



MEETING MINUTES

ARIZONA RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ARAC)

November 13, 2014, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)
1110 West Washington Street, CR 5100B
Phoenix, AZ 85007

FINAL MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Elaine Birks-Mitchell
Dawn Helms
Lee Jacobs
Fran LaSala
Nicole Bisacchi
David Hertzberg
Melissa Kenchiova
John Minear

Staff Members Present: Laura Malone
JB Shaw
Robin Thomas

Attorney Generals Office Monique Coady, Assistant AG

***Note: Lucy Morales, current Chair of this Committee, had sent in her resignation during October. Based on committee guidelines, the Vice-Chair, Elaine Birks-Mitchell moved into the Chair position.**

Call to Order and Roll Call

ARAC Committee Chair Elaine Birks-Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:08. Everyone introduced themselves and a quorum was present.

Minutes Approval

The minutes of the July 24, 2014 committee meeting had been previously distributed via email for members review and comment. A motion was made by Fran and seconded by David to accept the minutes as distributed. The Chair asked if there was any discussion. With no discussion, the Chair called for a vote. The motion to accept the minutes of the July 24 meeting passed unanimously.

Discussion and Vote on New Vice-Chairperson

Dawn Helms volunteered to be Vice-Chairperson. A motion was made by Melissa and seconded by David to accept Dawn as the new Vice-Chairperson. The motion to accept Dawn Helms as the new Vice-Chairperson passed unanimously.

Discussion and Vote on Terms of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Elaine read through the guidelines regarding the terms of both the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson. The group agreed to keep the current guidelines which were voted on during the July 24, 2014 meeting. Elaine and Dawn's terms extend through December 2015. A motion was made by David and seconded by Fran to keep the terms for the Chair and the Vice-Chair as stated in the guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

Recycling Grant Program Update

Beth will email the group the election updates, list of districts and legislators, and any partnering organization information. JB updated the group on the most recent support letter template which will be emailed to the group after the meeting. JB let everyone know of the several groups interested in supporting the Recycling Grant Program.

Melissa discussed how to get information regarding how tax payers have saved money because of innovative waste diversion opportunities which decreases the fees associated with the amount of waste going into the landfill. Nicole suggested that each landfill post their fees at the gate. She gave a contact to inquire about the gate fees. She said it may be helpful to look at the last five years of gate rates to get the overall costs saved from recycling. David discussed the importance of finding out the number of jobs a landfill provides per ton of trash versus the number of jobs created by a recycling center for the same amount of waste.

Presentation – John Deuel, Managing Member, GreenQuest and National Trainer for Keep America Beautiful regarding Advocacy

John explained about GreenQuest's mission and went on to discuss the Virginia Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant Program and its attempts to establish a landfill surcharge fee in Virginia. Virginia's Litter Prevention and Recycling Grant Program ran into a few challenges along the way. Their legislature had proposed to eliminate the Fund Advisory Board in 2012, and in prior years, the fund itself was threatened to be eliminated. The community sent letters, emails, text messages, and held meetings to emphasize the impact of the funding and the types of projects and potential loss if funds weren't distributed. John provided a four-point strategy to assist ARAC with trying to get the Arizona Recycling Grant Program re-established.

Call to the Public

There were no members of the public present.

Current Event Summary

Fran announced the Arizona Recycling Coalition annual meeting will be in January at Metro Tech High School in Phoenix. The annual elections of board members will be held at this meeting.

Fran also let everyone know that Waste Management is looking for volunteers for the Phoenix Open. Nicole announced that Waste Management will be lining two of their largest landfills in late January and will be inviting attendees to that event.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda Topics

The group discussed having their next meeting at the end of February or in early March. No firm date was set at this point.

With no further business, a motion was made by Fran and seconded by Dawn to adjourn the meeting. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm.