Jurupa Valley - Andrea Mejia
- City of Lake Elsinore - Nicole McCalmont
- City of Murrieta - Kristen Crane
- City of Perris - Ignacio Alvarez
- City of San Jacinto - Caleb Hargis (Chair)
- County of Riverside - Janet Moreland

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR** – (Jurupa Valley / Corona) 10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstention. Items 5.A - 5.D were approved.

#### **A. Summary Minutes from the February 15, 2023, Solid Waste Committee Meeting**

**Action:**

1. Approved the Summary Minutes from the February 15, 2023, Solid Waste Committee meeting.

#### **B. EcoHero Shows Activities Update**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

#### **C. Used Oil and Filter Recycling Program Activities Update**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**D. Electronic Annual Report Update**

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**6. REPORTS / DISCUSSION**

**A. Regional Food Rescue & Technical Assistance Program Activities Update**

Olivia Sanchez, WRCOG Program Manager, reported that MSW Consultants was chosen to fulfill food recovery requirements. The Professional Services Agreement will be presented to the WRCOG Executive Committee on June 5, 2023, for approval, and services will begin after July 1, 2023. Interested member agencies can reach out to staff to participate in the Program.

Committee member Abigail Gomez asked what the WRCOG admin fee will cover.

Mrs. Sanchez replied that it would be mainly used for contract management, following up on tasks and deliverables, and staff time for various tasks.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**B. Love Your Neighborhood Program Activities Update**

Mei Wu, WRCOG Staff Analyst, presented on the Love Your Neighborhood Program. Staff has reached out to member agencies to collaborate with clean-up events. Volunteers participated in bulky item collection, community clean-ups, tree planting, and senior home revitalization in the Cities of Hemet and Menifee. Gloves, trash bags, trash pickers, and safety information were distributed.

There are three upcoming events:

City of Perris - May 20, 2023

City of Lake Elsinore - June 10, 2023

City of Jurupa Valley - June 17, 2023

If any member agencies are interested in setting up a clean-up, they are encouraged to reach out to WRCOG staff.

Committee members asked if the events are grant-funded, and if WRCOG provides collection container for bulky items.

Ms. Wu responded that events are funded by the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Olivia Sanchez, WRCOG Program Manager, stated that bulky items are coordinated between the jurisdiction and the disposal hauler. WRCOG can work with agencies to pay for either the disposal fee or the container.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**C. Riverside County Waste Resources: Upcoming Classes and the Backyard Composting Program**

Janet Moreland from the Riverside County Waste Resources Management District reported that the Riverside County Backyard Composting Program began in 1993, and was developed as a county-wide program, providing classes and workshops, and subsidizing compost bins. The Program covers ingredients used, troubleshooting, different types of composting, and other methods to use organic materials.

Group presentations and school outreach are available to teach composting, and a Master Composter certificate training is also available to all residents. Other classes provided are Green Cleaning, Food Waste / Food Rescue, Green Landscaping, and Zero-Waste Homes. Currently, there are over 30 volunteers, with 20 classes, and 40 community events per year. Presentations are available upon requests. Schools can receive a free compost bin, upon request.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**D. SB 1383 Procurement Discussion**

Andrew Smyth from CalRecycle reported that there are various organic waste products eligible for procurements through either direct procurement, where jurisdictions are using the products themselves, or through a direct service provider such as waste haulers, or landscape and transportation services.

Compost and mulch can be used in city parks, landscapes, erosion control, or community gardens. Renewable fuels can be used in city owned vehicles and waste haulers, while renewable heat and electricity can be used for cooking or building infrastructure. Jurisdictions must maintain accurate records for CalRecycle to verify compliance.

Paper purchases must follow additional requirements such as meeting a certain recycle percentage. These include janitorial paper products, as well as printing and writing paper. Copies of invoices and proof of purchases are required.

Jurisdictions must submit an annual report by August 1, 2023, for the prior calendar year. An updated Procurement Calculator Tool is available for jurisdictions to calculate their procurement requirement. Other tools include a model procurement policy that agencies can use to adopt these changes, as well as FAQs and additional resources on the CalRecycle website.

Olivia Sanchez, WRCOG Program Manager, added that some jurisdictions are having trouble with the requirements.

Committee member Simone Blackwell stated that the City of Eastvale has an unrealistic target of 5,000 tons per year. She has reached out to CalRecycle, SoCal Edison, and SoCal gas for any green utility package, but unfortunately there are currently no such programs. She wanted to see what other cities are doing to meet requirements.

Mr. Smyth stated that direct service provider agreements should be in place for record keeping and compliance. He agreed that procurement targets can be challenging, and suggested referring to legal counsel for franchise agreements.

Committee member William Carrasco asked where the adjusted procurement target tool is located and if it has worked for cities in lowering their procurement target.

Mr. Smyth will send the adjustment tool to Ms. Sanchez to share with the Committee, and stated that yes, it has helped lower procurement targets.

Committee member Carrasco asked how other City Councils have responded to this vast procurement target.

Mr. Smyth stated he will collect some examples and respond via email after consulting with an expert in that subject.

Jill from CalRecycle stated she will follow up with examples regarding franchise agreements.

Ms. Sanchez asked whether cities can collaborate in the purchase of materials and regional procurement of renewable energy products.

Mr. Smyth believes there are other regional efforts in meeting the procurement targets and will share examples.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**E. Solid Waste Dues Activities Update**

Casey Dailey, WRCOG Director of Energy & Environmental Programs, stated that Solid Waste Program member dues have not been increased since the early 2000s even though demands continue to grow. An increase was proposed in order for the Program to be self-sustaining. The new rate will increase by 5 cents to 22 cents per occupied household, and an additional fee of \$3,722 for agencies participating in the AB 939 filing program.

**Action:**

1. Received and filed.

**7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

There were no items for future agendas.

## **8. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Hargis reminded the Committee to submit the form 700s to WRCOG's Janis Leonard.

Riverside County will be sending out the information for the Electronic Annual Reports with regard to public outreach and compost bins sold. The 5-year review draft will also be sent out to each jurisdiction.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

The Solid Waste Committee will be dark in the month of June and July. The next Solid Waste Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., at WRCOG's office located at 3300 University Avenue, Suite 200, Riverside.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Solid Waste Committee adjourned at 2:02 p.m.