

Humboldt County

Solid Waste Local Task Force

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.*

Agenda

Monday, October 12, 2020 (9am-10:30am)

Virtual Meeting-Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6975413022>

Copies Available: Copies of the agenda materials are available electronically upon request by emailing dwood@ci.eureka.ca.gov

1. Call to order

9:11 AM

2. Introductions/Roll Call

Eureka- Donna Wood

Blue Lake- Emily

Ferndale- Not present

Fortuna- Kevin Carter

Rio Dell-Karen Dunham

Trinidad- Not present

County of Humboldt- Tom Mattson

HWMA- Jill Duffy

Non-members: Spencer Fine Cal Recycle, Maggie Gainer Zero Waste Humboldt, Linda Wise Recology, Mario Kalson LEA

3. January 9, 2020 Minutes (attached) – Approval

Summary- No comments

Motion/Second- Kevin.Karen

Public Comment- NA

Vote- Pass Unanimously (Ferndale and Trinidad not present)

4. Jurisdiction Representative Reports- *Review and discuss*

Eureka-COVID increased waste generated at home with overstuffed bins and increased trash in recycling. Put out press release to alert people that their choice at bin can help protect essential workers. CRV issues also prevalent, took to City Council and signed letter to go to state reps about the issue.

Arcata- Food waste grant underway. Issues with sewage at Food for People has held up the grant. They also passed single use plastics ordinance though COVID has impacted this. They want to keep it going while not making businesses feel penalized. Contamination also an issue along with unhoused increase and influx into public trash cans. Also a freeze on hiring and short staffed. Also concerned about CRV among organics diversion requirements. They are at capacity which makes it hard to take on new things. Interested in having food waste topic on next agenda.

Humboldt County- CRV is also big issue. BOS is mad. Also working with Assemblymember Wood. The county is definitely taking a hard stance on this topic and hopes other members will join.

Fortuna- Echoes all other concerns reported. Also issues with illegal camp sites. Also concerned about organics requirements coming down.

Blue Lake-Has been more shielded from major waste issues due to small town. They did see waste increases from summer youth programs. Hoping to go to for a rural organics exemption and seeing how these regulations fit into garbage program.

LEA- concerned about waste from neighboring fires. Looking into temporary transfer stations. Waiting on guidance.

Rio Dell- Still seeking universal pickup. They are seeing large amount of illegal dumping at bins at City Hall. People are piling up garbage bags at private residences. Also have a new CSO for nuisance abatement.

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Summary- Kevin is the Vice Chair. He can assume Chair if he would like. Kevin said he does not want to at this time. Motion went forward for Donna Wood to be chair and Kevin to remain Vice Chair.

Motion/Second- Julie/Tom

Public Comment- NA

Vote- Pass Unanimously (Ferndale and Trinidad not present)

6. Discuss Updates to Member Composition of SWLTF

Jill shared that the LTF would develop a recommendation that each agency would pass by their legislative bodies through a resolution. This last happened in 2016. There is opportunity to develop different types of expansions. We could modify to think long term about who else may want to part of it...rep from recycling industry, member of public. The larger the group gets it is harder to get quorum.

Maggie asked how the actual members would get appointed

Jill is not clear if it is the county or the members of the LTF

Maggie said based on experience with AB 939 that it is the county that appoints. She thinks non city members would be helpful and has seen it in other regions.

Spencer says it is a local decision for us to make and to consider something like a regional recycling group that meets more often than LTF that can make recommendations. Keep in mind the LTF develops 5 year planning documents which may not be as useful for non-city members.

Donna asks if we should reach out to county to begin to find out about process to make changes. Contact is Kathy Hayes

Julie wants to ensure we are thinking short term and long term when making changes. Arcata is seeing budget and staff constraints and needs to figure out capacity. But also wants to plan for where we want to be when we do have more funds. Also lets be sure not to focus too much on recycling and overlook Zero Waste concepts and organics reductions. Maybe a subcommittee could be more active on these topics with non members? Showing the efforts and activity of a subcommittee could begin to make the case for changing member composition.

Tom agrees with Julie about waiting to make changes. Keep in mind voting members are ultimately responsible for implementing state mandates and when voting, agencies need to be sure they are feasible and able to be implemented in each members operation. We absolutely need non members input and knowledge to help make these things happen. County is lacking a full time Solid Waste person.

Maggie said if Zero Waste Humboldt is not a full voting member they would be happy to have a standing agenda item to report. This would meet part of their needs in the meantime and help forward their goals. They also recognize attending a lot of meetings is hard. Supports postponing changes to the board and also like concerted efforts on organics.

Discussion went forward on where standing agenda item would be. Landed on a standing reports items for ZWH, Recology, and HWMA. Have it towards end of meeting but members can request it be pulled earlier in the meeting.

Tom would like to see an "action to be taken" section so that reports yield some sort of action.

7. Receive Preliminary Waste Characterization Report (attached)

Feb 2020 materials audited, then June 2020 cancelled due to COVID. Second audit rescheduled for June 2021. Just a preliminary report. So far, not much different than 2010 study. Was hoping to see decrease in organics, but did not. We will need to use this to see how we can do better, especially with organics. Arcata saw that recoverable food waste was down, so that could be a good sign. Maggie asked if Oops tags helped. Linda said yes but it's the action after. Do they tip and charge garbage? What is the teeth. Jill mentioned it can be strict but could be coordinate region wide. It is suggested we talk more on oops at next meeting, put on agenda. Tom is interested in helping fund education. Linda would like to present on this topic next meeting.

8. Oral and Written Communications

This time is provided for people to address the Task Force or to submit written communications concerning matters not on this agenda. Task Force Members may respond to statements, but any request that requires action will be referred to appropriate agency staff for review. Reasonable time limits may be imposed on both the total amount of time allocated for this item, and on the time permitted to each individual speaker. Such time allotment or portion thereof shall not be transferred to other speakers.

Spencer shared that Oct 20th is national reuse day. Recycling commission is meeting this month about CRV. EAR is due. Some state waste statutes are being reviewed and a rural exemption has been extended though waiver is no longer valid. Any state regs coming down calrecycle is willing to work with each agency to make it happen. Webinars will be available to help. Spencer will send email follow up with all the info we need.

Maggie shared ZWH has a video series for the public about plastics and food waste. Nov 15th is zero heroes night and there will be awards. ZW business certification is going digital since the old format was costly. Also working on youth programming for kids.

HWMA shared issues with CRV. COVID closures, scrap metal costs, CalRecycle not allowing HWMA to make adjustments. HWMA is looking into pilot program and hopes to meet with a few of the bigger cities to talk more. Program is cost prohibitive and operates at a loss. Changes need to be strategic for the long term

Maggie sees opportunity to educate people about other ways to consume beverages. Jill highlights that when CRV started plastic was not as prevalent, especially bottled water. Donna suggests a CRV subcommittee. This action cannot be taken from public comment but can be discussed further at next meeting as agenda item.

9. Adjournment

Meeting was called to adjourn by Donna Wood at 10:35am.