



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 – February 22nd, 2023

Board Members Present:

David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)
Charles Kamenides – Longmont
Zan Jones – Eco Cycle
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder
Elizabeth Szorad – City of Lafayette
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource Conservation Division
Meghan Wiebe – At Large
Mircalla Wozniak – At Large
Matt LeBeau – At Large
Angie Gilbert – CU Recycling
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville

Board Members not Present:

Nicki Dunn – Town of Nederland
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown
Neal Lurie – ReSource Central
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie
Eric Loof – Western Disposal
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior

RCAB Staff Liaison:

Noah Eisenman – Boulder County RCD

Guests:

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD
Jamie Harkins – City of Boulder
Sean McCoy – City of Longmont
Claire Levy – Board of County Commissioners

1. Call to Order / Introductions

David Snapp called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes for January 25, 2023 meeting

David asked if the January 25th minutes could be approved. Charles Kamenides motioned to approve, seconded by Matt LeBeau, followed by a unanimous RCAB approval.

3. County Commissioner remarks

Commissioner Claire Levy joined the meeting. Commissioner Levy wants to hear what the RCAB priorities are and what the commissioners can do to be supportive. Looking at the priorities from last year's retreat Commissioner Levy was happy to see things like construction and demolition strategy, promoting zero waste ordinances, compost, rank high on the board's priorities. These are things the commissioners are very interested in hearing about. She is interested in understanding how we can make progress on these types of things.

In response to the construction and demolition strategy, the Marshall fire debris had to be trucked out to Last Chance to be reclaimed and recycled. That contributed to a lot of carbon emissions from transportation.

In response to Zero Waste ordinances, Commissioner Levy believes this is where we make our progress, where we say "this is what you have to do" and there is some regulatory teeth behind it." The board can thread the needle for these types of things.

Each of the jurisdictions within the board has heard about the impacts of these zero waste strategies.

In response to compost, Commissioner Levy is disappointed yet sympathetic with the changes from A1 Organics. What can the county do if we go forward with a county facility to ensure we have an organic compost stream that farmers can use?

Noah asked the board if anyone had questions for Commissioner Levy.

Zan Jones thanked the county for moving forward on the compost front with farmers. Zan was curious about the other end of things like compost facilities since the A1 changes have brought up lots of conversations about the need for more competition and nearer facilities of different scales. Commissioner Levy said they haven't abandoned the idea of a regional facility. The reason we want do the facility in the first place is because we are reliant on a single composter located far away.

Commissioner Levy asked the board how they are working on these "big, hairy issues." Noah informs the commissioner that the board meets monthly, and the make-up of board seats is very diverse as some are elected officials, some are sustainability managers, there are haulers, etc. The ability to act as a working group can be difficult since it is a volunteer board that meets outside of regular work hours. One place that RCAB thrives is in getting and giving presentations, Zero Waste grant funding, and giving community updates among the jurisdictions.

Commissioner Levy clarified her question considering construction and demolition infrastructure and policy. She asked the board if they would be making proposals to the county commissioners. Noah informed her that the board will work on not only ranking priorities but translate them into actual change and make proposals to the commissioners as a united front.

Jamie Harkins brought up how City of Boulder makes aggressive policies and can use RCAB to share their lessons learned with other communities. The board was originally formed to provide input on the recycling center and has evolved. The board has struggled a bit in how to use this forum and it would be great to hear from the commissioners on what topics they want the board to dig into.

Commissioner Levy feels like the county is stalled and we can't do this alone, we need the partnerships of the communities. We need to get going on these priorities.

Mircalla Wozniak shared her experience as a board member during the compost facility conversations. The presentations that the board has heard in the past year have helped with the education of board members so we know what we can get started on. RCAB can provide feedback on which direction and priorities they believe the county should take on, but Mircalla wants guidance on what the commissioners would like to get going on.

Commissioner Levy ended her time with RCAB letting them know to reach out and be in touch directly or through Noah.

4. Role of RCAB (overview and Bylaws)

Noah went through the RCAB bylaws document ([BYLAWS OF THE RESOURCE CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD \(bouldercounty.gov\)](https://www.bouldercounty.gov/conservation-advisory-board)) with the group. RCAB is essentially here to advise the commissioners, help the commissioners with their decision making. RCAB consists of experts from different municipalities and organizations. The expertise on the board is greatly appreciated by the commissioners and there is a hope to have more back and forth communication with them this year.

Charlie shared that he was empowered by the words from Commissioner Levy and excited to get going on the priorities RCAB is going to set for the county.

Matt started a small discussion about what the balance is for RCAB. What can RCAB explicitly do, what items need to go back to the municipalities and what can RCAB bring to the commissioners? David added a question on what the capacity is for the board to create policies or is the purpose just to advise the commissioners on issues.

Noah let the board know that him and Chandra Valenza will be editing part of these bylaws, in particular membership seats. The board has been given liberty to expand and allow for alternates so that the board can reach a quorum easier.

5. Objectives for this year

Chandra started the conversation about getting objectives together for 2023. She shared the previous goals from the 2022 retreat as well as what was identified as a priority at the January meeting. She asked the members to write down four things, 1) an ordinance or policy you would like to implement 2) an education and outreach element to do county-wide 3) a presentation that individual would like to hear at a future RCAB meeting and 4) a presentation that individual could present to RCAB.

After individuals came up with their answers for the four prompts, they were put in small groups to discuss their ideas. Each group shared the few ideas that resonated the most with them.

The ideas for ordinances and policies were:

- Compost buy-back policy
- Residential & commercial organics composting requirements
- Building codes for deconstruction
- Universal recycling for both residential and commercial
- Hail-resistant shingle provision as part of building codes
- Circular economy procurement policy for local governments
- Requiring businesses that sell compost to carry at least 20% from local sources
- Requirements for dumpster providers
- Policy around contamination from residents and repeat offenders

The ideas for education and outreach were:

- Getting the word out about existing facilities (HMMF, CHaRM, etc.)
- Compost contamination

The ideas for presentations to hear at a future RCAB meeting:

- Environmental Justice
- Construction and Demolition in other cities
- Regenerative Agriculture in Boulder County
- Wastewater treatment plants
- Deep dive into compost facilities

The ideas for presentations that can be given by RCAB members:

- David – CDPHE compost facility classifications
- Haulers – what business models they have, landfill management, challenges

Chandra, David, and Noah will get together before the next meeting to figure out how to prioritize these ideas and what to do next.

6. March meeting update

The March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15th since enough people said they can attend that day.

Since there was extra time, David opened the meeting to anyone who had other thoughts that needed to be shared with the group.

Zan shared that we need to figure out what to do about compost infrastructure. She believes we need to add compost infrastructure to the list of items we need to accomplish within RCAB. David said that we could get information about how much organics are diverted and then start to look at facility options and have that conversation over the next couple months. We can make compost infrastructure an occurring item on the agenda and look at all the different streams and scales of it all.

Charlie asked if there was anything that came from the Regional Collaboration meeting that had happened earlier that day. Chandra shared that nothing has changed on the policy that A1 Organics had given earlier in the month. Each municipality is getting the communication started about compost changes. Mircalla asked what the “why” is behind the changes. Jamie shared that there are many reasons behind the change

Matt shared some information about “search engine optimization” when it comes to the compost changes. 501c3 groups qualify for the “Google for Non-Profits” program that pays for free paid search clicks. This could be a possibility to get paid advertisements on the compost changes.

7. Adjourn

David Snapp adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.