

# Humboldt County Local Task Force

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 2:00 PM

### Cities of:

Arcata  
Blue Lake  
Eureka  
Ferndale  
Fortuna  
Rio Dell  
Trinidad

### County of Humboldt

### Humboldt Waste Management Authority

*The Humboldt County Local Task Force serves in an advisory capacity to individual agencies and the HWMA towards the implementation of the integrated management of solid wastes and recyclables.*

*The Local Task Force is also responsible for assisting in the coordination, review and implementation the county and cities 5-Year CIWMP Report.*

### Virtual Meeting – Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87838400290>

Meeting ID: 878 3840 0290

Call in: 408-638-0968

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Arcata	Emily Benvie
Blue Lake	Not Present
Eureka	Donna Wood (Chair), Jeff Raimey, Robin Praszker
Ferndale	Jay Parrish
Fortuna	Merritt Perry, Kevin Carter
Humboldt Co.	Tom Mattson
Trinidad	Not Present
Rio Dell	Kyle Knopp

HWMA Jill Duffy

## Members of the Public

Linda Wise – Recology  
Maggie Gainer – Zero Waste Humboldt  
Wendy Ring – Zero Waste Humboldt  
Tasha Eisner – Humboldt Sanitation  
Leslie Castellano – HTA Board Member, Eureka City Council  
Brian Sollum  
Carolyn Hawkins – LEA  
Frank Nelson  
Juliette Bohn  
Wes Green  
Nancy Ihara  
Mario Kalson – DHHS-PHB DEH  
Marshalle Graham – Cal Recycle  
Martha Walden  
Spencer Fine – Cal Recycle  
Summer Daugherty  
Krista  
Marilyn

## 2. Approval of December 16, 2020 Minutes

Motion to approve by Tom Mattson (Humboldt County),  
Second by Kyle Knopp (Rio Dell).  
No public comment.

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Motion passed.

Ayes: Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Humboldt County

Noes: None

Absent: Blue Lake, Trinidad

Abstain: None

### **3. Jurisdiction Representative Reports**

Arcata – Staff are working on a food waste grant. Information on SB 1383 and complying with it were shared and staff plan to brief City Council at the end of April.

Eureka – A CRV FAQ document has been finalized. A reply from State representatives has been received and State legislation has been introduced. An educational campaign has been launched for the Food Waste grant.

Ferndale – Plan to have public meetings like Rio Dell.

Fortuna – Workshops were held similar to Rio Dell and more public workshops will be held in the future.

Humboldt County – The County has concerns regarding the challenges with CRV.

Rio Dell – The City Council held workshops on universal collection with Recology and are hopeful that Fortuna will follow suit as a large partner is needed. Information can be found on the City's website. The final workshop for ordinance changes is on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Blue Lake, Trinidad – Not present

### **4. Ongoing Discussion Items**

#### **1. Recycling**

##### **a. CA Redemption Value Buy Back Centers**

Jill Duffy, HWMA, provided an update. Information on CRV has already changed and will need to be amended. If a retailer is not providing service, the public can connect with Cal Recycle. AB 1311 was gutted and an amendment is helping. SB 38 will shift CRV into a stewardship program and is legislation to watch.

##### **b. Curbside Recycling**

Jill Duffy, HWMA, provided an update. An annual rate adjustment can be submitted. Contamination is close to 23%. The UN to deem some plastic items not recyclable. Member agencies need to become more active in reducing contamination

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levels. The contamination costs can be passed on to the consumer. It is difficult to create a uniform approach as member agencies have different education and franchise agreements.

Linda Wise, Recology, also provided an update. Member agencies should try to have uniform information and method in franchise agreements/contracts. There is a draft strategy for agency consideration. This will reduce cost at the recycling center.

### **2. “Mandatory Organic Recycling (AB1826) and “Short Lived Climate Pollutants” (SB1383)**

Eureka – Donna Wood and Robin Praszker attended the HWMA board meeting. Cities will be required to have organics curbside collection or a plan to show Cal Recycle. The current HWMA contract can be modified or a consultant hired to regionally plan with other cities.

Arcata – The City is supportive of a regional approach for organics.

Fortuna – Also support a regional approach for organics. Jurisdictions should work together to share the burden and have one collective effort.

Humboldt County – Also supportive of a regional effort. Need to consider Southern Humboldt. Hauling from Southern Humboldt will produce more greenhouse emissions.

Linda Wise, Recology – There can be two regional approaches; identify gaps in contracts and ordinances and another to regional organics recycling.

Jill Duffy, HWMA – End use is a challenge.

Public comment opened and closed at 2:32pm.

### **5. Prop 218 Effects on Franchise Fee Funding**

Humboldt County – Jurisdiction fees have no relation to collection fees. Franchise fees going into waste management is allowable. If franchise fees go to general government operations, it will be challenged. For areas like Redway and Garberville, the County is look at an exemption for rural areas.

Jill Duffy, HWMA – Can the County send the court decision?

Spencer Fine, Cal Recycle – Southern Humboldt may be Cal Recycle jurisdiction.

### **6. Potential Formation of Local Task Force Subcommittees**

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Eureka – A subcommittee could be formed for those interested in a regional compost facility. Eureka can pull together information.

HWMA – Identify jurisdiction with multiple skills and refine the focus of the subcommittee to identify a clear path.

### **7. Non-Local Task Force Organization Reports**

This is a standing agenda item for non-member organizations to provide reports to the SWLTF on their respective waste management topics.

1. **HWMA** –Interviews are ongoing for candidates for Executive Director position. Green waste processing services are currently provided by Wes and Theresa Green and there was a recent change in ownership.
2. **Recology** –There will be a meeting in Fortuna at 5pm regarding 1383 and how it affects collection.
3. **Zero Waste Humboldt** –The current focus is on SB 1383 and working with local school districts to make sure that they know their mandate. Zero Waste Humboldt joined a group of Northern California organizations for reopen with reuse and to help businesses with reuse. Recruitment is currently underway for a projects manager with the hope to have them on board in June.
4. **LEA** – Mario Kalson is a new field inspector. Environmental Health is changing their permit tracking software and plan to go live with it in May. There are requests for waste tire hauler exemption letters. There's a PRC exemption for municipalities. Information can be obtained from Cal Recycle by calling 1-866-896-0600. A rate increase may go to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall. SB 1383 is a huge legislative effort. Questions about food safety can be directed to Ben, Consumer Protection. Solid Waste Task Force 5 Year County solid waste plan is due September 1, 2021. It will need to go to LTF for approval then to Recology by January 31, 2022 to file.

HWMA – Can Mario reach out to code enforcement regarding tires? They usually come out of police efforts.

Eureka – The five-year report will be on the agenda for the June, September and December meetings.

Spencer Fine, Cal Recycle – An attachment was emailed to the group. There will be training on March 30<sup>th</sup> regarding SB 1383. The SB 1383 webpage and subpages have been revised and comments can be made on the website.

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There is a new waste procurement waste calculator tool. FAQs are being updated and will be posted when complete. Educational information on 1383 is online. Draft tools should be considered draft until official finalization. AB 26 threshold is lower to regulated businesses and Cal Recycle is working with individual jurisdictions to establish a timeline/plan for compliance. The next public meeting is April 20, 2021.

Wes Green – Took over composting operation on February 22, 2021 and things are going well. Want to secure a long-term solution for ground material. Taking in more material than able to market. Contact Wes at 496-0175 if anyone has any space.

Maggie Gainer, Zero Waste Humboldt, introduced Wendy Ring. On farm composting could be a solution to SB 1383. It would remove carbon dioxide from air by applying compost to agricultural land per scientists. There would be negative carbon emission and the sequester potential is 2.5 million metric tons. Farmers would like to use more compost but it is expensive for them so why not make it where it needs to go. There is interest from dairies and ranches. Farms in other states are doing it, less than an industrial facility and doesn't take much land. It would need to take away work needed for the farmers. Regulatory agencies are in the way and urban rules don't work in rural counties. A pilot opportunity is something that could be explored. Can a subcommittee explore on farm composting? A grant was found and partners are needed.

Humboldt County – Has there been any outreach to the Mennonite community? They may be interested and are concerned about field sustainability. Staff will send contact information.

LEA – Cal Recycle agreed to pilot project. Can ZWH provide who was connected with regarding this?

### **8. Proposed Future Tasks/Actions**

The LTF will identify tasks or action items to be addressed at a specified LTF meeting.

Maggie Gainer, Zero Waste Humboldt – When will the County update the plan, 9/2021 or 2022?

LEA - Add it to the June meeting agenda.

HWMA – Cal Recycle has changed how the 5-year plan is reported. HWMA can send the last planning documents for 2017 and can circulate the draft.

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Marshallle Graham, Cal Recycle – It has been streamlined to ensure that concerns are addressed. Remind everyone of the 5-year review. Statute requires county and associated cities review to make sure that it still meets their needs. Revisions are time intensive for not anything tangible. Is there an NDFE amendment needed?

HWMA - Information is slim and engaging in discussion allows for a proactive approach. Recycling contamination is an issue and strategies are needed for moving forward.

Humboldt County – 1383 and AB 26 need to be a standing item on the agenda and monthly meetings needed. There could be a subcommittee for contamination for regional educational campaign.

HWMA – A special meeting of the LTF would be needed due to the Brown Act to identify subcommittee members. LTF needs to establish subcommittee and give them the charge and subcommittee meetings may need to be notice.

Humboldt County – A work around would be an Ad Hoc committee of less than a quorum of LTF.

Public Comment for non-agendized items was opened and closed at 3:20pm.

Rio Dell – Recommends creating an ad hoc committee for SB 1383.

**Motion:** Representatives from Fortuna, Arcata, Eureka, County convene an ad hoc committee on SB 1383 with amendment to add deliverable as a list of items to begin to plan for organics recycling to June LTF meeting.

Eureka – Recommends motion amendment to add deliverable as a list of items to begin to plan for organics recycling to June LTF meeting.

Rio Dell accepts amendment. Fortuna Seconds.

### **Motion passed.**

Ayes: Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Humboldt County

Noes: None

Absent: Blue Lake, Trinidad

Abstain: None

Contamination Ad hoc

**Motion:** Develop regional public educational campaign to reduce contamination in the recycling collection system through a contamination ad hoc committee consisting of

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Eureka, Ferndale, Rio Dell, Humboldt County, Recology, HWMA and Zero Waste Humboldt.

Zero Waste Humboldt – Suggest amendment to say educational instead of advertising.

Amendment accepted. Rio Dell Seconds.

### **Motion passed.**

Ayes: Arcata, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Humboldt County

Noes: None

Absent: Blue Lake, Trinidad

Abstain: None

**9. Oral and Written Communications** – None received

**10. Adjournment** at 3:26pm. Next meeting to be determined by chair.