



# COLORADO

## Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise Board of Directors

Department of Public Health & Environment

Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time: Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: 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  
John Cole, El Paso County Environmental Division  
Rob Gill, Republic Services  
Miranda Halverson, arc Thrift Stores  
Ben Huff, Douglas County Health Department  
Laurie Johnson, Circular Colorado  
Anna Regan, OEDIT  
Rachel Roussel-Diamond, DEHS, CDPHE  
David Snapp, HWMMD, CDPHE

### **Board Members Excused:**

Jason Chan, Waste Management  
Emily Wilson, GreenSheen Paint

### **Staff Participating:**

Deborah Nelson, DEHS, CDPHE, Board  
Administrator  
Jeff Stalter, DEHS, CDPHE  
Kendra Appelman-Eastvedt, DEHS, CDPHE  
Megan Vinet, DEHS, CDPHE  
Jenna Lewis, AGO

### **Call to order, determination of a quorum, and review for conflicts**

Zan Jones, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and confirmed a quorum. She then asked if members had any conflicts. No members identified conflicts. The board then voted to approve the March 6th minutes (10-0-1). The motion was made by Miranda Halverson and seconded by Tyler Bandemer.

### **Public comment**

No members of the public offered comments.

### **Board member updates**

David Snapp indicated the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) received the End Producer Responsibility presentation last Wednesday; the JBC did not vote on the proposal at the time of the presentation. Zan appreciated the work and indicated she is hopeful that the JBC will support the recommendation. David also spoke about the Waste Tire Enterprise legislation and the incineration bill that is also moving through the process. Anna Regan indicated the Office of Economic Development and International Trade is currently accepting applications for the Governor's Award for Excellence in Exporting. Anna will provide details to Deborah for her to share.

### **Grant Modification Recommendation: Jefferson County Tin Cup Grant Project**

Jeff Stalter reviewed the Jefferson County Tin Cup grant modification recommendation. The grantee shifted the project workload in a manner that reduced its contractual costs. The grantee would like to redirect those savings to the purchase of equipment. While the modification does not change the amount of the grant award, the modification does shift more than twenty-five percent of the project budget, and thus, the staff brought the change to the board for a decision. In response to board questions, staff indicated that, with not taking leaves and grass clippings, there is a potential for less tonnage. The board voted to approve the grant modification as described in the staff's recommendation memo (11-0). The motion was made by Laurie Johnson and seconded by Zan Jones.

## **Oral Presentation and Questions and Answer session with BioChar Now, a Request for Application (RFA) #9, #SF011224 Applicant**

James Gaspard, BioChar Now, provided an overview of the organization's responses to questions posed by the board during their deliberation of BioChar Now's grant application. He discussed his past conversations with the department's regulatory teams and none of those resulted in a need for BioChar Now to pursue a permit and they continue to work with the Air Pollution Control Division and the Hazardous Materials Waste Management Division to ensure they are in compliance. David Snapp spoke to the review by his staff and confirmed that those discussions could affect the permit timeline and though it may change, that may not be problematic. In response to the board asking if staff are comfortable with the board moving forward, Deborah confirmed that staff completed the technical review and advanced the application to the board. In response to board questions, James discussed pyrolysis and BioChar Now using high temperatures for ten hours to ensure the chemicals breakdown. The board voted to approve the BioChar Now application as discussed at the last meeting (11-0). The motion was made by Tyler Bandemer and seconded by Rob Gill.

## **Circular Economy Development Center (CEDC) Overview of a Circular Solution to Support Pueblo County**

Laurie Johnson, FRWD Board member and CEDC Director, presented a Front Range Transload "Go-to-Them" project that enables Pueblo to serve as a hub for regional recyclables; leverages a local transload facility's storage capacity, transportation logistics, expertise, and rail access, and; streamlines the transportation network to improve access to regional and national markets. During the presentation, Laurie identified the partners on the project, who include Front Range Transload, B. Kirkland Trucking and Recycling. Collaborators include: Centennial Recycling, Direct Polymers Plastics Recycling, City of Pueblo, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, PEDCO, and BNSF Railway. Rachel discussed how fantastic this solution is and how it acts on many years of discussion and moves into action. Multiple members shared their support of the work; Anna also encouraged the CEDC to think about workforce expansion to which Laurie responded that the CEDC is working closely with OEDIT. In response to board questions, Laurie reviewed drop-off and sorting, how the costs will be covered, and the idea of replicating this solution for other materials. Kristin Kirkland of B. Kirkland Trucking was introduced and assisted Laurie in responding to questions. The next step is for the team to put together a recommendation for the board's consideration. CEDC can provide a preliminary work plan. It is anticipated the board will hear this request on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The board then discussed the criteria it would use to evaluate the Go-to-Them funding request. Proposed criteria included an assessment that the project appropriately uses enterprise funds, similar to other grant projects such as whether the project benefits the Front Range, increases infrastructure capacity to divert waste, enables the processing of new tons, or improves the processing of current tons, diverts waste while supporting circularity, aligns with materials previously approved by the board, aligns with the project timelines previously approved by the board, the partners are in a state of readiness to deploy, and there is proof of collaborative relationships or support. Additional criteria that are unique to Go-to-Them projects are that the project includes: complex public-private partnership across multiple jurisdictions, a need for a project manager who balances all the partners' interests, the project pilots a new approach which may result in a proof of concept, the project addresses a board-identified community challenge, and time is of the essence. Zan indicated she wanted to study the criteria. She commented on Go-to-Them supporting hard-to-solve problems. She asked for information on the governance and the business plan. Board members will review the criteria and discuss them at the next meeting.

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

Deborah let members know that the next meeting is April 3, 2024. The agenda will include a review of the Go-to-Them criteria, RFA #10 staff recommendations, board discussion of the draft Annual report which the board will be asked to vote on at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, and standing reports. She also mentioned that the Waste Diversion Team will continue to monitor and advance any recommendations for contract modifications if that need arises before the next meeting. Deborah invited members to provide feedback on how the meeting went and provide recommendations on what could be improved. Deborah and Jeff confirmed that staff will be providing recommendations and the board will have access to the applications and staff scoring. Zan closed with asking if there is any feedback on this meeting. Zan wants material in

advance if you want her to vote on it and asked if the presentation and criteria will be provided. Deborah confirmed that both are now in the meeting folder and she will provide in the next meeting folder. She confirmed that Zan is correct that it was still being developed early this week, which is why the meeting agenda identified that the board may discuss or vote, in anticipation of the board wanting more time to discuss.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46.