



**CITY OF ANOKA
WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Knapek at 5:01 p.m. in the Worksession Room of Anoka City Hall.

ROLL CALL Board Members present: Chairperson Cheryl Knapek, VC Vicki Violet, Members Marijo Hain, Sue Dergantz, and Eileen Rathbun. Absent: Jan Call. Staff present: Pam Bowman, Recycling Manager. Others Present: Randy Triplett, Julie Herzog and Derek Drews of ACE Solid Waste, Inc.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

Member Hain made a MOTION to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes, SECONDED by Member Rathbun, all in favor, MOTION carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Subcommittee Reports.

- **Multi-Family** – Nothing new to report.
- **Organics** – Member Dergantz said she and Ms. Bowman met with Sue Doll and Julie Mooney with Anoka County Resource and Recycling Solutions to discuss details involved in setting up an organics collection. Ms. Bowman said some of the information was included in the packet including information from Lino Lakes, a draft survey from Blaine, and example newsletter articles.

Member Dergantz said they learned that Lino Lakes has four collection sites in city parks and that some are gated and some are not. She said the collection in Coon Rapids is outside of a gated area. She said it was learned that locks don't always work best in the winter because they become frozen. Member Dergantz said some of the suggestions for locations included city parks, public services facilities, and community gardens. Ms. Bowman said she thought the community garden would be an ideal location. Member Dergantz said she agreed. Ms. Bowman said the County staff are willing to help in any way they can. She noted that the bags and kits would be free. Ms. Bowman said she would meet with the appropriate staff to see if the use of a community garden, a city park, or public services property would be best. She said she will report back at the March meeting.

Member Dergantz suggested creating an event around the collection – host it at a city park to hand out the free kits, etc.

Member Hain said the organics collection at Andover is very messy and always seems full. She said people dump their organics into the bin loose; not in compostable bags that are provided. She said that is wrong and makes for a mess and can attract bugs, etc.

- **Plastics** – Member Rathbun asked if the resolution could be included in the RAW newsletter, the tonnage from 2019, and a monthly tip be included as well. Ms. Bowman said yes, she had planned to include the resolution and

tonnage. She asked Member Rathbun to provide her with the tip she would like included.

Report to City Council. Ms. Bowman thanked Chair Knappek for offering to present the report to Council on March 1, 2021. She told Chair Knappek that she would have a draft presentation ready for her review next week and that they could meet or talk over the phone to review it.

Holiday Lights Collection. Ms. Bowman said the collection has ended and 621 pounds of lights were collected. She said she is still receiving lights and plans to bring them to the spring recycling event.

Aluminum Can Collection Trailer. Ms. Bowman said she ordered and received the signs for the new trailer. She said during the summer season, the trailer will be parked at the Anoka Aquatic Center next to the garbage enclosure so it doesn't take up a parking space and in the off season, it will be parked in a more visible location such as the corner of 7th Ave & Brisbin or the small parking lot at 7th Ave. and South St.

Ms. Bowman followed up with Member Hain's inquiry during the January meeting. It was asked that the Park Department be encouraged to lessen the amount of plastic bottles the Anoka Aquatic Center sells and increase the amount of canned beverages to be sold. Ms. Bowman said she mentioned this to Recreation Manager Nickie Jenks and learned that the Center actually switched most of the plastic bottles to cans, due to bottles being in low stock. She learned they had been using bottles in hopes of lessening the amount of bees in the area, but found they were just a likely to attract bees as the cans. They will continue to work to lessen reliance on plastic bottles.

NexTrex Plastic Bags Collection. Ms. Bowman said this item was postponed at the last meeting in hopes of doing more research in determining how and where to hold the collection and where to store the bags until they could be baled. She said they had discussed working with another city with a recycling center or a civic group that might have storage space. She asked members if anyone had additional ideas. Member Rathbun suggested storing them in the warming house at Sorenson Park before they go to Coon Rapids for baling.

Chair Knappek asked Ms. Bowman to clarify with Columbia Heights how they get their bags baled at Coon Rapids. Ms. Bowman agreed and said more information is needed to determine how much space would be needed and how often it needs to be monitored. Ms. Bowman said she would talk with Public Services staff to discuss possible sites and would get more information from Columbia Heights and Coon Rapids.

Holiday Wrap Up Event. This item was added to the agenda at the request of Ms. Bowman. She then provided a report noting that 10 tons was collected at the event, there were 123 Anoka customers, and the cost was just over \$6,000.

NEW BUSINESS

ACE Solid Waste Representatives. A MOTION was made by Chair Knappek and SECONDED by Member Rathbun to move this item to the beginning of the meeting. All in favor. MOTION carried.

ACE representatives Randy Triplett, Derek Drews and Julie Herzog introduced themselves. They began by providing the members each with a clear plastic pouch that included a postcard showing the red and black week's service schedule. It also included details on the reverse side including specifics for the recycling service, the free app and also the WasteWizard feature on their website offering help on how to dispose of materials.

Mr. Triplett said the cart distribution is still planned for the weeks of March 15-26th. He said the importance is to stress that residents should not use the ACE carts until April 1st and not use the Republic carts after their last service date in March. He described the hauling zones (proposed routes were included in packet) and the difference between the red (noted as A) and black (noted as B) service weeks.

Ms. Herzog emphasized the WasteWizard and the free ReCollect app “MyACETrashMN” (both included on the ACE and city websites) and how these tools will help people remember their recycling service week and learn how to dispose of various materials. She stressed the first couple of weeks will be a bit challenging in the transition.

Ms. Herzog said all residents will receive the 95 gallon carts and they are asked to use them for 90 days before requesting a smaller size or a second cart.

Member Rathbun asked what the plan is to educate those in multi-family properties. Mr. Triplett said a letter would be mailed to each.

Mr. Triplett suggested Ms. Bowman utilize the Osseo information he provided her recently via email. The property management at a building in Osseo sent a message to its residents about how they are trying to keep everyone’s trash/recycling costs down, but they can only do so if they follow the recycling guidelines. It sends a little pressure to follow the guidelines and save you and your neighbor additional fees.

Member Dergantz asked if additional carts can be added to properties, noting that when she was doing inventory, some were overflowing. Mr. Triplett explained that the new carts will be 30 gallons larger and should help with control the overflow problem.

Ms. Herzog noted that ACE has 87 drivers and that 6 major holidays are recognized each year. She said if a holiday lands on a weekend, there will be no service interruptions. She said that people that sign up for the app, will receive a notification through ReCollect of any holiday service delays.

Member Dergantz complimented the ACE representatives on their business, noting she had an issue that turned into a positive experience with ACE. Mr. Triplett said they value the ACE difference.

Chair Knappek said she has seen information that ACE is always hiring. Mr. Triplett said while they are always looking for good employees, their turnover is down.

Member Dergantz asked if ACE does paper shredding. Mr. Triplett said no, but they do use a subcontractor when needed: First Choice Document Destruction.

Member Hain asked if shredded paper could be placed curbside for recycling. Mr. Triplett said yes in a paper bag and stapled shut.

Member Dergantz inquired about organics composting. Mr. Triplett said there are only two composting facilities; Shakopee and Empire MN. He said there is high transportation costs. He said the City of Minneapolis does collect organics. They have MRI trucks for trash, yard waste and organics, but they are not seeing much volume for organics. He said you need good education for an organics program. He said there are many MPCA regulations involved, as well. He suggested the WRRB take a tour of the Westrock MERF compost.

Ms. Bowman asked if ACE would collect organics at a city drop off collection. Mr. Triplett said yes and that they do so for several cities.

VC Violet asked how household would be notified of contamination. Ms. Herzog said they do not tag or leave stickers, but will send a letter to the household; the driver will take note of any contaminations. It was also mentioned that they use cameras to be able to see the loads.

Chair Knapek asked if the recycling would still be picked up from a single family household if it is contaminated. Mr. Triplett said if it is a large item that is noticeable, the driver will remove it and place it in the trash. ACE will then reach out to the property owner in one form of communication.

Member Rathbun asked if labels needed to be peeled from tin cans. Mr. Triplett answered no.

Member Dergantz asked if labels needed to be removed from cardboard. Mr. Triplett answered no.

Ms. Bowman thanked the representatives for attending the meeting.

ACE representatives left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

2020 SCORE Report (July-December). Ms. Bowman explained the expenses which totaled \$34,982.33. She said the city will be reimbursed soon for this amount. She said the tonnage was just over 576 tons. She said with the first half of the year tonnage, the total year came to approximately 1100 tons, about 700 short of the goal.

RAW Newsletter. Topics for the newsletter were discussed. Ms. Bowman said this newsletter will be mailed in early March.

COMMUNICATIONS

2021 Meetings & Activities Schedule. Ms. Bowman said Winterfest was just canceled this morning, due to the cold weather. She said the ArtStart kits sponsored by the WRRB will still be handed out at the warming house on Saturday and over the next couple of weeks.

General Recycling Questions. Member Rathbun asked if there are any insulated bags left and if so, could they be handed out at Anoka Riverfest if it is held. Ms. Bowman said yes to both questions. She believes there are approximately 100 bags, or more, available.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. on a MOTION by Member Hain and SECONDED by Member Rathbun. All in favor; MOTION CARRIED.