

**MARIN COUNTY HAZARDOUS & SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

AB 939 Local Task Force Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2024
1600 Los Gatos Drive, Suite 210
San Rafael, CA 94903

Action Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT

Deirdre Fennessy
Chuck Hornbrook
Adam Ratner
Vicki Nichols
Dee Johnson
Matt McCarron
Garrett Toy
Justin Wilcock

STAFF PRESENT

Casey Fritz, ZWM
Justin Newsome, DPW
Amy Kolnes, ZWM

OTHERS PRESENT

Carolyn Flannery
Kevin McElroy

1. Open Time for Public Comment

Members, staff, and attendees went around the room and introduced themselves. No other public comment was tendered.

2. Approval of the January 4, 2024 JPA Local Task Force

Staff Member Casey Fritz opened the floor to approve the minutes.

Member Chuck Hornbrook made mention his name was missing from the agenda minutes and sign-in sheet from the previous January 4, 2024 meeting.

Motion to approve the January 4, 2024 minutes with the addition of adding the presence of Chuck Hornbrook.

Motion: Vicki Nichols. Second: Matt McCarron. Ayes: Noes: Abstentions: Chuck Hornbrook

3. Presentation by Staff: CRV & Buy-Back Centers

Staff member Fritz shared the prepared presentation and asked for feedback from the LTF members on how to improve the CRV redemption access in Marin County. Staff member Fritz was asked why San Rafael and Marin Sanitary closed their redemption center. Member Justin Wilcock explained that the Covid pandemic and an expansion to the recycling facility forced a temporary suspension, since then there was a sorting machine added and that commandeered the area where the CRV redemption took place. The space restraint closed the service down.

Staff member Fritz suggested the tasks could be taken on by an LTF subcommittee such as Infrastructure subcommittee. It was shared that ZWM staff occasionally receives calls from elderly, disabled, or do not have the proper access to do so.

Member Justin Wilcock was asked even with the space constraint to the CRV service, does the CRV service lose money. Member Wilcock answered that the CRV service ranged from [breaking] even to not making money and that on a state level no one could financially make the program work. Staff member Fritz added that CRV redemption centers are reimbursed for payments to the customer by the state but not for staff time and expenses to make the facilities run.

An additional question and answer session was held regarding the CRV financial viability and need for more CRV/recycling centers in communities. Staff member Fritz and Member Wilcox further explained.

Staff Member Fritz reiterated the question of if the Infrastructure and End Markets subcommittee would like to take on the CRV and Buy-Back Center topic by formulating a formal recommendation to the JPA board to add reverse vending machines with cost analysis, retailer locations, budget allocations, and new redemption centers.

More LFT member commentary was made regarding their experience with and the function of CRV/recycling centers in the Marin communities.

4. New Members & Subcommittee Membership

Staff Member Fritz opened the floor for the two new LTF members to join one of the four subcommittees. The four subcommittees are Infrastructure and End Markets, Compliance and Regulations, Outreach and Education, and Construction and Demolition.

Motion to approve adding Chuck Hornbrook to Infrastructure and End Markets and Construction and Demolition, and Deirdre Fennessy to Compliance and Regulations, and Outreach and Education

Motion: Garrett Toy.

Second: Justin Wilcock.

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Abstentions: Chuck Hornbrook

5. Report Out from Subcommittees

Prior to the subcommittee reports, Staff Member Fritz announced the implementation of a 2-minute report limit for each subcommittee to focus on the most important updates from each subcommittee.

An Infrastructure and End Markets subcommittee member shared that there has not been a subcommittee meeting since December 2023, however, it was added that the subcommittee made agenda recommendations for the previous LTF meeting. Additionally, the subcommittee is looking into grant funding.

Staff member Fritz shared that LTF member Dale McDonald sent notes for the Compliance and Regulations subcommittee updates to be shared. Subcommittee Member jumped in to deliver an update mentioning there has been a request recommending a ZWM public comment on SB-54's draft language. Currently, there is an informal review out, but the formal review timeline is not out yet. The subcommittee will focus on reviewing SB-54 and making recommended comments to the JPA with a particular focus on the covered materials category list. Additional primary points to understand what impacts the local community, staying abreast of the changing regulations via notices, transparency to the LTF and ZWM to keep them informed, insuring consistency on a regional level and taking an approach of less is more.

Staff member Fritz followed up with a reminder of the presentation of SB-54 in the previous meeting which was the Producer Responsibility Act focused on plastic packaging.

The Outreach and Education subcommittee presented next, sharing that their focus has been looking at the main sources of communication from ZWM. Looking into what other groups are doing communication and outreach wise (ZW Sonoma, Santa Barbara, Stop Waste) and how to best package messaging from the success stories, studies, and easing website navigation by working with Casey and Andrew to see where they are in the website revamp to help inform the revamp.

Additionally, Stop Waste was investigated due to their \$34 million dollar budget and their funds were received through a voter initiative in 1990. It was noted that their website of 88-pages could be used to clip material and send to Andrew. It is suggested that the ZWM website act as a clearinghouse stating what each courier needs to do, this could be done by sending them out through each of the pages via the website.

Lastly, LTF Member Justin Wilcock gave an update for the Construction and Demolition subcommittee. The priorities of what the subcommittee should focus on was discussed with ZWM staff member Andy. Some of the topics that arose were facility certifications, 3rd party certifications for C&D facilities to certify the diversion numbers. LTF Member Justin Wilcock shared that their facility is certified through San Francisco's program. Additionally, checking into ordinances around C&D model ordinances for jurisdictions to adopt. Insuring haulers that are handling construction debris are handling it responsibly.

In addition, software options (Green Halo) for tracking C&D flows and materials. Deconstruction ordinances, as there is a movement in that direction. Discussion of recovering items before they go through the recycling process and how to best set donation infrastructure. Lastly, recruiting for the C&D subcommittee.

A follow up question-and-answer session was held, and additional questions were addressed by LTF Member Wilcock.

6. Presentation by Make It Home

Make It Home Founder Carolyn Flannery spoke to the LTF committee about the organization. Make It Home is a furniture banker, which makes up 2 of the 4 furniture banks in California. There are 10 total furniture banks on the west coast (Washington

State, Oregon, and California). Make It Home serves 7-10 counties by taking in gently used furniture, vetting it, and combining it into complete furniture sets to give back to community members that are without furniture. Founder Flannery mentioned that furniture poverty is a problem Make It Home is trying to solve, for individuals that receive section-8 vouchers for housing they do not receive furniture. Some counties have stipends for individuals and families to receive furniture, but Marin County does not.

Make It Home works with over 130 social agencies to fill the furnishing requests of their clients. 12 million tons of furniture is thrown away each year nationwide. In the 7 counties that Make It Home serves, if the dumped furniture was repurposed, everyone living under the poverty line would have their homes furnished in a year and a half. To date, Carolyn's organization has saved 2,000 tons in the Bay Area.

A follow up question-and-answer session was held, and additional questions regarding pick up services, desired items, differences between Make It Home and other charitable organizations were addressed by Founder Flannery.

7. Recommendation Agenda Items for the Next LTF Meeting

LTF Subcommittee member suggested Too Good To Go as a paid food recovery system that could assist outside of SB-1383. Staff Member Casey Fritz agreed to investigate this as an option.

Additional conversation was had regarding food recovery in Marin County.

8. Adjournment

Next LTF Meeting TBD