



Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

Boulder County Staff Liaison: Tim Broderick • Phone: 720-564-2238 • tbroderick@bouldercounty.org

Meeting Address: Boulder County Recycling Center • 1902 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80306 • www.BoulderCounty.org

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – September 23rd, 2020

Present:

Charles Kamenides – City of Longmont (Chair)
Tim Plass – At-Large (Vice-chair)
Alisha Stewart – Town of Erie
Eric Smith – At Large
Dan Matsch – Town of Lyons
David Snapp – At Large (CDPHE)
Darla Arians – Boulder County
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Mircalla Wozniak - At Large
Brandon Hill – Resource Central
Mark Persichetti – City of Louisville
Jack DeBell – CU Recycling
Bridget Johnson – Town of Jamestown
Eric Loof – Western Disposal
Steve Derus – Republic Services
Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle

Caitlyn Stafford – Town of Superior
Lisa Speermont – At Large
Chris Pelletier – Town of Nederland
Adam Swetlick – City of Boulder

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Tim Broderick – Boulder County/OSCAR
Deandra Croissant – Boulder County/ OSCAR

Guests:

Tyler Kesler – Town of Erie
Lisa Skumatz – SERA
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County
Lesia Julian – City and County of Broomfield
Andrew Woen – ReDetect
Andrew Barth – Boulder County
Chris Mirto – PEH Architects
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Brian Tewey – PEH Architects

Active Members Not Present:

Russ Callas – At Large
Stephanie Walton – City of Lafayette
Tony Raeker – City of Lafayette

1. Call to Order / Introductions

Charlie Kamenides called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes July 22, 2020

Charlie Kamenides asked if the July Minutes could be approved. Alisha Stewart moved to approve, and Brandon Hill seconded the motion, followed by unanimous RCAB approval.

3. Compost Facility Update

PEH Architects are the primary consultants for the Compost Facility Design for Boulder County. However, SES Engineers, A1 Organics, JBA, 2020 Engineering, AE Design, and other subconsultants are also supporting the project. PEH Architects submitted a schematic design package in September 2020, and they attended the RCAB meeting to share the materials. Items were discussed such as: site plan, building design, site location and function, plans for tree screening, and general compost operation. Discussion and questions by RCAB members followed, with updates on the communication plan and site plans to be provided in subsequent meetings.

4. Andrew Woen ReDetect: Peak to Peak High School – Recycle tool that was shown at RC Summit

Cody Lillstrom introduced Andrew Woen, who has developed a new piece of technology called ReDetect. Andrew is a senior at Peak to Peak High School in Lafayette. He was awarded the Yale Science and Engineering Award, the Congressional App Challenge by Joe Neguse, and CBS Future Leader Award for this device he developed.

This technology seeks to solve the crisis of people not knowing what to recycle. For example, in the U.S. we have a recycle contamination rate of 25%. One way of informing people on what to recycle is through the use of posters; however, Andrew explains how these have been ineffective. For example, many people at his homecoming dance recycled plastic cups following the directives on the sign, yet after further research, Andrew discovered that plastic cups cannot be recycled in his area. The poster that tried to be minimalistic and accessible was unfortunately not detailed enough. And if you increase details, posters become too confusing, language barriers are hindered, or people become overwhelmed.

To meet this challenge Andrew created the Redetect Recycling Device, it optimizes accuracy by detecting the device and informing people what can and cannot be recycled; i.e. you put the material under the device and it turns green if it is recyclable.

5. Community Updates

Town of Jamestown – Bridget Johnson: Jamestown held Hard to Recycle Event this past weekend that was postponed from the Spring. It was a big success, diverting items such as scrap metal, paint, etc. Diverted over 1500 pounds of electronics and everyone felt safe enough and followed Covid procedures.

Eco-Cycle – Suzanne Jones: Eco-Cycle is working on the next phase of the annual recycling report. This year they have broadened their reach, and sent out a survey to all the cities in the state that are 5,000 people or more in population to try and cast a larger net and encourage more people to report in. This report will be coming out in November in part of Recycle Colorado Week. Eco-Cycle is also working with the Polis Administration on Recycle Colorado Week and striving to get it to be a more permanent annual event. Finally, also helping out on a couple ballot measures, such as the Louisville Bag Tax to decrease disposable single-use bags.

City of Louisville – Mark Persichetti: The Louisville Bag Tax will be a 25 cent per bag per single use bag offered by all merchants, not just grocery stores. Proposing this tax will go before the voters. If approved, 15 cents will stay with the merchant and 10 cents will go to the city to be used for offset efforts or education directly related to this conservation measure. The 25 cents is substantially more than other cities, but the city council members are strongly in favor of this, and we will see how the residents respond.

CDPHE – *David Snap*: Recycling totals for 2019 are now on the website. CDPHE will also be reviewing the RFP that went out for the Front Range Waste Diversion. Received approximately 20 applications.

City of Longmont – *Charles Kamenides*: Operations in Longmont have been extremely busy with increased collections. Recycling volumes are huge since the beginning of Covid. Observing people being home and not as much at work is resulting in more curbside recycling and compost. After July, volumes typically go down but graph of totals have stayed flat. Looking forward to creating some data and presenting it to council.

Republic Services – *Steve Derus*: Residential recycling is skyrocketing, seeing a lot more volume. With more volume we see more contamination, but that is pretty standard.

- **City of Boulder** – *Jamie Harkins*: The sustainable take-out program has been successful. Offering a rebate for restaurants who would transition over to recyclable or compostable materials. Approximately 61 restaurants signed up in a week and the City has committed 60k of their 70k. It was a huge uptake really fast and they were able to market it to partners in the PACE equity program, so minority owned businesses had opportunities first.

Boulder County – *Tim Broderick*: OSCAR was pursuing the USDA grant on community compost and food recovery. That program submitted was fully funded so that is an additional 90k on grant programs being brought in. Really addresses the piece of compost that comes out of the facility, but on the farmland and application side. Collaborates with Mad Agriculture and Zero Food Print. Zero Food Print is a program where participating restaurants put on a 1% surcharge on customer bills, and those funds go to NRCS practices on participating farms. Specifically, for this program in Boulder, it's going to go all to compost. Hoping long-term that they are creating a potential system to help subsidize compost that comes out of the facility to be cost competitive against synthetic fertilizers.

6. **Adjourn** Charlie Kamenides adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.