

**DEL NORTE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
CITY OF CRESCENT CITY
COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Special Town Hall Session, Thursday May 11, 2017, 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Commissioner Blake Inscore, Chair
Commissioner Lori Cowan, Secretary
Commissioner Jason Greenough
Commissioner Chris Howard, Vice Chair

Director, Tedd Ward
Clerk/Administrative Assistant, Katherine Brewer
Facilities & Programs Coordinator, Kyra Seymour

ABSENT: Commissioner, Eli Naffah

ALSO PRESENT: Jeremy Herber, Recology Del Norte

5:30 P.M. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Inscore called the meeting to order in special session at 5:30 P.M. Roll was taken with Commissioners Cowan, Greenough, Howard, and Inscore present.

5:30 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Inscore called for public comments. None were made.

OPEN SESSION ITEMS:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the proportion of trash and other non-recyclable contaminating materials in Recology Del Norte's Recycling Programs and strategies to reduce contamination to 10% or lower.

Director Ward provided a PowerPoint presentation which provided background and an introduction to the topic of discussion.

In addition to the written comments attached to these minutes, the following verbal comments were made by the public:

Bill Lonsdale, (City Resident) asked for clarification on what constitutes “trash?” Loose paper? Jeremy Herber, General Manager for Recology Del Norte replied that opened junk mail, paper shreds and office paper are all to be bagged before being placed in any recycling bin. Bagged paper is preferable for reasons, keeping it from making a mess in the neighborhood, and keeping it dry when encountering other recyclables.

Bill Lonsdale suggested that the “..Board should spend effort leaning on lawmakers to pressure processors to take more types of materials.”

Jake Smith (County Resident) asked, “What is the current marketability of Recycling?”

Mr. Herber replied: “Currently recyclables are not being marketed, in that Recology Del Norte receives no money directly for any recyclable material they are collecting. Recology Recycles as much as possible in order to be responsible, as there is currently no financial incentive.”

Eileen Cooper (County resident): “What is the % contamination of the community bins currently at transfer station?”

Mr. Herber replied that “Contamination has been reduced since those bins were moved from Fairgrounds. While Recology Del Norte is now recycling materials from those bins, the contamination level is still not at 10 percent.”

Ms. Cooper: “Are Julindra’s recyclables below 10 percent contamination?”

Jeromy: “I’m not sure, but there is an attendant”

Rich Knutson (County resident): “Can we place trash bin next to recycling bin, and would it be beneficial to have these locations manned?”

Mr. Herber: “People would take advantage of the trash bin. It would be constantly full, and the cost of supervision would be difficult to account for.”

Mr. Knutson: Could we start our own processing center?

Mr. Herber: To have a chance of being profitable, a Processor requires a minimum throughput of about 10,000 tons per year. Del Norte does not have recycling tonnages anywhere close to that.”

Julie Bayon (County resident) felt that there were many ‘scofflaws’ in our community. She wondered how to reach these people?

Mr. Herber: We do have outreach in schools

Ralph Johansen (County resident): “My Granddaughter going to DN High School never hears about recycling at school. We need to band together with other likeminded communities”

Commissioner Cowan: I helped with recycling outreach for elementary schools when I was on the School District Board. While there may be less outreach for with older kids, there is a recycling club at the high school.

Janet Gilbert (County resident): “Would some kind of sliding scale possible like a garbage clinic?”

Mr. Herber: "To reduce, subsidize or eliminate the rates for some, the rates for others must go up. There is not enough money in the system to afford such a subsidy, for this economically depressed county.

Jake Smith (County resident): "I think mandatory trash collection service would address many of these issues. There should be bins for those who want to recycle, but otherwise standard service would be a large bin for trash."

Ralph Johansen (County resident): "Property owners need to take responsibility for their properties and the waste that comes from them."

Director Ward: Under the Authority's ordinances, property owners and landlords are currently responsible for providing trash and recycling services for their properties, either by subscribing to Recology Del Norte's services or by self-hauling on a weekly basis.

Pat Black (City resident): What enforcement is there to catch people who are doing it wrong?"

Mr. Herber: Some customer's carts have been pulled. There are many challenges to enforcement. Some people will place bags of trash in middle of recycling bin. Outreach and enforcement is reducing contamination. So progress is being made, but it is very slow.

Commissioner Cowan: How many unstaffed community recycling bins locations are there?

Mr. Herber: Three: one at the Smith River Post Office, one at the Ship Ashore resort, and one at the Fort Dick Fire Station.

Marylou Pettaway (City resident): I had used fairgrounds until I realized there was too much contamination. Should the bags for bagging other recyclables paper or plastic?

Mr. Herber "We prefer paper, but there are still plastic ones being accepted."

Eileen Cooper (County resident): Perhaps low income residents could register to be recycling assistance volunteers for a discount in their rates? We could thus create 'Good Samaritans of recycling.' She thinks residents are feeling hopeless. Maybe unmanned recycling drop-offs don't work if we have to have less than 10% contamination? Maybe we need smart cans that tell you how to dispose?

Bill Lonsdale (City resident): What is the status of the proposal to require a 96 gal trash cart as the basic level of service?

Chair Inscore: The Recycling Ad Hoc Committee did look at other options, but having a large 96 gallon basic trash service seemed to work as a method to reduce contamination in recyclables for other communities. At this point, the 96 gallon cart as the basic trash service is still only in proposal/idea stage.

Julie Bayon (County resident): Perhaps we could reduce contamination by reducing the complex variety of materials that are accepted in the recycling programs. Maybe reduce what

is acceptable as recycling, like just four things like glass, cans, plastic bottles, and cardboard. Super simplification.

Jake Smith (County resident): Some good news, Taco bell is going biodegradable.

Rich Knutsen (County resident): Manufactures are not helping.

Ralph Johansen (County resident) commented that the Del Norte Triplicate could do more to promote and educate people on recycling and the issues being discussed.

Jessica Cejnar, reporter for the Del Norte Triplicate, raised her hand to indicate that she would be reporting on this meeting and the issues discussed.

Bill Lonsdale (City resident) wanted to express his thanks to Recology Del Norte for their excellent service.

Julie Bayon (County resident): Thanks for having this Town Hall meeting.

Pat Black (city resident): "I am wondering who is using the community recycling drop off bins? Why couldn't those people not drop off their recycling at or on the way to the transfer station? Why do we still need community drop off stations?"

Mr. Herber: Transportation is an issue for some residents in these areas. Many people in Smith River have no transportation.

With no remaining unvoiced public comments, Chair Inscore adjourned the meeting at 6:54 P.M., until the next Special Meeting scheduled for May 23, 2017, starting at 3:30 at the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 981 H Street, Suite 100 in Crescent City.

Blake Inscore, Chair
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority

Date / /

ATTEST:

Lori Cowan, Secretary
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority

Date / /

Submitted:

Katherine Brewer, Clerk
Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority

Date / /