Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes – October 26, 2022

Present:
David Snapp – At large (Chair)
Brandon Hill – Resource Central (Vice-chair)
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Matt LeBeau – At Large
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Eryka Thorley – Town of Nederland
Dan Matsch – Town of Lyons
Elizabeth Szorad – City of Lafayette
Charles Kamenides – City of Longmont
Meghan Wiebe – At large
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County RCD
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville
Eric Loof – Western Disposal
Bridget Johnson – Town of Jamestown
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder

Active Members Not Present:
Suzanne Jones – Eco-Cycle
Mircalla Wozniak - At Large
Vacant – Superior
Vacant – Town of Ward
Vacant – CU Recycling

RCAB Staff Liaison:
Noah Eisenman – Boulder County RCD

Guests:
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Susie Hidalgo-Fahring – City Council
Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Franchie Jaffe – City of Longmont
Jose Ramos – City of Longmont

1. Call to Order / Introductions
   David Snapp called the meeting to order at 4:49 p.m.

2. Approval of September 28, 2022 minutes
   David asked if the September 2022 Minutes could be approved. Dan Matsch motioned to approve the minutes. Meghan Wiebe seconded the motion, followed by unanimous RCAB approval.

3. HMMF Vape Collection – Shelly Fuller
   Shelly Fuller, Rachel Freeman and Fran Babrow presented their vape collection program.

   Shelly has been collecting vape devices that have been confiscated at schools since 2017 in partnership with Boulder County Public Health. The program has evolved over the years, and they are now collected at local vape shops and the hazardous materials facility in Boulder. They’ve collected over 2,200 devices just this year.
Rachel and Fran found an innovative grant opportunity, that is due Friday, October 28th, to do product stewardship with this program to sustain this program and put responsibility on manufacturers of the vape devices.

The grant opportunity is to expand the work and look at this work at a more systems level change. They are currently funding the work with S-Tax money. The grant is $150,000 for 1 year and it is a 3-year grant cycle. With the funds they can contract with an organization that has expertise in product stewardship and possibly EPR to hold manufacturers responsible for safe disposal of these products.

Producers of vapes do not currently take any responsibility of the disposal of their products. A lot of consumers don’t know they are hazardous waste. This causes issues with nicotine leaching into the environment.

Another component of the grant is consumer education around vapes are hazardous waste by hiring a marketing firm and develop a media campaign that would raise awareness.

The ask from Shelly, Fran and Rachel: RCAB to provide a letter of support and collaboration for this program.

Questions/Comments from RCAB:

Eryka Thorley: Town of Nederland supports this

Charles Kamenides: Longmont has signed a letter of support. What happens to the little vapey things? What happens to the material itself?

Shelly: It depends on the device. Can take out the batteries. Some of them are being sent for incineration if the components cannot be separated. E-liquid is being sent off as toxic being used as a fuels blend recovery.

Dan Matsch: How does this work with the state’s EPR bill that just passed? Are you looking to connect to that policy? Are you looking to expand beyond Boulder County?

Shelly: Yes. Looking to do ground-level work at the municipality level with the grant. The ultimate goal is to pass something state-wide. The current EPR does not cover vape devices.

David: This program is worthy of a letter from RCAB. As an employee of CDPHE, Brandon Hill should be the one to sign this letter.

Charles put a motion of approval to pass this letter of support and Kayla Betzold seconded the motion. With a unanimous approval to draft and sign the letter.

4. City of Longmont – Universal Recycling Ordinance Language
Charlie Kamenides, on the behalf of Longmont, would like RCAB to go through the work they’ve been doing for the universal recycling ordinance. Beefed up the zero-waste
resolution that was previously done in 2008. The next step is to have a draft for a universal recycling ordinance in front of council by December 13th.

Francie Jaffe (Sustainability Coordinator for Longmont) and Jose Luis presented on the Zero Waste resolution that was passed. The new targets are 75% by 2030, 95% by 2050. Next step is to implement an ordinance. Recycling food and commercial paper are the two things focusing on. Drafted recycling ordinance and organics diversion with food permitted businesses. Francie shared a Google Jamboard with RCAB so members could give feedback and/or input.

Longmont has facilitated many meetings around this resolution and ordinance including meetings with haulers and in-person focus groups.

David Snapp asked if any members had comments.

Matt LeBeau: Looking at developing similar ordinance in Lafayette – were you able to bypass hauler issue with having only one hauler?

Francie: We do have multiple haulers and that is some of the feedback they got that some of the difficulty of putting the requirement on the hauler. Multiple haulers might serve one client. Some haulers only do recycling. Some nuance and feedback on this component.

Noah Eisenman: In support of staggered rollout. Do you have data on how big of a lift this will be? What percentage of customer base currently only with trash that will need recycling?

Francie: There is a lot of data on how commercial is doing. Commercial has 36% diversion. No data on how many customers do or do not have recycling. A lot of small businesses do not have recycling.

David: Will this cover a lot of HOA areas?

Charlie: Don’t distinguish between HOA and single family residential. Distinguish by 8 units or greater or less. Currently, single family HOA’s are served by the city.

Francie shared that the organics diversion proposal focuses on food permitted businesses must divert food scraps from back of house operations through commercial compost service or donating to food to people and/or animals. Timeline of different components may differ as the proposal rolls out. May add in landscaping companies or multi-family residences later. They will focus on back of house to start.

Dan Matsch asked what the plan is to address contamination in back of house. Francie assures that employee education is an important component for all parts of the resolution.

Francie shared the exemptions and highlighted that they have not had anyone in support of “no exemptions.” A lot of the feedback shows there needs to be some exemptions.
Dan: Will you be adding staff? Working through PACE?

Francie: We will have a 2-year fixed term position to help with this and PPRA. A lot of the initial work will be upfront.

Jamie Harkins: Home-based businesses exemptions was the one largely used in City of Boulder for recycling. Curious about the shared bins, can you integrate that into the ordinance language?

Jose Luis: Comment about home-based businesses – the number of home-based businesses is very large and expands to many different services.

Francie: Trying to identify financial and educational support to successfully implement the ordinance. Where can cross-collaboration happen?

Dan: EcoCycle is happy to collaborate with Longmont.

Charlie: Doing a lot of outreach so they can hear the support and the challenges. Want to have an equity perspective so they don’t leave anyone behind. Their goal is to reduce waste at the landfill, reduce GHG emissions, all the good things. Engage Longmont page is a good landing page for all the outreach.

Noah: Longmont has done a lot of great work. Francie can be a part of the outreach group that Chandra is putting together. You’ve taken your time in rolling this out in a slow, methodical way and a lot of other muni’s will want to follow suit in some way. Creating a great template for everyone to follow.

5. Zero Waste Grant Applications

Cody Lillstrom brought summaries of the Resource Conservation Division’s Zero Waste Grant applications. The application period closed on Monday, Oct 24. Total of 8 applications this year which is lower than past years. As a result of low applicants sitting on the review committee could be a relatively easy process. These are the applicants:

- Arete Condominium: First time applicant. Proposal is to improve their recycle center in the condominium space.
- Community Cycles: Previously received a grant in 2020 that added Zero Waste stations in their shop. Proposal this year is to expand their efforts on Circular Economy.
- EcoCycle: Did receive funding to modernize their commercial waste collection system.
  - This year’s application is to get their compost system bolstered with farms and expand that project.
- KGNU: applied in 2022 for a public media campaign about following the waste stream.
  - This year is about Zero Waste, circular economy stuff including EPR, PPRA and organics contamination.
Lyons: 2022 applicant to do a town-wide diversion event which was very successful.
   - This year looking to expand compost collection specific to Lyons.

Nederland: 2020 applicant but COVID halted their plans because it was focused on ZW events.
   - This year they want to install a sign at the transfer station to increase outreach and education to the community. Full disclosure, RCD is a partner with this project.

Nude Foods: 2 pronged approach
   - Infrastructure - automate some of their processes like container washing and refilling.
   - Education - Get the word out about refilling and reusing habits for their customers.

Questions and discussion from RCAB members:

Kayla: Do you have the total amount requested? And if not, can the application be opened again?

Cody: There is no total, currently. We’ve never been in this situation again with so little applicants. Could entertain the idea of opening it back up if we don’t use all the funds.

Matt LeBeau: If we have fewer applicants than normal, asking for less money than available, do we automatically approve/grant all applicants their requested funds?

Cody: No, if their application is not good, we don’t have to grant them the funds.

The ask for this meeting is to recruit four or five members to serve on a subcommittee with Cody Lillstrom to review the applications. Subcommittee members will review applications, score them, and meet before Thanksgiving. Cody would like to have decisions made by first week of December and to get in front of the BOCC before the end of the year.

David Snap asked who would like to be on the subcommittee and these people have volunteered: Elizabeth Szorad, Charlie Kamenides, Matt LeBeau, Meghan Wiebe, Dan Hoback

6. November/December RCAB Meeting

David asked the board if they would prefer to have a survey done to see what could happen for these ends of the year meetings? Any other thoughts or requests?

Charlie proposed one virtual meeting that happens on December 7th, Dan seconded December 7th.

Due to other input about December 7th, David will send out a poll to find out the best date for the most people. We’ll most likely have a retreat in the new year, and we can do that in person.
7. **Urgent community updates/requests**

Elizabeth Szorad: Lafayette is about to launch their Circular Economy guide on November 15th. This is their largest lift for waste diversion. Also started a new hauler contract with Republic Services for weekly compost collection.

David: what was the driver for weekly compost collection?

Lizzie: Request from the public. It can get smelly, especially in the summer. Embedded the rates as well so there isn’t a cost to compost. Residents are switching to larger compost carts.

Charlie: Longmont’s annual fall leaf collection and hard to recycle event happening through middle of November. Excited to see what will happen with this 2nd annual event. Plug for the webinar being done by PPRA, Recycle Colorado and CML on November 2nd.

Dan Hoback: Town of Erie will be reviewing single hauler RFP’s next week. Set to include 3 neighborhoods. On November 12 and 20, annual leaf and pumpkin composting event.

Jamie Harkins: City of Boulder is in the midst of implementing PPRA. It’s been a little difficult because of the stores that will be impacted. Bring in the large stores on Jan 1st and phase in all other stores in Jan 2024. Bag fee will still be 10cents.

- Working with PACE on the compost contamination issue. PACE will be doing door to door outreach starting next week. There will be 2-3 weeks of really intense outreach to try and clean up that stream.
- Re-peater was just acquired by Deliver Zero. There will be more resources and a marketing team to help this program scale.

Kayla: Question for Jamie – When expanding to all stores in 2024, does that include restaurants?

Jamie: Not including them right now. Will be retail and include over 1000 businesses.

Kayla: Louisville has leaf drop off events happening.

- Compost contamination – aligning with other communities to get some more messaging out there.
- Bag tax – gearing up for the state fee starting in January. Bringing in a part time temp staff to help with compliance. Any bag from any business that will hand out a disposable bag. There have been challenges with compliance. This temporary employee will help with the compliance issue.

David: Is there a consequence in Louisville?

Kayla: Right now there is regular tax auditing. The audit process is randomized. There is no real enforcement only delinquency letters.
Dan Matsch for EcoCycle: Compost contamination front – there is a team to coordinate messaging. Dirty Dozen is available to brand for themselves. Starting to explore how to fund this.

- Policy recommendations that Recycle Colorado is considering for the next legislation session. Without a bill they are already revising the compost facility permitting regulations.
- Front runners for Recycle Colorado and Colorado Composting Council – compost procurement with CDOT and other state agencies to use compost for certain construction projects.
- EcoCycle is trying to find a bill that addresses all the wood chips that are being generated from fire mitigation efforts and getting those to a composter. Foresters are saying that transportation costs are the limitations.
- Market prices are down and thus having a hard time at the BCRC with low market prices.

Meghan Wiebe: Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) grant is open and closes November 18th at 3pm. [https://cdphe.colorado.gov/front-range-waste-diversion](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/front-range-waste-diversion)

David: Regarding the City of Longmont project, think about how to have an agreement with private hauler to help fund the third bin. If you leverage the Front Range Waste Diversion grant opportunity you can get more support on the ordinance.

Bridget Johnson: Thought the FRWD grant was going to expire soon but has been expanded?

David: It goes until 2029 or 2030. There are two to three grant cycles every year. This one is more of a community focus.

Dan: Is there anything to report on EPR from CDPHE?

David: The application for the advisory board closed last Friday. Review the applications, recommend those to the executive director. Once they get the board members they’ll start board meetings, do a needs assessment, and figure out other requirements.

8. **Adjourn**

   David Snapp adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.