

## **Chaffee Green Meeting Minutes October 16, 2018 1:30 pm**

Present: Jacy Dumas, Thomas Dumas, Maartje Maas Potterton, Gaye Jenkins, Wendy Hall, Cyndi Rader, Kathy Taylor, Judith Sumner, Laurie Stiles, Neil Movitz, Kim Marquis, Richard Kenshalo, Anne Gioscia, Mickey Barry, Libby Faye, Chris Martin, Donna Maloney

Introductions and review of Mission Statement and Goals - see agenda.

- Decided to call the task force work we are doing as a Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee core people at this time: Richard Kenshalo; Laurie Stiles; Cyndi Rader; Donna Maloney; Gaye Jenkins; Jacy Dumas.
- Added to the goals is the first tactic of "creating a systems-based approach to waste management across the county which is specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound" to assure focus on more specific outcome.
- Need a treasurer to report to CCF. Laurie Stiles volunteered.

### **Presentation by Mickey Barry on the current state of Angel of Shavano Recycling:**

#### **The recycling industry has changed due to the following challenges:**

By 2020, China will no longer be taking solid waste from other countries. Other countries are following. They are committed to using their own recycle streams (mandated recycling) for various uses, and have enough for their use based on their own population. Contamination is a big issue from other sources and they are cutting off those recycle streams they can't control. The market for US recyclables has therefore gone down by 56% or more.

Recycling costs have increased.

- Transportation costs have increased, particularly in Colorado because of our central US location. Everything has to move east/west to downstream options. Shipping is the main cost driver because of fuel, labor (including lack of drivers), and long-haul transport needs (including new electronic logs).
- Increased population in Chaffee County has increased tonnage of recyclables, therefore increasing number of pickups required.
- Single stream recycling is not working as much of the solid waste is contaminated.
- Abuse of drop off sites for general trash dumping, Angel of Shavano will no longer clean up the garbage.
- Labor costs are also a factor, at \$15/hour for starting wage.
- Illegal dumping is a huge issue. Crews sometimes spend several hours clearing trash before being able to deal with recyclables. Must pay Waste Management to take the trash.
- TABOR limits funding for cost recovery? Tax, but what about surcharges on waste?
- His costs come out to about \$.32/person/month.

Recycling income has decreased.

- Cost recovery options for recycled materials are decreasing for most streams.
- #1 and #2 plastics still ok, #3-#7 are not cost effective.
- Mixed paper not cost effective but improves with better separation
- Glass is cost effective because of effective downstream with Coors. Cannot recycle tempered glass (e.g., windows).
- Aluminum is cost effective.

- Glass/Aluminum can be recycled repeatedly. Plastic is a one-time recycle as recycled uses (e.g., patio furniture) can't be recycled again.
- The existing plastic numbering system is being phased out due to confusion. Some may remain.
- Chaffee County's lower volumes allow some cross-contamination. This is the reason milk cartons are now being recycled along with cardboard. Even though a contaminate, milk cartons at our volumes are acceptable with his downstream outlets.

Therefore, recycling no longer pays for itself.

#### Recycling Locations

- County recycle streams from BV, Salida and the central landfill are stored at the Poncha Springs facility off of Hwy. 120 for transport.
- Some material recovery facilities (MRFs) accept single stream recycling (Colorado Springs). Items are sorted there, and unacceptable materials end up in the landfill.

#### Landfill

- Recycling diverts from the landfill 1.5 to 2 million lbs. per year.
- The landfill has recently opened a new cell and could extend the life of the landfill to 50 years.
- Fort Collins has done a waste audit for diversion percentages due to recycling. Unsure of the results.
- Bob Christiansen, Chaffee County Administrator has landfill costs, maintenance costs, etc. Need contact information. [bchristiansen@chaffeecounty.org](mailto:bchristiansen@chaffeecounty.org) 719-539-2218

#### Dealing with trash

- Salida has adequate fines (\$2500 for illegal dumping?) but lax enforcement.
- BV fine is up to \$2650 or 1 year in prison.
- Lake county has \$1000 fine, with \$500 reward for citizens who report
- Mickey feels BV is easier to work with (than Salida?) due to fencing, and better enforcement with illegal dumping.
- Pueblo has just opened a pay drop site for hard to recycle items to discourage illegal dumping and may be a model to look into. Pueblo is : fee based; limited hours; take electronics, tires. Contact is Susan (need full name for follow-up)

#### Organics

- 40% of landfill waste is organic (food).
- Food waste produces methane, a heat-trapping greenhouse gas that's 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide.
- Concerns with composting are with the smell, NIMBY, etc.
- Gaye Jenkin's son, Joseph Teipei, is the co-founder and Executive Director of Re:vision who is experienced with managing organic waste. See <https://www.revision.coop/what-we-do/>

#### Mickey's preferred solutions (and other notes)

- Clean up the drop sites, to include cameras, better enforcement of illegal dumping, ordinances for fines/rewards. Game Trail subdivision has installed cameras, may want to contact the HOA and see if it is working.

- Education. People often resistant to change, but compliance does increase with education. K-12 education is great. Maybe get Eagle scouts to do signage. Refrigerator magnets with recycling dos and don'ts is another idea.
- Focus on developing a waste energy market - cogeneration or biomass from recyclables. Europe is pioneering waste to energy. Chris Martin has good perspectives on waste to energy. Maybe viable for the prison, for example.
- Chaffee County has a high rate for recycling.
- He states he can deal with changing downstream economics if the city/county can get behind managing drop sites and keeping the contamination out. He has had some support from governmental agencies (BV mainly) for his increased cost drivers. Unsure of Salida, Poncha Springs.
- Summit county 1A initiative would provide \$1.7 million annually for recycling (approximately \$170/year for \$500K home). Goal is to achieve 40% diversion rate by 2035. Another goal is to deal with materials like mattresses.

**Chris Martin**, former energy auditor, can look into what is being done in Lake County for auditing and helping low income households with decreasing monthly bills. Would also like to investigate Cogeneration options. He feels these should wait until after the election as the outcome could determine what options are available.

#### **Task Force for Action Items:**

1. Education: to include Recycle drop off rules and encourage proper use. Also general environmental practices such as Reduce/Reuse/Recycle.
2. Volunteers: There is community support for recycle endeavors. Need to couple it with the education aspect.
3. Plastic Bag and Straw initiative: Continue that which has already been started. Need to get funding for more reusable bags.
4. Marketing: Kimberly Marquis has offered to help with the website and also a press release (but first need a more cohesive message, better mission statement, etc.).
5. Legislative information gathering and communication: need volunteers to attend
  - BV Trustee meetings
  - County Commissioner meeting
  - Salida meetings
6. County Comprehensive Plan: Add a sustainability part to the Comprehensive Plan, which has not yet been developed. Chaffee County is open to adding it and would like Chaffee Green to come up with a draft. Kimberly Marquis suggested borrowing from other communities that have sustainability in their plan. She also noted that the Master Plan is an overall guideline and does not guarantee that the county will implement specific plans. Those plans need to be done at a lower or local level. The draft needs to include specific economics and be accountable and actionable. Judith Sumner has offered to help with the CCP.

#### **Informational websites:**

Ecocycle  
 Recycle Colorado  
 EcoChallenge

**Next meeting: November 6, 4-6 pm**