



COLORADO

Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Board of Directors

Department of Public Health & Environment

Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: CDPHE, Sabin-Cleere Meeting Room and virtual via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance:

Chair, Suzanne (Zan) Jones, Eco-Cycle
Vice-chair, Nina Waysdorf, City and County of Denver
Tyler Bandemer, City of Loveland
Jason Chan, Waste Management
John Cole, El Paso County Environmental Division
Rob Gill, Republic Services
Ben Huff, Douglas County Health Department
Laurie Johnson, Circular Colorado
Miranda Halverson, arc Thrift Stores
Rachel Roussel-Diamond, DEHS, CDPHE
David Snapp, HWMMD, CDPHE
Emily Wilson, GreenSheen Paint

Board Members Excused:

Anna Regan, OEDIT

Staff Participating:

Deborah Nelson, DEHS, CDPHE, Board Administrator
Jenna Lewis, AGO
Rebecca (Becca) Fischer, AGO
Jeff Stalter, DEHS, CDPHE
Kendra Appelman-Eastvedt, DEHS, CDPHE
Megan Vinet, DEHS, CDPHE

Call to order, review for conflicts, and introduction of new members

Zan Jones, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00, confirmed a quorum, and reviewed the agenda. Members will disclose conflicts as they go through the grant applications. The board then voted to approve the February 22nd minutes without revision (9-0-1). The motion was made by Laurie Johnson and seconded by Ben Huff. Nina Waysdorf and Tyler Bandemer arrived a little late. The board had a quorum for the full meeting.

Public comment

No members of the public offered public comment.

Board member updates

No members had updates.

Board Deliberations and Grant Awards: Request for Application (RFA) #9, #SF011224

Laurie Johnson was available for board discussion but abstained from the PreTred vote to avoid the appearance of a conflict given the Circular Economy Development Center's (CEDC) work with PreTred. Jason Chan disclosed that Pueblo County and arc Thrift Stores are customers of Waste Management and was comfortable participating. Rob Gill and Miranda Halverson recused from the arc ThriftStores discussion and vote. Rob Gill recused from the Compost Colorado vote.

Prior to the Board meeting, members reviewed application materials and scored five applications from PreTred, BioChar Now, LLC, Pueblo County Government, arc Thrift Stores Colorado, and Compost Colorado. Staff recommended all five projects. With regard to PreTred, staff noted the same project was partially funded through an FY25 RREO grant; staff recommended that the board approve the plan A budget request in full, so the grantee didn't have to manage funding from two different grant programs. This would also enable the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board to fund at least one more project. As to the Pueblo application, staff recognized that FRWD has long been interested in supporting Pueblo

projects. Staff also noted that Pueblo is working with FRWD's Technical Assistance Service Provider (TASP) and staff would like to work with TASP and Pueblo to ensure this project aligns with the TASP project recommendations as much as possible. The CEDC is also working to support Pueblo. Next, Jeff Statler indicated that staff will go back to applicants who did not pass the technical review to help them complete their applications and see if steps can be taken to correct application requirements or to be shovel-ready. If the circumstances change while they are working toward shovel readiness, they may need to reapply. Deborah Nelson then reviewed the plan to ensure the continuity of the projects if the proposed legislation passes and opportunities for FRWD to inform the Colorado Circular Communities (C3) enterprise if the proposed legislation passes. The board then discussed each of the five applications.

With regard to PreTred, board members discussed that the PreTred products are recyclable at the end of life, that Colorado only partially sources the crumb, and that Colorado needs more crumb infrastructure as discussed by the board at their last meeting. Nina liked the idea of supporting the full amount and freeing the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board (PPAB) to fund additional projects. Rob confirmed no members had conflicts in relation to the two additional projects the PPAB could support if FRWD funded the full application. Rachel appreciated how much PreTred did to improve their application based on the board's feedback on their prior application. David appreciated the quality of the end product. In response to Zan, Laurie indicated they have buyers and confirmed that PreTred was very receptive to the CEDC assessing environmental health and safety. The board voted to approve the project at the full amount (11-0-1). The motion was made by Nina and seconded by David. Laurie abstained.

With regard to BioChar, members noted they value the effort and the product, and they have questions. Board members discussed wanting to see leachability and total metal concentration data, a better understanding of BioChar's discussions with the Air Pollution Control Division to assess if a permit is appropriate, whether they have letters of support from landfill partners, and a review of the tonnage estimates. Rachel appreciated staff scrutinizing the tonnage number. The board voted to bring the applicant in to respond to questions at the board's next meeting (12-0-1). The motion was made by Laurie and seconded by Rob.

With regard to the Pueblo County government, members asked if asphalt is included in their tonnage, and discussed driven plastics, film plastic and the benefit to the MRFs, and the concept of filling potholes with product. Tay Dunklee, FRWD Ambassador and (TASP), provided an overview of their work with Pueblo County and where there may be opportunities to augment the application to align and connect key partners. Laurie, FRWD Board member and CEDC Director, also provided an overview of their processes and discussed how the different efforts by TASP and the CEDC can help Pueblo. John noted that the Ameripatcher request didn't have the same nexus to the project as other elements. Nina would like staff training to be a critical activity in the scope of work. Rachel appreciated this opportunity to help Pueblo; she supported staff working with TASP. The board approved the project with staff working with the applicant and TASP to support the project as proposed while making some adjustments to the project to align with Pueblo's TASP efforts (12-0). The motion was made by Rachel and seconded by Nina.

With regard to arc Thrift Stores, the board discussed the pattern of requests for expansion, questioned why the applicant isn't buying electronic trucks, and sought more visibility into what is happening with the international textile markets. Members appreciated that the applicant is taking these items and recognized that reuse has value and diverts tons. The question for the board was where the unsaleable items were going. The CEDC is studying textiles and they are willing to go look at this. Members supported this and appreciated the CEDC offering this. Rachel noted that at least one store was new capacity. The board approved the project in part to include one truck and one forklift (10-0-2). The board further directed staff to encourage the applicant to increase their diversion rate and explore electric trucks. Laurie made the motion and Ben seconded.

With regard to Compost Colorado, the board discussed the strong partnerships discussed in the application, the need to decentralize composting, that Earthflow is a good system and it will drive new

operations for the grant applicant, and that the applicant is building off of prior grant work and partnerships. Members noted the number of unknowns related to Waste No More and that the tonnage is ambitious. Multiple members questioned their ability to achieve the tonnage given the number of customers required. In response to board questions, Kendra reminded the board that the Waste Diversion Team does a tonnage baseline assessment for each new project to help improve the quality of the tonnage reporting. The board voted to approve the project (11-0). The motion was made by Laurie and seconded by Nina.

With regard to the proposals that did not advance to deliberations, the board voted for staff to explore to see if any can be improved and return to the board in May with any additional projects they would like the board to consider. (11-0-1). The motion was made by Zan and seconded by Laurie.

Standing Reports

FRWD Ambassador Updates

Tay Dunklee, RRS, provided the following update: in February, they had nine office hour sessions with seven entities. Networking is helping get people connected to the resources and office hours. In January, one eblast was sent to RFA #10 contacts; the open rate was good. The website had about 697 visitors. LinkedIn followers grew by 9% in February. Outreach to remind prospective grant applicants to apply for RFA #10 also occurred. Thus far, three applications have been received; CDPHE anticipates most will apply on Friday. She reminded members that the FRWD website updates were completed in February. She and Erin Girard, CDPHE, attended the Construction and Demolition World Conference and the US Composting Council conference; numerous new contacts were made and relationships continue to be strengthened. Tay also attended the Colorado Green Business Network event on February 22, 2024. Upcoming events for Erin and Tay include NextCycle Colorado Boot Camp. She also reminded members of other upcoming events presented in February- the Colorado Municipal League Conference, the Colorado Counties Inc Conference, and the Recycle Colorado Conference. Members thanked Tay and staff for all of their hard work.

Circular Economy Development Center (CEDC) Updates

Laurie Johnson, FRWD board member and CEDC Director, indicated CEDC is presenting at the NRC conference as the FRWD board meets. Laurie talked about the number of exploratory contacts; there were ten last month and 46 since the CEDC started last July. The CEDC has held eight stakeholder meetings thus far; last month there was a robust stakeholder meeting in Colorado Springs. Alicia Archibald is the coordinator supporting Colorado Springs and her work resulted in businesses, city council members, and other local leadership attending. The meeting focused on plastics. The CEDC has 84 followers and they do a few posts every month. The CEDC is seeing people complete the inquiry form which is followed by an exploratory call. As previously discussed, in May they will be at the NREL Industry Growth Forum conference. The CEDC has five active projects; the Pueblo and Southern Colorado logistics, processing, rail, and truck project will be presented to the board at its next meeting. The CEDC will then present a Go-to-Them funding request in early April. The CEDC is working with the Washington State Recycling Center and now other states such as North Carolina to set up a standing call across numerous states working on circularity. In response to board questions, she indicated the CEDC needs two months to look at textiles and then can speak to the board about what was learned. She would recommend a presentation and discussion on shingles including shingle to shingle, and shingles to asphalt, and a session on life cycle analysis and environmental product declaration. Zan was interested in hearing whether circular shingles are also fire and hail-resistant. Members thanked the CEDC for all of their hard work.

Waste Diversion Team (WDT) Updates

Kendra Appelman-Eastvedt, Waste Diversion Team indicated the City and County of Denver DOTI contract is executed; she indicated they will follow up with BioChar and start working on these scopes of work for the projects approved today. She also indicated the next meeting will include a grant modification request and possibly the TASP Tier 3 project for Erie. Members thanked staff for all of their hard work.

Member reflections on the meeting, next meeting preparation, and Board Administrator Updates

Deborah Nelson reminded members that this was Becca's last meeting. Members thanked Becca for her service. Deborah also indicated it was time to start working on the Board's Annual Report. Members supported her recommendation that the Technical Assistance Service Provider serve as the theme for the report. She reminded members that last year they discussed having a member partner with Deborah to co-author the report. She asked if any members would like to assist. Nina volunteered. Deborah then let members know that the next meeting is March 21st. The agenda will include the Biochar application, the presentation from the CEDC discussed earlier, and a grant modification recommendation from the WDT and possibly the TASP Tier 3 project with Erie. Deborah invited members to provide feedback on how the meeting went and provide recommendations on what could be improved. Members appreciated the in-person meeting and discussed meeting in-person quarterly if feasible.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:28.