



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 – March 15th, 2023

Board Members Present:

Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Zan Jones – Eco Cycle
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder
Lizzie Szorad – City of Lafayette
Meghan Wiebe – At Large
Mircalla Wozniak – At Large
Angie Gilbert – CU Recycling
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville
Neal Lurie – ReSource Central
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior
Nicki Dunn – Town of Nederland
Eric Loof – Western Disposal

Board Members not Present:

David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource
Conservation Division
Matt LeBeau – At Large

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Noah Eisenman – Boulder County RCD

Guests:

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Sean McCoy – City of Longmont
Spencer Berlin – Boulder County RCD intern
Eryka Thorley – Town of Erie
Leah Haney – Town of Nederland

1. Call to Order / Introductions

David Snapp was unable to make the meeting. Noah Eisenman and Chandra Valenza lead the meeting. Noah called the meeting to order at 4:49 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for February 22nd meeting

Noah asked if the February 22nd minutes could be approved. Dan Hoback motioned to approve, seconded by Lizzie Szorad, followed by a unanimous RCAB approval.

3. Results of priorities survey – select tasks for the year

Chandra shared with the board the results from the survey done through Microsoft Forms on what the priorities should be for the year. 14 members voted.

The #1 priority was universal recycling for residential and commercial. The #2 priority was residential and commercial composting requirements.

Chandra proposed the question to the board, if universal recycling for residential and commercial is the top priority for RCAB this year, where do we start?

Lizzie said that Lafayette is going forward with a recycling ordinance and they would love input from the board to help them with the basics. Possible things to get information on are best practices for engagement, community surveys, what to do and what not to do.

There was discussion on what the scope of this priority should be within RCAB. We can work together to create ordinance language, be a united front to show the

importance of universal recycling throughout the county and get support from our individual municipalities and organizations. As a board we can move the needle forward with universal recycling at the same speed across the county.

Angie Gilbert shared that having access to recycling as a townhome owner has been difficult. Single family home policies are not being translated into townhomes. She brings up the point that there isn't access to everyone.

Mircalla Wozniak suggested the first step should be defining what universal recycling means. Noah explains that from a county perspective we wouldn't be able to create an overarching ordinance, it would only be applicable to unincorporated Boulder County. What we can do is carry the flag and build a model that could work for all the communities that fall within the county.

Eryka Thorley shared the FRWD TASP group that EcoCycle and Resource Recycling Systems recently started. There are three levels of projects TASP can help with. If we have a collective goal for RCAB we could engage TASP to give us expert facilitation to that goal. More information can be found here, <https://www.coloradofrwd.org/tasp>. Zan shared that she could ask TASP representatives to present at a future meeting.

Noah asked Jamie Harkins if the City of Boulder universal zero waste ordinance was broad enough that it could be a model for the group. If so, we could fine tune for each community. Jamie shared that from the recycling component of the ordinance they anticipated more barriers than they were, it hasn't been at all been controversial. City of Boulder has had success with it.

Charlie reminded the group that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bill is coming, and we should keep that in mind as it will directly effect recycling throughout the state. In line with that Sean McCoy brought up the possibility of a bottle deposit that may get more buy-in from communities. Zan said that bottle bills and how they relate to EPR is an ongoing current discussion.

Noah pulled up the Zero Waste Scorecard (<https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/BoulderCountyZeroWasteScoringReport2020.pdf>) to show the board where the communities are for recycling. City of Boulder is the only community that "requires all businesses to have recycling service" and this seems to be where the rest of the communities want to be. A lot of the heavy lifting in language has already been done and we have universal support across this board.

The board decided that the next step towards this #1 priority is to have a presentation from TASP. Chandra will collect specific questions from municipalities to give to TASP ahead of the April meeting.

4. Compost Update – A1 – New Regional Facility Discussion

Noah started this discussion letting the board know that nothing has changed in terms of the guidelines from A1 and opened the floor for conversation about regional composting options.

Charlie asked the board what the appetite is for a regional facility in their communities to inform him if they should pursue research into this. Longmont has been open and interested to explore the option of a regional composting facility. If they are going forward they want to go forward purposefully and serve our communities. He then asked to hear from others on what the honest feel is around the table.

Dan Hoback shared that in the Town of Erie there are no residents clamoring for composting. Many people in the Town of Erie use Clementine Composting and they are wondering if that company would go down the same path as A1. Eryka shared that Clementine is moving their compost to GFL and can continue as business as usual, it could change and they are ready to pivot.

The changes that A1 has enacted are a national issue and changes are happening everywhere. This is important context to keep in mind during this discussion, we are aiming for the cleanest stream possible.

Jamie said that from the City of Boulder perspective, we absolutely need to look at all options to diversify our compost. Including the talking point of what we're facing now and that this will come up again and we need residents to support compost facilities. She believes something that is missing is the private sector companies coming to Colorado and getting a comprehensive picture of what is happen. It would be useful to know which companies are interested in facilities in our area. We need different solutions for different waste streams. City of Boulder is here to have the conversation and support anything moving forward.

Zan brought up the point that "the bucket thing" works like Clementine does where you have more person-to-person interaction. She asked "if you set up a site, how are you addressing contamination as you scale up?" Charlie believes there should be different streams and different processing.

An example that we can look to is Portland Metro area where they only take food scraps and yard waste and have cleaner streams go to organic farmers. FRWD approved a grant for Republic to do a transfer site as a preprocessing screen before it goes to A1.

Neal Lurie brought up the notion that there are emerging trends in more water-wise lawns. As drought issues are top of mind, old sod is being taken out and composted.

Mircalla would like to look at the take-aways from the previous potential compost facility, what did not go well and specific reasons we didn't go through with it. Noah shared that there were many contributing factors for the reason the other site did not go through which include timing, politics, messaging, and communication.

Angie shared that Hennepin County in Minneapolis has a good example of making composting equitable for all residents and for pre-sorting. She also commented on what the CU campus is doing. CU aims for zero-waste and are using this as an opportunity to reduce compostable service-ware on campus.

Leah Haney shared that the Town of Nederland is getting their own in-vessel composting unit as they are eager to resolve some of the issues from the A1 changes. She also shared that Compost Colorado is creating a hybrid mobile compost unit which requires less facility land.

Dan Hoback said that the Town of Erie contribution to helping the planet is C&D with all the homes that are being built out there.

C&D makes up a lot of material in a landfill and it would be good to have more robust C&D efforts with a collaborative effort. Western Disposal does take construction waste with a semi-automated belt. Eric Loof shares that the harder part is demolition. Demolition changes the recovery model exponentially. It's a lot less expensive to put the C&D material in the landfill if you don't have policy around construction.

There are no dissenting words for a regional approach to composting. This is good information for Longmont Council and the Commissioners. What Charlie would

like is an affirmation from councils and commissioners to evaluate sites, he needs political clout to move forward with research. He has asked the board to talk to their trustees, councils, and commissioners and make sure we are going somewhere with a regional facility.

Charlie ensured the board that the location doesn't have to be in Longmont. He wants to reduce travel and the carbon footprint of the organics stream. It's also important to keep the end product close to home and develop that circular economy.

If we tackle this project in the future, the commissioners would like us to go above and beyond with the communication in the community. We need to be clear, transparent, not only due diligence but really engaging with the community and dispelling any composting myths. We also need to be careful with the site that any future facility would be on.

5. **Community Updates**

Due to time, community updates were forgone.

6. **Adjourn**

Noah adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.