



Community Advisory Panel Minutes April 29, 2010

Those in attendance: April Richter Charlie Boren Meridith Byrd
Ernie Byrd Larry Somer Jerry James Trey Torres
Rusty Trask Marie Lester Darryl Lesak Rachel Brown
Maria Sobczak Barbara Allen-Lampley

Darryl Lesak welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced City staff: Rachel Brown Education Specialist, Marie Lester Programs Coordinator, Jerry James Director, Darryl Lesak Assistant Director, welcomed and introduced April Richter with TDS Garden-Ville

Darryl Lesak - Overview of Recycling Services

- Cut Huvar Recycling Center hours to save on cost, new hours are 11-6 Wed. –Fri. 8-2 Sat
- Continuing school recycling education programs
- Cardboard and paper redirect to compost facility to save on air emissions

Jerry James - Landfill gas that could be used as methane is normally flared off

- Research has been done to see if landfill gas can be used to create energy, City looking at converting landfill to a methane gas collection facility

Marie Lester - Provided overview of education

- Earth Day Expo hosted 39 exhibitors, 1000 attendees and was sponsored by Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District who provided \$1000
- Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission approved a regional recycling grant for Victoria and surrounding counties
 - Programs will serve 33000 students
 - Grant is for \$222,000.00 over 5 years and will provide school recycling program amenities.

Victoria Kids Recycle – program received \$8,888.00 from the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission. Program also receives funding from sponsors to help the program when needed. Some of the sponsors are: Waste Management, Teacher's Toolbox, Maditay's and Republic Waste Services. If anyone knows of a business or organization interested in kids, science education and community growth, make him/her aware of this sponsorship opportunity.

April Richter – Garden-Ville compost is created using a mix of brush, sludge, cardboard, untreated wood, cloth, food (fresh or old), animal carcasses and yard wastes.

Composting Process:

- Cook 20 days and turn 5 times, cure 30 days then screen sort and send in for lab testing. Colorado lab tests for diseases, lead levels, potassium and more.

Q and A

Q. Have you ever had a problem with a row of compost?

A. Once and it was simply remixed, cooked, and re-tested. (April Richter)

Q. Is the charge for dropping off brush the same regardless if you live inside or outside the city?

A. Service charge is the same regardless if you live in or outside the city.

Q. The life span of a sheet of paper is longer if it is recycled rather than composted (the fibers can get more use). Why is the City composting it instead?

A. It is better longevity to recycle paper, but it is less expensive to compost the paper due to the current recycling market. (Darryl Lesak)

Q. Where will income from landfill gas facility go?

A. Goes to the environmental fund

Q. Could the old Berry Plastics building next to the railroad be used as a recycling center?

A. When the economic market rebounds use of the building could be evaluated.

Q. Does Garden-Ville deliver?

A. Yes we do, we don't have a truck right now but we will hire someone to deliver. (April Richter)

Q. What about recycling PET containers? Workers at Huvar informed me that they only accept bottles, not other types of containers.

A. We accept any PET # 1 & #2, not just bottles, and will look into that situation. (Marie Lester)

Q. Why can we not recycle bottle or container caps?

A. Victoria requests caps off for safety reasons to allow our workers to bail the plastics without the hazard of caps popping off and flying out when bailing. (Marie Lester)

Q. Is there any hope for recycling glass?

A. Right now funds are not available to purchase equipment for crushing glass. However, Victoria could use the glass recovered and crushed for various projects. (Jerry James)

Q. What about getting local grants for glass recycling?

A. We have a lot of single pay costs associated with setting up a glass facility that right now is not feasible with the economy. (Marie Lester) One of the challenges Victoria has is that we are just large enough to be ineligible for the small town grants but not large enough to qualify for the larger city grants. (Jerry James)

Q. The Recycling Center only allows for one row of cars, and this stops the flow of traffic. Is there something that can be done?

A. Days when there is only one or two employees we do operate a single car drop off, but if more employees are working then two lines should be utilized. (Darryl Lesak)

Q. Could there be something done to improve efficiency at the Huvar Recycling Center?

A. Your feedback helps us to determine ways we can improve. (Jerry James)

Q. Is the recycling center a full service location?

A. Yes. Because balers, forklifts, and other large equipment are utilized at Huvar, it is preferable that customers allow Huvar employees to deposit the recyclables. (Darryl Lesak)

Q. Does having a single lane minimize the safety issue?

A. All the Recycling Center procedures are to ensure increased customer and employee safety. (Jerry James)

Q. Cardboard goes to the compost site, so why can't it be picked up with the yard waste?

A. Wind blowing the cardboard and volume it utilizes in the collection truck. We have to pick up 1600 households yard waste in one truck. (Darryl Lesak)

Q. Any new word on curbside recycling?

A. Currently the answer right now is no, but the Landfill Gas Project will help make curbside more affordable in the future. The City of Victoria wants to offer curbside recycling but retain enough funds to sustain the program. Also, recycling becomes more sustainable given enough of each commodity. Right now we are working with DuPont to facilitate a co-op among all chemical plants to increase the bulk of recyclable commodities within the Victoria and surrounding area and are looking at ways of working with the plants. (Jerry James)

Q. Any new word on Household Hazardous Waste days in the future?

A. I will make a presentation to council on research we conducted for a HHW facility but we are looking at various options. We just started discussing a possible second option. We are actively pursuing the management of HHW for Victoria.

Q. I am not sure most people know about that this group exists. Is there something we can do?

A. The most effective tool for advertising is radio which works well, but perhaps we should define the groups purpose and actions at the next meeting. What would you like to see this group do that would attract you to it? (Jerry James)

Q. What has this group done in the past?

A. Allowed for volunteer work hours at the recycling center; name of group was the Victoria County Recycling Education Committee.

Q. Can we have an Earth Day Expo be a two day event to allow the general public to come view it?

A. We have not yet thought about opening the event to the public but it is something we can look at. (Marie Lester)

Q. Can we go outside and do activities?

A. We have done Earth Days outside at the Zoo and other activities. (Jerry James)

Q. Is it possible for this group to provide recycling options at events?

A. We have clear stream bins available for check out for use at events. (Jerry James)

Q. Victoria County extension office is talking about an Enviro-Smart group, what is that?

A. Our office is not familiar with this. Who is the contact? (Marie Lester)

Q. Is the future of the recycling center to be open more hours?

A. Not for the 2011 budget year and we anticipate the growth to be a slow and gradual rise. We are looking for ways we can save and increase funds such as with the Landfill Gas project. (Jerry James)

Darryl Lesak requested all members bring a friend at the next quarterly meeting.

Next Victoria Recycles CAP meeting is **Thursday, May 20th at 5:15 p.m.**, 700 N Main, Room 204. Next meeting theme is "What can YOU do?"