MARC Solid Waste Management District
Management Council (Open Meeting)
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Meeting location: Due to COVID-19 concerns, the meeting was held via GoToMeeting teleconference

Executive Board Members present:
Chris Bussen, Lee’s Summit
Forest Decker, Kansas City, Mo.
David Pavlich, Kearney (alternate)

Executive Board Members not present:
Doug Wylie, Vice Chair, Parkville
Jimmy Odom, Cass County
Gary Wiltite, Ray County
Gene Owen, Clay County
Matt Willier, Jackson, County
Daniel Erickson, Platte County
Chris Hawkins, Lake Lotawana
Mike Larson, Sugar Creek
David Gress, Raymore
Matt Wright, Blue Springs
Mike Jackson, Independence
Marie Steiner, Chair, Kearney

Management Council Members present:
Andrew Savastino, KCMO
Kirby Wiley, Shawnee
Craig Wood, JOCO DHE
Victoria Meier-Ressler, North Kansas City

Others present:
Allan Hentges, Truman Heritage
Andrew Savastino, KCMO
Angie Gehlert, MORA
Jim Callier, EPA Region 7
Cecilia Wilborn, Bridging The Gap
Christine Evans Hands, Merriam
Shannon Dooley, KCMO
Gayle Hubert, EPA Region 7
James Helgason, MDNR
John Blessing, Waste Management
Kayleen Garrels, KCMO
Lara Isch, KCMO
Alice Fuerst, citizen
Lydia Gibson, Ripple Glass
Hank Potts, Republic Services
Tyler Riordan, Republic Services
Morgan Henderson, Ripple Glass
Mike Spady, NE Chamber of Commerce
Piercyn Charbonneau, Ripple Glass
Lisa McDaniel, MARC SWMD
Matt Riggs, MARC SWMD
Nadja Karpilow, MARC SWMD
Tom Jacobs, MARC

Opening
Lisa McDaniel opened the meeting and introduced the meeting speakers.

Presentation: Recycling 101

With a new emphasis on virtual presentations, Matt Riggs gave a trial run on a virtual “Recycling 101” presentation. The presentation is designed to take approximately 30 minutes and allow time for Q&A. The presentation provides a reminder on items that should and shouldn't go in the curbside recycling bin, items that are recyclable beyond the curb, and free tools that can help an organization or business increase and improve its recycling. After the trial presentation, the district sought feedback from meeting attendees.

Presentation: COVID-19 Impacts on Waste and Recycling

Angie Gehlert, Missouri Recycling Association. Angie spoke about the impact of COVID-19 on the waste and recycling industry in Missouri.

The waste and recycling industry was deemed essential during stay at home orders, so most services continued. Tonnages collected increased as many residents under stay at home orders cleaned out garages and basements. Generally:

- Urban areas seemed to weather the storm a little better, less disruption of services.
- Facilities/offices closed to the public
- No assistance with trash or recyclables by facility staff
- HHW collection sites temporarily closed
- Collection events suspended
- Facilities operated by volunteers temporarily closed

Initial response:
- Workers given additional PPE
- Staged breaks/lunches to keep gatherings minimal
- Adjusted hours for workers to aid in less traffic in common areas
- Social distancing become more of a “norm” at drop-off sites and collection areas
- SW workers given extra leave if they had COVID-like symptoms.
- PPP loans helped the industry

Some cities were impacted more than others:
- Rolla experienced few problems until three workers tested positive in late July. The city temporarily suspended curbside recycling and yard waste collection but kept the recycling center open.
- The Region B area experienced a 40% reduction in recycling. Four cities ceased curbside recycling and many of the sheltered workshops stopped accepting recyclables.
- Columbia ceased curbside recycling but kept drop-off sites open.
- St. Louis didn’t experience much service disruption. Processing fees for recycling spiked.
- Joplin maintained curbside collection of recyclables but did temporarily close recycling centers.

COVID-19 also had an impact on recycling markets.
- Pricing for some materials (paper and cardboard) increased due to higher demand for tissue products and shipping packaging under shelter-in-place orders.
- Plastics prices dropped.

Some of the current challenges the industry is facing include:
- Municipal budget issues with a struggling economy
- Environmental programs seen as “soft” by some communities and leaders
- Increased use of disposable containers due to concerns over “reusables”
- Increased mask and glove litter/contamination

On a positive note, it might be a great time to re-evaluate programs and materials accepted, rethink collection contract terms, and provide more education on recycling contamination.

Old Business / New Business

None.

Closing

The meeting ended at 10:30 am. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 9/16/20 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The next full Management Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 10/15/20 from 9:00 to 10:30 am. Due to COVID-19 concerns, these meetings may be held by teleconference.

MARC Solid Waste Management District

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Doug Wylie, Chair
Lisa McDaniel, Secretary

Approved: September 16, 2020