

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 18, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Roberts, and Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brassett
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of January 21, 2009 approved as amended (Roberts abstained due to absence at that meeting)

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

None

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Election of Officers

Chairman McNelly - advised that the City Council revamped the process whereby Committee Members are appointed, eliminating the review committee, and returning to direct council selection and appointment. Some direct appointments were made at the prior Council meeting, however no members-at-large were appointed at that time.

Senior Planner Allen – it is her understanding that people interested in being appointed to an at large position would be required to give a presentation at a public hearing.

The Committee expressed their confusion with the action.

Committee Member Buck arrived at the end of this discussion and was brought up-to-date on the discussions.

The Committee thought it would be wise to table the election until the composition of the Committee was clarified

Committee Member McCormack – commented that we can clarify the process, but there is a timing issue if the selection takes two or three months.

MOTION made by Committee Member McCormack SECOND by Committee Member Roberts and CARRIED by all members present to table the election of officers until the next meeting for further information about appointments of members-at-large.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

b) Impacts of SB1016 and potential changes to Alternative Daily Cover requirements

Chairman McNelly – stated that at the last meeting he had asked the Committee to look at some of the issues related to overall organic management and landfill issues and how that might be shifting. What potential changes we might be seeing to Alternative Daily Cover requirements; why that impacts the City of Fullerton, and the general issues relating to organics management in landfill.

Senior Planner Allen – the main focus of SB 1016 is to switch the way the City calculates diversion. Instead of trying to divert 50% or more, the City will try to dispose of 50% or less. Diversion is a calculation as opposed to actual data numbers. There is a long process that takes place to review our numbers in order to start our calculation. What SB1016 is designed to do is shorten the time frame for us to know how we are doing; it is more actual data vs. calculations. More focus will be put on the programs and how they are being implemented.

The City will be on a 4-year cycle since the diversion target is being met. The first reporting is 2007-2011. The City will report every year but in terms of review it will be the 4-year cycle.

Chairman McNelly – question the base year calculation.

Committee Member McCormack – said it is his understanding that there are two ways to go; one is per capita; the other is based on the sales tax.

Senior Planner Allen – stated that disposal will now be measured, where before it was not.

Chairman McNelly – asked if there is there a frequently asked questions website.

Senior Planner Allen – said the California Integrated Management Board www.ciwmb.ca.gov website has frequently asked questions and other facts. The website explains that the program increases simplicity and timeliness of goal measurements; allows for jurisdiction growth; saves money and time by eliminating complex calculations; increases staff field presence and adjusts fee schedule for compliance jurisdiction. The other thing is figuring out where you are -- you will be looking at yourself and not in relation to other cities.

There is a power point presentation on the website that was presented at the last county meeting for recycling coordinators that summarizes the high points in the frequently asked questions document.

Chairman McNelly – mentioned that at the City Council meeting when Mayor Bankhead talked about the approval of the change in trash collection process he said another reason for change is that the City is moving to a 70% diversion rate. Where did this number come from?

Senior Planner Allen – that number has been floating around the State for several years.

Instead of trying to divert 75% or more it would now be a 25% disposal. There is a definite push to increase diversion; however, there is no current legislation.

Chairman McNelly – asked if there would be any changes to the City’s Source Reduction and Recycling Elements.

Senior Planner Allen – said while there is no mandated need to change the Source Reduction and Recycling Element it would be a good idea to look at it because of the implementation focus.

Committee Member McCormack – said he would be meeting in early March with the Integrated Waste Board representatives and would be happy to bring information back to the Committee.

c) Organics and landfills

Chairman McNelly – stated that this Committee has always stayed on top and at the cutting edge of what is happening from a legal standpoint and at least tried to be the communities’ eyes and ears of what is happening. He encouraged the Committee to stay ahead of the game as well as on Alternative Daily Cover. There is a push to get organics out of the landfill. There are a number of states that do not allow any disposal of organics in landfills today.

Committee Member Adamson – said several times he has brought the subject of food waste before the Committee and suggested we need to get more going.

Chairman McNelly – said that the California composting groups have been upset that they have not been able to get the green portion of the organics into the composting stream because it has been easy to use as Alternative Daily Cover.

Senior Planner Allen – stated that the Integrated Waste Management Board has a section on their website on organic materials management which dates back to 2007 when they put together a strategy addressing various components of organics including Alternative Daily Cover, Economic Incentives/Disincentives, Citing and Capacity Development, Regulatory and Permanent Constraints, Research Products Standards and Technology Evaluation. There are different timelines associated with all of them. However, nothing has been updated since 2008 on that website and is not sure where the State stands on these initiatives.

There was a working group formed on Alternative Daily Cover. In March of last year a meeting was held to develop options for reducing green material and alternative daily cover. At the local level County staff made a presentation to the Waste Management Committee about Alternative Daily Cover stating that it is taking up capacity in the landfill and not developing a market for its use. The minutes from that meeting conveyed the message that the department must cut back its use of processed green material as Alternative Daily Cover to reduce tonnage at the landfill. The County has not moved forward since that time.

Instead of putting green waste in the landfill some suggested using blue tarps, or other material that would not take up capacity. Nothing has been proposed so far to take the place of green waste. There are no regulations disallowing the use.

Chairman McNelly – one of the problems with borrowed material is that there isn’t enough volume. There are several groups talking about this issue and how it is all managed.

Committee Member Adamson – would like to see more study done before new rules are made. Presently there is no market for selling green waste.

Committee Member McCormack – asked if there are any Best Practices for green waste.

Chairman McNelly – replied that it is localized. There are localized food waste groups all over the country but as long as citizens come before the City Council meetings complaining about spending \$17.51 cents a month on trash service we will never have the kind of program that we could.

Committee Member Mitchell – agreed that the program could be better.

Senior Planner Allen – said it might make more sense if a food waste program was handled at the County level.

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Committee Member Roberts – shared information about water conservation. He saw on TV individual gray water systems for houses and suggested that the Committee may want to see if these systems could be made available to the public at some point in time.

Senior Planner Allen – the U.S. Mayor's Agreement scheduled for City Council was rescheduled to March 17.

Committee Member Mitchell – asked if the Committee would be interested in having a booth at the Farmer's Market once a month to raise awareness about water conservation and recycling. She was surprised that many people are still not as aware as they could be that the City has had recycling for several years.

Committee Member Twineham – inquired from Committee Member Mitchell her mention at a previous meeting about arranging a tour of the Chevron property, and if that was still being planned?

Committee Member Mitchell – Nothing is planned but offered to give contact information to anyone who might be interested in going.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:20 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support