

# OKALOOSA COUNTY RECYCLING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday May 16th, 2023

## 1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:02 P.M

## 2. Committee members and staff

### Members Present:

Sharon McAuliffe, Chairman

Nicholas Hall, Citizen at Large

Amanda Grandy, Citizen at Large

Jill Hoglund, Institute of Senior Professionals

### Staff Present:

Christine Smith

Scott Henson

Emmie Setian

## 3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approval of Agenda
Disposition: Approved Unanimously

## 4. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approval of Minutes
Disposition: Approved Unanimously

5. New Business:

- A. Speaker from Palm Beach County
- B. Terracycle.com Free recycling return.
- C. No June meeting

Motion for no June meeting

Motion: Approval for no June meeting
Disposition: Approved Unanimously

6. Old Business:

- A. Committee Resolution and Quorum discussion: No updates
- B. Incentives for businesses: List of restaurants formed
- C. Schools/Education: See attached notes
- D. WM Recycling Center: Groundbreaking Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am.  
December of 2024 set for opening.
- E. Trex: Tied up with the grant process until 2024.
- F. Getting the word out on recycling: See attached notes

7. Next meeting is July 18th, 2023.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Adjournment
Disposition: Approved Unanimously

8. Adjourn @ 3:18 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 pm.

## RAC Updates

Kali Hiemier

### Outreach:

- **Update:** CBA field trips are coming to an end, the last field trip is May 24<sup>th</sup>. We have been able to reach about 1500 students/ families through this avenue. Many parents who were chaperoning made many comments on how they also learned what can and cannot be recycled. Every student who participated in the grasses in classes field trips were also given the compost and recycling activity sheets that were created and shown months back.
- **NEW:** Recycling activity books- I have distributed two cases of the recycling activity books to Okaloosa libraries through the Mary Esther library director. These will be used in unison with their reading contests and will be given out to families at libraries all over the county.
- **Update:** Recycling activity/storm water placemats have been distributed to the restaurant "Pounders" in Niceville which will be handed out to families waiting for their food. They will also be dropped off at the Crestview location
- **Update:** Spring into Nature Event- was held on May 6<sup>th</sup> and it ended up being a beautiful day. Families played our "Sort the Recyclables" game while also being able to view our table of products made from recyclables. We also informed visitors of the HHW drop off sites.
- **Reminder:** Shred it Event will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm – as mentioned previously the RAC will have a table- if one or two members could be present for this that would be lovely! It will be a great opportunity to network and inform the public of the importance of recycling. We will also be handing out Frisbees, activity books, and reusable tote bags. **NEW:** Thanks to a donation by Kim who used to be apart of the RAC we will have a fun recycling fishing game at the event!
- **NEW:** A presentation will be presented to the Destin High school Environmental Science students on recycling, why it's important, and the ways they as students can get involved.
- **Reminder:** Girl scouts stem class presentation on Recycling Thursday afternoon, June 29<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM – 3 PM
- **Update:** Earth Day Event- April 28<sup>th</sup> went great! Spoke to the Inclusive learning Homeschool Co-op and the Project Learn Co-op children (15 kids in total) along with their parents, Bebot combed the beach and attracted a larger crowd which is when we all gathered around to talk about how to properly dispose of our items and where they belong.

April 29<sup>th</sup>- Okaloosa Boardwalk Earth Day main clean-up- 350 residents participated at the boardwalk location and another 300 in total over the other 5 locations in Okaloosa, over 3000 cigarette butts were collected and then sent to Teracycle to be recycled.

## Marketing:

- **NEW:** Jim and I met with JVC Broadcasting Company about having the station run ads on 102.1 the wave. It would cost about a grand a month, we would have the ability to do an in person interview where we can make sure to target the most important information we'd like the public to know, on top of having a simple message playing 20 x a week reaching about 14,000 residents. If you have any specific thoughts on what you think is the most important messaging please send them to me. We are allowed to choose what topics are covered in the in person interview.
- **Update:** A Press release for the Organics recycling pilot program (discussed at the last RAC meeting) has been created and is under review before releasing it to the public. We have already started to receive donations from landscaping companies as well as restaurants who chose to participate in dropping off food waste. We also have a waitlist of restaurants who are interested in participating! This offers restaurants a way to recycle their food waste, as well as provides hands on experiences for the public and community gardens to participate in creating compost from their food waste at home, hopefully creating a shift in how much food waste is sent to landfills. Set to be open to the public in about 2-3 months.

## Other:

- **NEW:** Ferry park- The City of Fort Walton Parks and Rec department has agreed for us to install a pollinator garden in partnership with SOW America, we will have a compost bin and rain barrel at the garden with information on how to use organic and food waste material for gardening.
- **Update:** The City of Fort Walton CRA has officially requested in their budget for us to partner on creating recycling sculptures to display in downtown Fort Walton. Once the budget is received we will create sculptures from recycled crab traps- fill them with recyclables, and have information on why recycling is important along with a QR code that leads straight to the recycling website. This will not only reach residents but also the many tourists that frequent the area!
- **Update:** I have heard back from David and Rebecca Sherry and have a meeting with the Emerald Coast Condo Association May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm to discuss a partnership/ starting up a recycling program and providing educational material for each room- Material hand out dependent on outreach grant win/loss. As well as discussing what happened in the past to have the program ended. That way we can ensure not to repeat any mistakes!
- **Update:** Data sheet for restaurants, I will have the completed data sheet up and running on the recycling page by the July meeting. It is intended to show which restaurants currently recycle and what type (Organics, oil, or curbside) it will be open to the public and also will serve as a tool for what restaurants we need to build relationships with to hopefully start a recycling program.
- **GIS:** I have sent a follow up email to the GIS team for an update on progress- we had a few projects I'm currently working with them on pushed back due to other priority items coming up. So, I believe it was one of them.