

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

Minutes of April 17, 2014

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jacques Franco, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
Dave Houser, Republic Services
Larry Levin, Juniper Hills
Mike Schwartz, Waste Management (WM)
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traacey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Sue Higgins*, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Jacque McMillen, Clements Environmental
Kevin Best, Real Energy
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Coby Skye called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2014 MEETING

The April 17, 2014 minutes were approved.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Mr. Coby Skye highlighted the CalRecycle Workshop taking place at the end of the month in Sacramento and encouraged people to participate in person or via the CalRecycle website.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Mr. Skye mentioned Public Works is continuing to have many activities particularly relating to Earth Day this month incorporating as part of the general environmental outreach, our message regarding Conversion Technologies and the need to have an integrated approach to waste management that includes Conversion Technologies.

Public Works is waiting for more legislative actions later this year relating to CT legislation and will continue to keep the subcommittee updated. The Subcommittee discussed SB 498 and the concern that CalRecycle is still handling conversion facilities on a case-by-case basis and legislation is definitely needed to have standard and uniform direction. Mr. Mike Mohajer noted that, despite continued efforts by the Task Force, SWANA is continuing to move forward with Policy T-11 related to conversion technologies despite having extensive errors and misleading information in the document. It was noted that such a policy could be very detrimental in discouraging municipalities that may be interested in conversion technologies from moving forward.

Mr. Eugene Tseng discussed the importance of visiting operating, commercial scale conversion technology facilities in educating decision makers about the potential for conversion technologies in California, and noted that he regularly coordinates tours of conversion technology facilities. He requested staff place an item on next month's agenda to discuss the potential for the Subcommittee to sponsor a tour, open to key decision makers and city representatives in L.A. County, of the best examples of operating, commercial scale conversion technology facilities from around the world.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Traecey Anthony provided the following update:

In early April, Clements Environmental finished the survey of previously identified private stakeholder within L.A. County and they submitted a summary memorandum to the County. As a result, ARI was able to facilitate preliminary discussions between the site owner and one of the listed technology companies for possible future collaboration on a small scale demonstration projects (Calmet Services and PowerHouse Energy, which is looking to demonstrate their 5 ton per day gasifier for fuel production). ARI referred other site stakeholders to the database listings for informational purposes. The survey showed that site stakeholders remained interested in future CT projects but many are currently focusing on MRF operations, including optimizing performance or developing new MRF capacity that can be paired with future CT projects. Waste Recovery and Recycling is in the process of obtaining permits to demonstrate an autoclave at its MRF near Gardena. Their future interest is to use the processed material as feedstock for a CT project. The autoclave is scheduled to be installed and operational by September 2014. This information will be incorporated as appropriate into the next 6 month report to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Mike Mohajer requested staff provide a presentation regarding the next 6 month report at a future meeting.

As requested by Mr. Mohajer, ARI initiated work on compiling a list of operating conversion technology facilities, the initial list will focus on facilities in the U.S. and facilities operating worldwide for companies that are a part of the technology database. The initial version of the facility listing will be completed in early May and could possibly be expanded to include additional facilities associated with technologies that are not on the database.

Mr. Skye suggested members to email him conversion technology facilities operating at 100 tpd or more per day in order to help Sue Higgins in compiling the master list of operating conversion technology facilities.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2014.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.