

**MARC Solid Waste Management District  
Management Council (Open Meeting)  
Wednesday, February 20, 2025, 9:00 am – 10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Location: Virtual Only (inclement weather).**

**Executive Board Members present:**

Chris Bussen, Lee's Summit  
Donna Koontz, Clay County

**Management Council Members:**

**Others present:**

Ron Achelpohl, MARC  
Darren Beck, Ingenuity  
Mary Beverly, JOCO KS  
Dianna Bryant, MARC SWMD  
John Blessing, WM  
Rick Caplan  
Kristan Chamberlain, KC Can Compost  
Casey Claps, Kanbe's Markets  
Brooke Freeman, KCMO  
Lydia Gibson, Ripple Glass  
Clayton Duffy, Olathe

Gayle Hubert, EPA  
Janelle Jones, KC Farm School  
Nadja Karpilow, MARC SWMD  
Dan McGraw, Independence, MO  
Madison Mitchell, MARC SWMD Intern  
Eric Nelson, JOCOKS  
Joe Nicol, Pete's Garden  
Elinore Noyes, Flourish Furniture Bank  
Angie Powell, EIERA  
Karen Ramsey, KC Can Compost  
Matt Riggs, MARC SWMD  
Leslie Scott, Re.Use.Full  
Stan Slaughter, Missouri Organic Recycling  
Tamara Weber, Pete's Garden  
Katy White  
Robert Woods, KCMO  
Hannah Zimmerman

**Introductions**

Matt Riggs began the meeting with an overview of the Foodwise initiative. The project started with an EPA grant in 2021 and was completed in the Spring of 2024. Matt shared the goals, strategy and objectives of the food waste action plan.

**Casey Clap from Kanbe's Markets** gave an overview of the work they are doing to rescue food otherwise headed for the landfill. About 40% of food is waste/composted in the US. In landfills about 22% of the material is food waste. Food insecurity is on the rise.

The work of Kanbe's Markets is to bring fresh produce to areas in the region with a low expectancy rate. Currently they work with 75 convenience stores. The goal is to have fresh produce in 130 stores. Kanbe's works with 72 hunger relief agencies. They also partner with St. Lukes and Children's Mercy Hospitals on a Food as Medicine Program. Kanbe's is expanding into Wyandotte County.

In the zip code 64128 the life expectancy is 69.1 years compared to the zip code of 64110 which is 15 years higher. Low-income families spend 32.6% of their income on food whereby middle-income families spend 13.5 percent on food.

The grocery industry used to be competitive and was more prevalent. Today there are 1/59 grocery stores per 10,000 population and 7.95 fast food establishments per 10,000. The goal of Kanbe's Markets is to provide fresh produce within one-half miles of every home in low-income areas.

Of the recovered food Kanbe's receives, 7% is good looking and goes to stores. 53% is sent to food pantries and kitchens, 15.4% is used as animal food and 20% is composted.

**Tamara Weber from Pete's Garden** shared information on her prepared food rescue program. Pete's Garden started in 2019 when she partnered with Operation Breakthrough and brought prepared meals from restaurants and caterers for families.

Pete's Garden features providing prepared meals to families for family meals. The goal is to not only feed families in need but to also create a culture of families eating together.

The Kids Feeding Kids is an educational program that reaches kids in culinary arts programs and educates them about food waste and nutrition.

**Kristan Chamberlain from KC Can Compost** shared the vision and mission of the organization. The goals are two-fold: a Green Core Training Program is a social environmental justice program that educates those with barriers to employment on green industry jobs. Additionally, they operate a food waste collection program for the residential and commercial sector. In partnership with Kansas City, they implemented a Smart Can drop-off program.

**Eric Nelson from Johnson County Environmental Health** shared information on their waste reduction initiatives, school partnerships, and public outreach. They are looking to expand composting infrastructure in the county.

#### **Closing**

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025. A planning retreat is scheduled for April 16, 2025.

MARC Solid Waste Management District

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Doug Wylie, Chair

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Dianna Bryant, MARC SWMD Program Manager

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