

**MARC Solid Waste Management District
Management Council (Open Meeting)
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Due to COVID-19 response, the meeting was held via ZOOM teleconference

Executive Board Members present: Chris Bussen, Lee’s Summit Mike Larson, Sugar Creek David Pavlich, Kearney	Brandi Schoen, Kanbe’s Markets Brandon Hearn, Johnson County Brenda Mott, Scraps KC Brian Alferman, Johnson County Bryan Serverns, K-State Olathe Cassandra Ford, Recycling Partnership Claire Sinovic, Kansas City Community Gardens Eric Hemphill, Bridging The Gap James Helgason, MDNR Jensen Adams, Kansas City Public Library John Blessing, Waste Management Kristan Chamberlain, KC Can Compost Lydia Gibson, Ripple Glass Meredith McAllister, Compost Collective Morgan Henderson, Ripple Glass Nancy Simons, Blue Valley Neighborhood Assn. Rody Taylor, KC Dumpster Shari Wilson, Project Central Shay Hanysak, Lake Region Solid Waste Authority Sherri Davis, Compost Connection Stan Slaughter, Missouri Organic Steve Fishman, GRC Tom Jacobs, MARC Lisa McDaniel, MARC SWMD Nadja Karpilow, MARC SWMD Matt Riggs, MARC SMWD
Executive Board Members not present: Doug Wylie, Chair, Parkville Forest Decker, Kansas City Matt Wright, Vice Chair, Blue Springs Mike Jackson, Independence Brenda Franks, Jackson County Gene Owen, Clay County Daniel Erickson, Platte County Bob King, Ray County David Gress, Raymore Jimmy Odom, Cass County Chris Hawkins, Lake Lotawana	
Management Council Members present: Frankie Petty, Glenaire Noel Bennion, Riverside Kirby Wiley, Shawnee Trent Thompson, Johnson County	
Others present: Alice Fuerst, Citizen Angie Powell, MORA Bill Schutte, Leawood	

Introductions

Lisa McDaniel welcomed the group and introduced the meeting speakers.

Food Waste Alliance Presentation

Brandi Schoen, Kanbe’s Markets, gave an overview of the regional Food Waste Alliance:

- Kanbe’s Markets is a non-profit organization working to eliminate food deserts in Kansas City, Missouri. Because accessing fresh, healthy produce is often very difficult in some neighborhoods, Kanbe’s partners with neighborhood convenience stores to create “Healthy Corner Stores.” They are now operating in 41 stores.
- Food insecurity isn’t a problem of supply not meeting demand. It’s a logistics issue:
 - There is a vast surplus of food in our system
 - Not cost effective for grocery stores to get food to low-income areas
 - Challenges of transportation
 - Kanbe’s provides last mile delivery
- The model:
 - Purchase from wholesale and local farmers
 - Deliver every day except Xmas and Thanksgiving
 - 30% revenue stays in community
- The process used by the Food Waste Alliance:
 - Distributor contacts Kanbe’s
 - Donation or discounted food is brought to Kanbe’s warehouse
 - Trained sorting team weighs and sorts each item for quality
 - Healthy Corner Store backstock is refreshed

- Food Waste Alliance “people-feeding partners” are contacted with available items. These partners include: Thelma’s Kitchen, Nourish KC, Jewish Family Services, Catholic Charities, City Rescue Mission, Pete’s Garden, KC Indian Center, Lightfoot Ministries, and Feed KC Forward.
- Food Waste Alliance “animal-feeding partners” are notified. These partners include: Lakeside Nature Center and Farmboss Industries.
- Food Waste Alliance “soil-feeding partners” are notified. These partners include: Boys Grow, New Roots for Refugees, and Dirt Beast Urban Farm
- Remainder is set aside for KC Can Compost
- Since October 2020, more than 70,000 pounds of food have been diverted from landfill disposal.
 - 28 percent goes to Healthy Corner Stores
 - 33 percent donated to partners
 - 38 percent composted
- They are working towards a zero-waste food cycle and recycle cardboard and Styrofoam crates.
- Some of the lessons learned over the past few months:
 - Need dedicated, trained sorting staff
 - Need data tracking systems in place
 - Stay flexible to include new partners, and when partners drop off
 - Expanding partnerships means diverting more waste

KC Can Compost Presentation

Kristan Chamberlain, Executive Director, gave an overview of KC Can Compost’s food waste composting program:

- The organization’s vision is to serve both social and environmental needs
 - 2016 started with KC Rescue Mission
 - 2 years R&D at KC Rescue Mission
 - Work readiness skills are learned through the Green Core Training Program, which was launched with an EPA Environmental Justice Grant
- Service model:
 - Target: small- to medium scale producers: restaurants, cafes, etc.
 - First task was identifying and eliminating barriers:
 - Education - Answer client’s question: why is composting important
 - Training - it’s too complicated, messy, stinky, buggy
 - Equipment - upfront costs make it prohibitive
 - Professional Service - reliable, supportive, market-driven
 - Make it communal – expand from the inside out
 - Waste audit creates workable system for client
 - Weekly online trainings
 - Dockstops for inconvenient locations: apartments, condos, etc.
- Results: 2019: 500,000 lbs. diversion

Recycling: Building Value Together

John Blessing, Community Services Manager gave a presentation on steps Waste Management is taking to maintain the sustainability of residential recycling:

- Current state of recycling:
 - 2021 China will ban all recycling commodities
 - Current: 18-20% contamination rate (residential largely cause)
 - The average value of a ton of recyclables is 50% of the value three years ago:
- Strategies for sustainability
 - Continue educational outreach
 - Maximize operational processes and efficiencies. Two thirds of the cost of recycling is the route collection.
 - Trucks and carts
 - Labor
 - Insurance
 - Fuel
- Every-other-week recycling collection:
 - Reduces truck traffic on residential roadways.

- Lower greenhouse gas emissions with fewer vehicles.
- Maximizes truck and labor resources.
- Residents have a choice of a 95-gallon collection cart at no additional charge.
- Free larger and/or additional carts encourages increased diversion rates.
- Olathe (KS) currently successful with every-other-week collection (past 10 years). Cleveland (MO) and Savannah (MO) also made switch to every-other-week collection successfully.
- Roll-out schedule: some at contract time (HOAs)

Closing

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The next full Management Council meeting will be held on April 21, 2021 from 9:00 to 10:30 am. At this time, it is anticipated that both meetings will be held virtually via Zoom.

MARC Solid Waste Management District

Doug Wylie, Chair

Lisa McDaniel, Secretary

Approved: May 19, 2021