



MINUTES

SOUTH BAYSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 October 26, 2017 – 2:00PM.
 San Carlos Library Conference Room A

Call to Order: 2:07PM

1. Roll Call

Agency	Present	Absent	Agency	Present	Absent
Atherton		X	Menlo Park	X	
Belmont	X		Redwood City		X
Burlingame	X		San Carlos	X	
East Palo Alto	X		San Mateo	X	
Foster City	X		County of San Mateo		X
Hillsborough	X		West Bay Sanitary District		X

2. Public Comment

Persons wishing to address the Board on matters NOT on the posted agenda may do so.

Each speaker is limited to two minutes. If there are more than five individuals wishing to speak during public comment, the Chairman will draw five speaker cards from those submitted to speak during this time. The balance of the Public Comment speakers will be called upon at the end of the Board Meeting.

If the item you are speaking on is not listed on the agenda, please be advised that the Board may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed as allowed under The Brown Act (Government Code Section 54954.2). The Board's general policy is to refer items to staff for attention, or have a matter placed on a future Board agenda for a more comprehensive action or report and formal public discussion and input at that time.

None

3. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director La Mariana reminded the TAC members of the annual Board and TAC Holiday thank you lunch at 12:30 on November 16, and encouraged all to attend. He noted that on Saturday, November 18, there will be an America Recycles Day at Shoreway from 10am to 1pm, but if it rains the event will be cancelled. He thanked Staff Member Faustina Mututa and the public education team for all of their work in putting on America Recycles Day. He also noted that Staff Mututa's last day will be November 10, and she will be returning from her Leave of Absence in June 2018. He introduced new SBWMA staff members, Julia Au as the new Recycling Outreach Programs Manager, who will start on November 13, Joanna Rosales who will start November 6, and Carlos Moreno as the Public Spaces Fellows, and Nicole Lee and Dennis Uyat as the Environmental Education Fellows.

He then noted the status of the Franchise Agreement Extensions. He noted that all 12 Member Agencies are now in active negotiations with Recology. He reiterated that once the approval process is complete with the Franchise Agreements as they are now, there will be study sessions on the three outstanding items: Bulky Item Collection, Abandoned Waste, and Storm Water/Litter. Those will then be negotiated as the first contract modification to the contract extension. He noted that a model staff report and resolution will be distributed to the TAC tomorrow.

Lastly, he noted that the bulk of today's discussion will be on batteries, and introduced Michael Timpane of RRS who will be presenting today.

4. Approval of Consent Calendar:

Consent Calendar item(s) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items be removed for separate action. *Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be moved to the end of the agenda for separate discussion.*

A. Approve the September 14, 2017 TAC Meeting Minutes

Member Cooke motioned to approve
 Member Murray seconded the motion
 Voice Vote: All in favor

5. Administrative Items

A. Election of TAC Chair and Vice Chair for 2018

Member Murray nominated Chair Oskoui to remain on as Chair
 Chair Oskoui nominated Member Murray as Chair
 Member Murray nominated Member Walter as Chair

Member Walter politely declined the nomination
 Member Murray also declined the nomination

Chair Oskoui accepted the nomination and called for a vote:

Agency	Yes	No	Agency	Yes	No
Atherton		X	Menlo Park	X	
Belmont	X		Redwood City		X
Burlingame	X		San Carlos	X	
East Palo Alto	X		San Mateo	X	
Foster City	X		County of San Mateo		X
Hillsborough	X		West Bay Sanitary District		X

Chair Oskoui opened nominations for Vice Chair
 Member Walter nominated Member Murray
 Member Murray accepted the nomination, and Chair Oskoui called for a vote:

Agency	Yes	No	Agency	Yes	No
Atherton		X	Menlo Park	X	
Belmont	X		Redwood City		X
Burlingame	X		San Carlos	X	
East Palo Alto	X		San Mateo	X	
Foster City	X		County of San Mateo		X
Hillsborough	X		West Bay Sanitary District		X

B. Approval of 2018 TAC Meeting Calendar

Member Augustine made a motion to approve the 2018 TAC meeting calendar

Member Murray seconded the motion

Voice Vote: All in favor

6. Discussion about Shoreway Fires and Battery Hazard Mitigation Planning

Staff Gans noted this meeting would be a deep dive into batteries. He noted that last month was the anniversary of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) fire and a second fire in the transfer station, and in the last year staff has learned that there are a lot of batteries at the facility and that's a problem. He also added that the fire cost \$8.5M dollars, and, Hanover, the insurance company at the time of the fire is no longer insuring MRFs, and many insurers in the country are no longer insuring MRFs or recycling facilities. So if there is another major fire the SBWMA may not be able to get insurance.. He thanked SBR and Recology for all of their efforts during the fire, and during the aftermath, and keeping materials moving while the facility was down for 3 months. He also noted that the last repair project from the fire was just completed. Hilary then gave a Power Point presentation to talk about the threat from lithium ion batteries in particular, the cause of the fire, and what to do to mitigate risk.

Staff Gans emphasized that in 2017 there have been 20 fire incidences at the Facility and, based on a study that was conducted at the MRF during the summer of 2017, there are an average of 5 Lithium Ion (LI) batteries running through the sorting machinery per hour in the MRF. He also noted that there is also an average of 10 NiCad batteries per hour running through the sorting machinery per hour at the MRF, but those materials don't pose the same fire risk. He noted that the battery industry is rapidly moving from away from NiCad over to LI so the risk is growing as this new generation of LI batteries reach their end of life. He added that staff is considering 24/7 onsite fire staff to deal with the fire risk, or a remote Fire observation and response system like Fire Rover. He then discussed the significant fire suppression equipment and fire protection measures that have been added to the facility since 2013, including many more since the 2016 fire.

Chair Oskoui asked what carts the batteries are in.

Staff Gans answered that they are typically found in the blue carts, and batteries are found in the MRF, but there is no metal in the LI batteries so they can't be captured with a magnet like the alkaline batteries.

Gino Gasparini asked for clarification on whether the batteries were found in the MRF or the Transfer station, noting there is confusion when the word waste is used.

Staff Gans answered that batteries are found in both locations, but the transfer station material is not sorted, but in both locations the forklifts are liable to crush the batteries in either location.

Gino Gasparini added that the collection vehicles also have compaction so there is a fire threat there too.

Staff Gans concluded that LI batteries are also ending up in the paper bales at the end of the sorting and handling process at the MRF, which means there is a potential ignition source being compacted together.

Staff Gans the introduced Michael Timpane of RRS, who gave a Power Point presentation on the LI battery issue industry wide.

Michael Timpane noted that the RRS recommendation is that collection program and materials handling procedures need to change, the SBWMA has a very popular and successful battery collection program, and the MRF is at risk from burning down.

Dwight Herring of SBR described the battery counting procedure that SBR used to determine the amounts and types of batteries at the MRF. He noted that June through August 3 days per week SBR staff manually counted batteries that came into the MRF not through the curbside collection program. He noted that the results were over a thousand LI batteries were collected which equates to 5.48 LI batteries per hour, and there are likely additional batteries that they didn't find in the Transfer Station or that went into the baler.

Member Walter asked what the percentage of batteries collected in the curbside programs is compared to the batteries being pulled out of the MRF.

Dwight Herring answered that SBR gets 35-37 tons of batteries per year in the curbside and public recycling center drop off programs, and about 60,000 pounds of batteries are recovered about 30 tons, so a little more than 50% is collected in the proper collection programs versus what is collected in the MRF.

Staff Gans added that a tractor trailer carries about 20 tons, so roughly one and half to two tractor trailer loads per year.

Member Walter asked if the LI battery that caused any of the other fires around the nation, and if yes why is it considered circumstantial.

Michael Timpane answered that they are finding the battery casing in the fire in some cases, but the fires aren't reported so no fire marshal was called, so that is why the evidence is considered circumstantial.

Staff Gans added that he never found the battery that is suspected of starting the SBWMA MRF fire since it's pretty hard to find a button battery that has exploded.

Member Walter commented that a button size battery explosion wouldn't be as catastrophic as a larger drone type battery.

Staff Gans responded that he couldn't speak to the different types of reactions from different size batteries, but in a MRF full of paper any spark is a risk, it doesn't need to be self-sustaining to start a fire.

Michael noted that last year one percent of all MRFs in the country burned down, and that even though the root cause wasn't determined one percent didn't used to burn down. He noted that he's been part of a group in Washington DC to discuss and problem solve these battery issues, and the solution that was come up with Call2Recycle training.

Staff Gans added that Call2Recycle is the rechargeable battery industry answer to battery recycling that is meant to push the battery recycling message out to the public.

Michael Timpane added that he thought the symbolisms in the Call2Recycle program sends mixed messages, and this group he is working with is working on proper labels and messaging, but it will take a while. He also noted that the battery industry thinks batteries should not be collected at the curb. He noted that he didn't agree or disagree on that point, but that he did think they shouldn't enter the recycling stream or the solid waste stream.

He concluded his presentation with RRS opinion, noting that the Shoreway Environmental Center fire risk is increasing and requires immediate action or more fires will occur. He added there is 100% alignment in the solid waste industry and the battery industry that batteries will cause increasing recycling system fires from Lithium based batteries, and transparency to the threat is increases, and listed their recommendations for mitigating fire risk.

Member Walter asked for confirmation that there is no place that is taking LI batteries for recycling, and if that is the case, then where do they go?

Staff Gans answered that there is no facility in North America that is taking LI batteries to break the batteries down and recycles them. There is one in Holland, and one in Korea, but they are new and the volume is low, and there is not a lot to recover in a LI battery. He answered that LI batteries are being sent to a battery handler ReVolt, and more investigation on what happens after they go to ReVolt is needed.

Staff Gans noted that staff is spear heading an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) effort with California Product Stewardship Council, but it will take a while, so today's discussion needs to stay focused on what the SBWMA can control, including hardening the facility and protect the facility from fires when they do occur.

Member Lucky commented that there is only a small amount of time left into today's meeting, and she thought it wasn't going to be productive to just throw out ideas in the time left and have staff be able to formulate an action plan before the next meeting.

Chair Oskoui added that this was a lot of information and more of a study session on the topic, and it needs to be condensed when it goes to the Board, and asked that the other items on the agenda get postponed so the last portion of today's meeting can be focused on feedback.

Member Walter suggested that this go to the Board as a study session and not as a TAC recommendation.

Staff Gans noted three options fall within the SBWMAs scope: reinforce the current collection program with a public education campaign, change the current program, or eliminate the battery collection program and promote drop off of batteries. He noted that the third option likely won't solve the problem because if it's inconvenient to do something people will just put them in the trash or blue bin anyway.

Executive Director La Mariana noted that staff's first reaction was to cancel the program, but that we're concerned that won't solve the problem. He noted that the 35 tons of batteries handled correctly in the bags on top of the carts have caused no fires. He proposed the idea to have a color coded bag that helps the drivers visualize it on top of the cart, and for the bag to have an RFID tag on it, that could then be tracked if they end up in the MRF. He also added that staff's second recommendation is to have 24/7 on site fire supervision on site.

Chair Oskoui summarized that from staff's perspective the SBWMA would like TAC feedback on an enhanced collection program and education program, and he asked TAC members to comment and question on those aspects.

Member Daher commented that batteries are hazardous, and over time people need to be retrained regarding batteries, and would like to see the battery collection moving over to the County's HHW program.

Executive Director La Mariana added that expanded drop off opportunities will also be a component of this plan, including promoting battery collection at the individual Member Agency events.

Member Ramirez added that will all come down to public education, and there needs to be a mass undertaking and a major campaign and working with other agencies on the dangers of batteries. He suggested working with a public marketing agency in LA that did a campaign on the dangers of cigarette butts in the waterways.

Michael Timpane noted that Member Ramirez was right, but that it takes time, and during that time something bad is still likely to happen, and your facility can't wait two months.

Member Lucky commented that the bags and the public education program are good ideas, but that the SBWMA would be paying for something that the battery industry should be addressing. She also added that she would like more analysis on what communities without a battery collection are doing. She also noted that this is a real opportunity for a collaborative work with other MRF operators.

Member Walter asked how replacement bags are received by residents. He also suggested working collaboratively with legislatures on legislature and regulations that will work with the battery industry towards solutions.

Executive Director La Mariana answered that replacement bags could be given when the bag is picked up, similar to the oil collection program's jugs.

Member Daher also noted that multi-family is a gap in service, and this may be a large portion of where the batteries are coming from.

Member Lucky summarized that there are 3 approaches, and all three should be implemented. One, harden the facility, two, short term collection solutions with the visible bags, and three legislation and education which are longer term.

Member Lorenz added that she would like to see stickers on the carts as a reminder about what to do with batteries.

Member Murray suggested getting input from fire departments on the program.

Chair Oskoui would like to see a cost benefit analysis of having a fire fighting solution at the MRF, since that will be a cost to the rate payers, and suggested a hybrid approach with the rate payers in mind.

Executive Director La Mariana added that long term the SBWMA is looking to collaborate locally to create a regional voice, and staff is already working with Cal Recycle and CPSC. He also noted that staff plans to work with Bay Roc (Bay Area Recycling Outreach Coalition) which pulls money together to run a regional campaign.

Lillian Clark commented that whatever is decided the rate payer needs to be kept in mind, and don't want to take programs away considering rates will increase in the next few years with the extension.

7. Shoreway Diversion Efforts and Related Future Capital Improvement Planning

This discussion item was deferred until January, but Hilary noted that he is working on a project to extract organics from the waste stream.

8. Contractor Program Feedback

A. Recology

Mike Kelly noted that the Franchise Agreement Extensions are all being finalized with all 12 Member Agencies.

He also noted that one of the Recology Customer Service Representatives was recognized in East Palo Alto for taking initiative regarding some asbestos that the customer was having trouble getting rid of.

B. SBR

No Report

9. Future TAC Agenda Items

Member Lucky commented that she would like to know what the strategic plan is for the SBWMA for the next three years.

Executive Director La Mariana answered that in 2015 The Board approved a Long Range Plan, which is the agency's current guiding document and pathway. He also explained that, when he was hired last year,, he was tasked with conducting an Agency wide Assessment and the findings and recommendations resulted in a lot of alignment on priorities and focusing of resources.

Member Lucky asked to be sent what is currently existing, and would like to see legislative action, HHW and storm water as future agenda and planning topics.

10. TAC Member Comments

11. **Adjourn 4:07pm**