

A Report of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee Meeting October 12, 2017

A meeting of the Recycling & Corporate Affairs Committee was held on Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. at the Authority's Administrative Office in Conway, South Carolina. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting were mailed to the news media.

Present were Committee Chairman Michael Hughes and Committee Members Pam Creech and Dan Gray. Danny Knight, Executive Director and Directors Esther Murphy, Bill Hilling and Mike Bessant were in attendance. Other staff members included Nannette Powell and Cecil Terry.

Mr. Hughes called the meeting to order and Mr. Gray rendered the invocation. Ms. Creech led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

WasteCon 2017 Conference Update

Mr. Hughes stated the WasteCon 2017 Conference was held in Baltimore, MD. He stated he wanted to present some of the information from the conference that pertained to the European markets. Mr. Hughes indicated he hoped that a few of the ideas could be incorporated in some the SWA's programs. He commented that the major theme of the conference was recycling. Mr. Hughes informed the group that 72 countries were represented and over 2,000 people were in attendance. He stated 30% of the plastic packaging needed redesigning before it could be recycled. Ms. Creech commented if companies would make packaging that was either compostable or recyclable then the SWA's job would be easier. Mr. Hughes commented that every country faced the same challenges with regards to recycling.

Mr. Gray asked if China had stopped taking in as much material as they had been previously. Mr. Knight indicated that the SWA faced challenges now regarding the plastics. Mr. Bessant commented that he was unable to find buyer for the cardboard and the MRF had a stockpile of 42 loads of material awaiting transport. He stated the MRF did not have any contractual obligation for the material thus no buyers. Mr. Gray asked if this was related to China. Mr. Bessant answered this was directly related to China.

Discussion ensued regarding issues with the recycling market in China and the effects on recycling programs.

Mr. Hughes asked if the MRF only used China for the overseas markets. Mr. Bessant replied the MRF buyers used the India and Indonesian markets; however, there were issues with charge backs from these markets.

Ms. Creech indicated the South Carolina lawmakers should be educated on the challenges being faced by every county in the state with regards to marketing recyclables.

Discussion following on the various legislative measures that have been introduced to both assist and deter local governments from addressing recycling related issues.

Mr. Hughes indicated that the charts showed the emphasis European countries placed on recycling as compared to the United States. He commented that globally the United States only recycled 35% as compared to Australia which recycled 41%, South Korea which recycled 59% and Germany which has a recycling rate 65%.

General discussion was held on marine litter and plastics and the effects on the human race. Discussion was also held regarding the use of “clean garbage” and/or recyclables to build berms at landfills. Ms. Creech indicated that staff should determine if this was a feasible option in SC.

Mr. Hughes commented that the conference was very informative. Mr. Hughes gave Mr. Knight literature on the fourth industrial revolution. Ms. Creech indicated that the Technical Advisory Committee and those working on the Solid Waste Management Plan should review this information. Mr. Gray commented he was glad that Ms. Creech, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Hughes were able to attend the conference.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned 9:55 a.m.