



# Resource Conservation Advisory Committee (RCAB)

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Meeting Address: Boulder County Recycling Center • 1901 63rd Street, Boulder, CO 80306 • [www.BoulderCounty.gov](http://www.BoulderCounty.gov)

## Boulder County Resource Conservation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – July 26, 2023

### **Board Members Present:**

David Snapp – CDPHE (Chair)  
Lauren Folkerts – City of Boulder  
Angie Gilbert – CU Recycling  
Dan Hoback – Town of Erie  
Eric Loof – Western Disposal  
Charles Kamenides – City of Longmont  
Kathy Carroll – Town of Lyons  
Matt LeBeau – At Large  
Lizzie Szorad – City of Lafayette  
Joe Pitts – Resource Central  
Leah Haney – Town of Nederland  
Mircalla Wozniak – At Large  
Tim Towndrow – Republic Services

### **Board Members not Present:**

Meghan Wiebe – At Large  
Zan Jones – EcoCycle  
Alexis Bullen- Town of Superior  
Cody Lillstrom – Boulder County Resource  
Conservation Division  
Bridget Johnson – Jamestown  
Kayla Betzold – City of Louisville

### **Guests:**

Chandra Valenza – Boulder County RCD  
Andrew Sawusch – Town of Erie  
Eryka Thorley – Town of Erie  
Hannah Miller – City of Louisville  
Marti Matsch – Ecocycle

### **1. Call to Order / Introductions**

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

### **2. Approval of June 28 Minutes**

David asked if the June 28, 2023 meeting minutes could be approved. Charlie Kamenides motioned to approve, seconded by Matt LeBeau, followed by a unanimous RCAB approval.

### **3. TASP Application Update**

David let the board know that the FRWD board took recommendations from the TASP review. Boulder County RCAB was not approved at this time and there will be feedback given on the application soon.

Mircalla Wozniak was part of the application and will be attending the feedback meeting.

### **4. Boulder County MRF Plastic Recycling Update**

Chandra Valenza and Marti Matsch were at the meeting to give an update on recycling guidelines changes.

Ecocycle and the Recycling Center have decided to change the recycling guidelines to fit with what viable markets they have for some plastics. The recycling center cannot accept items that cannot be sold to end markets.

The guidelines will show that black plastics like those found in takeout containers and microwaveable containers can no longer be recycled. They are also explicitly calling out

the elimination of #3, #6, and #7 plastics as that market is also not viable. Loads coming into the recycling center will not be rejected but there is a human sorter that takes them off the lines and the recycling center must pay for landfill fees.

Chandra let the board know that new guidelines are coming, press releases are being formed and social media and website updates are going through review.

Marti Matsch was at the meeting to talk about the advocacy piece that Ecocycle will promote around the toxicity of these plastics. Really these plastics are not good for the environment, economics, or our health and should be eliminated.

Eric Loof asked if there has been assessment done to see how much of the container stream this takes up and what the impact is. Marti said that the amount of these types of plastics is a very small percentage. However, it is enough of an impact that we have bales we can't sell.

Marti told the board that it is advisable that those in procurement do not purchase black plastics, #3, #6, and #7 plastics as they are toxic. The US Plastics Pact has identified 11 problematic plastics and these ones are part of that list.

Mircalla brought up the point that historically the public has been told not to look at the numbers and focus more on the visuals. She said she would love to see a webpage outlining all that has been brought up. Marti echoed that notion as the guidelines have put an emphasis on "bottles, tubs, jugs, jars, and clamshells." That will still be generally true but there will be more explicit "no's."

In collaboration with Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE) and Boulder County, Ecocycle has put together a new Sustainable Takeout Guide. The guide will reflect the compost changes as well as the Styrofoam ban happening January 2024. It will now call out these problematic plastics.

Kathy Carroll asked about flowerpots. Marti said that black flowerpots are a "no" and green ones are a "yes."

Matt LeBeau brought up the company Ridwell and how they have an option to recycle multi-layered plastics. Ridwell seems to be much more transparent about the material stream pathways. He is curious that a for-profit company like Ridwell is expanding their material collection but the recycling center is backtracking the curbside recycling guidelines. Marti replied that because black, #3, #6, and #7 plastics are so toxic we don't want to perpetuate the use of them by accepting them in our recycling. Multi-layered plastics is a different thing that would not be able to be picked out in a standard MRF as it mimics paper in the sorting process.

Charlie asked about #4 plastics in the messaging and outreach. He is concerned that we call out all the plastic resin codes except for #4 and many people put their recyclables in a plastic bag. Marti replied that the FAQ webpage will address #4 which are often plastic bags and film.

The conversation was wrapped up by having municipalities and organizations let Chandra and Marti know if they would like information for their webpages. Chandra and Marti will get more information out to everyone in the coming weeks.

**5. Colorado's Composting Regulations Presentation**

David gave a presentation about Composting Regulations from the CDPHE perspective. *For the full presentation, please see David's PowerPoint in the attachments.*

In Colorado compost is considered a solid waste activity. There are different compost feedstocks (type 1, 2, 3) and generally when you go up in number there is a higher risk to the health and waste streams. CDPHE evaluates feedstocks and regulates compost facilities on what feedstocks they can take.

David discussed facility permitting, exemptions, operating requirements, processing requirements, composting methods, and large-scale operation challenges. The presentation also included lots of data around waste composition, feedstock composition, and facility locations.

After the presentation, Matt asked where our county curbside compost is going. David replied that it is going to a "class 3" facility. Class 3 facilities are permitted on what they want to take, they do not have to take biosolids if they don't want to.

Mircalla inquired about A1 Organics and how much of the state's compost they receive. David said that most compost in the state, definitely all compost in the Front Range goes to A1. Mircalla also asked about the potential future legislation that CDPHE is moving towards with compost facilities. David said that they plan to draft new rules that allow some lower level organics collection at type 2 facilities. These rules will have to go through stakeholder processes before approved.

Eryka Thorley asked David to elaborate on class A biosolids and about waste diversion efforts at landfills. David talked about how class A biosolids have their own testing requirements. CDPHE requires one test sample every 10,000 cubic yards. Water quality is of most concern with class A biosolids. There are also efforts in getting biosolids tested for PFAS. The regulations contain those testing requirements. As for what is happening at landfills, a lot of landfills have a place where they can divert items like aggregates. They are starting to see more landfills that are composting at their landfill sites.

**6. Discussion on distributed compost in Boulder County**

Charlie asked to open a discussion to the board on what distributed composting operations could look like in the county. A1 Organics is a great option for our compost right now but since they are 45 miles away, it would be ideal to have options closer to home. He wondered if distributed compost facilities could replace a class 3 facilities.

David said that there are avenues to get feedstocks into smaller operations that didn't accumulate at that facility. However, he's not sure that would be compatible with county land use regulations.

Matt asked David his thoughts on how to get a class 3 facility in the county and if we need to just push further if we seek out a facility in the future. David said that there needs to be more capacity closer to home to handle curbside composting. Charlie mentioned that compost facilities are costly, if we were to build many small facilities it could work a bit better financially. Eric Loof stated that until we address contamination in feedstocks the conversation will always be skewed. The bar has been moved to 0% contamination and the rest of the conversation must wait until we have facilities that can get to that ideal.

**7. Community Updates**

**Kathy Carroll for Town of Lyons:** Lyons did a branch clean up recently. In the 2013 flood the town lost a lot of equipment for clean ups but recently a group of volunteers has started doing the branch clean ups.

**Angie Gilbert for CU:** From the Dead and Co. concerts, CU just recycled 26,000 pounds of single stream recycling. CU uses all aluminum cups at events.

**Mircalla Wozniak:** On a personal note, she challenged herself to find a company that will take concrete from her backyard for recycling. She has found it quite challenging as a consumer and a resident. The challenge is still ongoing.

**Andrew Sawusch for Town of Erie:** The town is looking at ways to have drop off locations for recycling of political yard signs. The only location that could take these for recycling could be SustainAbility in Broomfield and they would like a more local location. He asked the board if they had any ideas on where else they could take those.

**8. Adjourn**

David adjourned the meeting at 6:13 p.m.