



Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

Boulder County Staff Liaison: Noah Eisenman, neisenman@bouldercounty.org

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

Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – January 25, 2023

Board Members Present:

David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Zan Jones – Eco Cycle
Eric Loof – Western Disposal
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder
Elizabeth Szorad – City of Lafayette
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Mircalla Wozniak – At Large
Matt LeBeau – At Large
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior
Neal Lurie – ReSource Central

Board Members not Present:

Dan Matsch – Lyons
Nicki Dunn – Town of Nederland
Meghan Wiebe – At Large
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Vacant – CU Recycling

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Noah Eisenman – Boulder County RCD

Guests:

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Andrew Sawusch – Town of Erie
Susie Hidalgo-Fahring

1. Call to Order / Introductions

David Snapp called the meeting to order at 4:48 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for December 7, 2022

David asked if the December 7 minutes could be approved. Zan Jones abstains as she was not present at the December meeting. Elizabeth Szorad motioned to approve, seconded by Matt LeBeau, followed by a unanimous RCAB approval.

3. Elect new vice chair and board update

Noah Eisenman gave an update on board seats.

- Brandon Hill has left ReSource Central and applied to be in one of the at-large positions.
 - Will need to check with Brandon to see if he wants to continue being vice-chair.
- Neal Lurie is here to temporarily replace the ReSource Central open seat.
- Eryka Thorley is no longer with the Town of Nederland, in her place will be Nicki Dunn.
- Dan Hoback is officially stepping up as voting member for the Town of Erie. Andrew Sawusch is the alternate.
- Alexis Bullen is in the seat for the Town of Superior.
- As for the at-large vacancies, there were two applicants. Brandon Hill and Mircalla Wozniak applied and will be accepted.

4. Retreat Phase 1 (review last year's priorities and activities)

David would like the retreat to take place during our regular February meeting and will include with some retreat-type activities. It will stay virtual since there is still some hesitation about meeting in person.

David shared the priorities from last year's retreat. Boulder County is making progress on municipal solid waste side of things including construction and demolition.

Some things the board did in 2022 include: Disaster debris, Circular Economy/Zero Waste Scorecard, Zero Waste Grant review, letters of support for A1 Organics and the vape collection for the Hazardous Materials Facility.

When asked for input from the board Zan asked what the update is on the Zero Waste Scorecard. Noah informed the board that the scorecard has been very helpful internally to compare the municipalities. It needs an update with a focus on circular economy rather than zero waste. It is a priority for the county and it is a helpful tool but would like to see it revamped so it is more collaborative in nature.

Matt LeBeau added that as a business owner in Lafayette he has been unsuccessful in getting recycling service. It would be nice to prioritize zero waste ordinance and to learn from each other. Noah agreed that ordinances are the best way to make a dent in diversion rates, not infrastructure. Zan brought up the Front Range Waste Diversion Board regarding these ordinances and how they are establishing cohorts of cities that are trying to do similar things like waste hauler ordinances. This could be something that RCAB supports.

Andrew Sawusch and Dan Hoback, both from Town of Erie, mentioned the pay as you throw program Erie was trying to do and how their experience with an ordinance had a slightly different outcome. There was push back from the public about pay as you throw so the town had to go back to the drawing board. However, there is an appetite for sustainability and diversion efforts.

Mircalla Wozniak asked if there is an existing list of local diversion ordinances. Noah pointed out that one of the sections of the "Zero Waste Scorecard" is about ordinances and you can compare municipalities and their progress.

<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BoulderCountyZeroWasteScoringReport2020.pdf>

Jamie brought up a priority for RCAB to advise the commissioners around compost infrastructure. She believes we need to be proactive and ahead of the curve around waste and waste diversion. A brainstorm of how to creatively promote developing options for organics would be useful. David, Zan, and Elizabeth all agree that it is important to think about diversifying our compost end markets with all this is going on with A1 Organics.

Neal Lurie proposed a priority to be education and outreach. So many people move to the county every year and they don't have information about the services that exist in our community. Communication about services and facilities available to community members is a low hanging fruit that could be the key to success.

Charles would like to see more applications for the Zero Waste Grant Funding that Cody Lillstrom facilitates. Improving the outreach to get a wider net of applicants could be an RCAB priority for this year. Noah added that there is talk with some sustainability folks about using S-Tax dollars for this funding so we can have even more money to give out. He thinks it would be great to get a large project off the ground with a large chunk of money.

David ended this part of the agenda by saying that he will put together a list of priorities for the February “retreat” and it will also include an overview of the role of the board.

5. March meeting discussion

Spring break is in March and historically the attendance at our March RCAB meeting is low. David will send out a Doodlepoll to see if people can move the meeting to March 15th or cancel the March meeting altogether.

6. Community Updates – All (including A1 composting changes)

The first community update is about the composting changes that A1 Organics is going to implement. Chandra Valenza gave an overview of the changes. Last summer there was a lot of talk about contamination in our compost streams and A1 was starting to reject loads that were contaminated, and those loads would go to the landfill. In December of 2022 haulers were informed that A1 would only accept food scraps and yard trimmings as of February 1st. That information started to come to different municipalities and many meetings were had, some of those meetings included some pushback on A1 about the changes.

One of the meetings some municipalities had with A1 concluded with the notion that A1 will push the start date of these changes to April 1st and compostable liners up to 3 gallons in size will be accepted. These changes came about so that municipalities would have more time to get the information out to the public and so that the residential curbside composting program wouldn’t die out if people cannot use compostable liners.

Elizabeth had reached out to Clinton Sanders at A1 about allowing large paper bags for spring clean up days and those would be approved with guidance from A1 about how to educate around those clean up days.

Paper towels will not be accepted because they do not add any value to the end product. This also can be confusing for the public where they may believe that other things like paper towels can also go in the compost bin.

Charles told the board about a meeting that was had with Recycle Colorado around composting infrastructure. To have a facility with zero contamination doesn’t seem possible but possibly with source separation it could happen. This infrastructure meeting was the first of many.

Many board members had input on this radical change to the county. Charles mentioned the impact it will have on internal city facilities. Jamie added that no bin liners make it very hard to comply with the City of Boulder’s Universal Zero Waste Ordinance. Noah believes this is a good time to make a very clean product and find a way to scale up and hopefully technology will catch up so we can add more to the compost stream later on.

Other community updates included:

- Zan Jones for EcoCycle – This year’s legislative agenda has to do with organics. There is an organics diversion concept paper that will be made into legislation and will ban yard waste from landfills. It is a study bill to look at the concepts and what infrastructure is needed.

- There's also the "truth in labeling" bill that gets at the issues of "look alike." Also, EcoCycle's electric vehicle compost collection truck will be here in the next month.
- Jamie Harkins for City of Boulder – Emily Freeman has been working on deconstruction recycling code language. 2022 was a year that a couple contractors found every loophole in the ordinance language and tried to go around it. The city is working with a lawyer to help dial in the loophole and address questions that come up. There is a lot of movement on refining how that process can look in Boulder County.
- Neal Lurie for ReSource Central – ReSource is expanding the size of their fleet for being able to pick up materials from communities rather than people dropping off materials. This fleet can pick up materials from businesses, homes during deconstruction projects, etc. They are looking to set up neighborhood community pick up days.
 - They are also recruiting for a new program director.
- Dan Hoback for Town of Erie – The sustainability division of the Parks and Rec Department is starting to convert gas powered small tools to battery powered.
 - Last year the town's turf replacement program replaced over 50,000 square feet of turf and there is currently a waiting list. They are trying to keep people from having to water massive lawns.
 - The town also has a water efficiency rebate program that provided 235 water rebates last year to residents. The Sprinkler Pledge program incentivized individuals to turn off their irrigation.
- Alexis Bullen for Town of Superior – Superior joined the rest of the county and is finally having their data for waste reported through ReTrac. They will have better metrics and some better measures of success around diversion.
 - Looking to do more storytelling in the future around the progress that the town is making. Want to quantify their successes in other ways rather than just pounds diverted.
- Elizabeth Szorad for City of Lafayette - They are working on HOA implementation for the pay as you throw program. Momentum continues to build and so far there are 2000 households joining the program which is half of the residents currently.
 - Hired a part time sustainability specialist to help with waste related items and dive into the single hauler contract.
 - A Sustainability and Resilience Advisory Committee has been formed and the first meeting is in February.

7. Adjourn

David Snapp adjourned the meeting at 6:09 p.m.