

HIGH COUNTRY RECYCLING
Minutes of April 24, 2018 Advisory Board

The meeting was held at KRLZ and was called to order by Joanie Liebman at 4:30 pm.

Present were: Joanie Liebman, Jim Bistodeau, Jay Printz, Dennis Sprecher and Lisa Kaufman

COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP REPORTS:

Custer County

Dennis Sprecher, CC Recycling Coordinator shared the following:

CUSTER COUNTY RECYCLING CARDBOARD FINAL REPORT 2017

02.28.17	Inv. 206201	41,560 lbs.	\$125 per lb.	\$2,599.50
05.02.17	Inv. 209901	42,520 lbs.	\$190 per lb.	\$4,039.40
07.27.17	Inv. 215404	44,520 lbs.	\$170 per lb.	\$3,784.20
09.19.17	Inv. 219169	46,400 lbs.	\$200 per lb.	\$4,640.00
12.05.17	Inv. 222887	42,180 lbs.	\$150 per lb.	\$3,163.50
01.22.18 earmarked for 2017	Inv. 226509	43,980 lbs.	\$120 per lb.	\$2,638.80
2017 FINAL		261,160 lbs.	\$159 per ton avg.	\$20,863.42

Dennis explained there are many causes for the fluctuation in market value of the cardboard of which hurricanes Harvey and Irma played a major role. Today's rate is down to \$100 a bale.

The weekly cardboard team of HCR volunteers – specifically Steve Lasswell, Jack Naff and Bob Tobin (with Mike Banks and Mike Liebman filling in as occasional alternates), baled a total of 115 tons of the 131 tons baled in 2017.

The 131 tons of cardboard saved 572 cubic of landfill space (compressed cardboard) in 2017. This does not include cost of labor and fuel saved.

CUSTER COUNTY PAPER RECYCLING

18,460 pounds or 9 ¼ tons of paper was transported to Angel of Shavano Recycling in Poncha Springs for recycling in 2017.

CUSTER COUNTY PLASTIC BAGS

In addition, plastic bags were compressed into 8 bales for a total of 14 cubic yards of landfill space saved that weighed 3706 pounds in 2017.

To everyone's dismay, Dennis reported that there are **no** vendors in or outside of the United States that are recycling plastic bags. Several counties within Colorado have banned plastic bags with others considering it.

Westcliffe Trustee, Jim Bistodeau volunteered to research wax worms which some reports claim they are being used to eat this kind of plastic. Joanie volunteered to talk to Lowes Super Market about problem. Everyone agreed that information needs to be shared through the local media and social media venues informing the public that plastic bag use is a serious problem and they are encouraged to use reusable shopping bags, aluminum foil, glass and tin containers, lunchboxes, cloth and paper bags, biodegradable containers and the such in place of plastic bags.

It was also agreed that HCR will continue to make plastic bag recycling an option for a few more months with the hopes Dennis is able to find a vendor. Dennis agreed to continue to bale it.

Meanwhile the ever-expanding floating islands comprised of solid plastic waste (verified to be bigger than some US states) are starving more and more fish and strangling dolphins, sea turtles, etc. One recent report on the news showed a dead whale washed up on a beach full of plastic inside its carcass.

Commissioner Jay Printz reported that the three commissioners had visited the Landfill together within the past week and were very impressed with the management and cleanliness of the site. The Custer County Landfill and Rusty Christenson, Landfill Manager has received recognition from the Colorado Department of Health and Environment for excellent management and maintenance. Jay Printz reported a cost of one half million dollars must be raised to trench, line and dam liquids at the landfill in the next 5.5 years. Jay stated that more is known today than when the current landfill was licensed regarding what needs to be done to keep the environment clean and not harmful to the area residents. The Commissioners are working with Rusty Christianson to develop a strategic plan that is realistic for everyone.

It was discussed that there is always the possibility that a Transfer Station will be put in place instead of a landfill. That would involve private sanitation companies that could dictate the fees. A Transfer Station requires separate collection areas for different kinds of waste and recyclables and separate fees for each kind. There are more and more of these showing up in Colorado as rural landfills shut down.

Silver Cliff

There was no Silver Cliff report at this time due to the recent elections and change over of the Silver Cliff trustees. A representative will be at the next quarterly meeting. Former Trustee Marty Wolff will be missed.

Westcliffe

Westcliffe Trustee Jim Bistodeau reported that the Town of Westcliffe would be relocating the Town Hall to the old Colorado Mountain Bank building at 1000 Main Street and across from the Post Office. If feasible, they would like to relocate the recycling bins close to the Wet Mountain Fire Station to this new site. Safety concerns have been discussed in the past regarding the bins being so close to the Fire Station.

Should this be possible, a meeting with the Post Office will be held regarding their posting signage directing their patrons to recycle their unwanted mail into the paper recycling bins across the street behind the new Westcliffe town hall. Joanie reported that when the post office discontinued providing recycling bins they had an immediate two fold increase in trash with overflow conditions in their dumpster requiring more frequent pickups.

Joanie reported that Jim also reported that he did not know whether he would continue as the Trustee to attend the HCR meetings or if recycling would be assigned to another Trustee under the new Mayor Paul Wenke. Jim was thanked for his commitment and involvement should he not be at the next meeting.

It was noted that Westcliffe & Silver Cliff will hold their annual “Clean Up Day” on Saturday May 12th.

Mobile Records Shredder Event: Joanie confirmed the paper shred event would occur in the west parking lot of the school district on Friday, May 11, 10am – 1pm. Information flyers were distributed for members to post around town. Donations made by those bringing their boxes and bags of paper to be shredded can be made to HCR to offset the costs. All donations are tax deductible. Joanie shared that Sustainable Ways Board Member, Stacy Schoch volunteered to recruit some student volunteers to assist at the event. Receipts will be available from High Country Recycling and Mobile Record Shredders (MRS) will provide Certificates of Destruction. Joanie requested Lisa Kaufman to attend as a Sustainable Ways Board member to handle donations and to pay MRS with a check for their costs. It was mentioned no amount of paper is too large and that last year several people drove up with their truck loaded with boxes of paper for shredding.

Community Barrel Project Update: Dennis reported eight barrels are currently available for community events and there are four more being used around town. Joanie reported that there are 12 new barrels that need to be painted. The High School art teacher, Carrie Smith, has offered space outside her classroom for painting, then potential drying in her classroom over a weekend. Time is becoming an issue prior to school ending May 24. Who the painters will be is still an unknown. Jim Bistodeau suggested school counselor Troy Bomgardner might have suggestions.

HS Interact 2017-18 Report: Custer County HS Interact Leadership Club President, Riley Smith was unable to attend due to her being ill. Joanie reported that Riley will graduate this year and the club has appointed new leadership to continue recycling all school paper in the 2018-19 school year. Joanie shared she is hopeful that next school year these HS students can also institute recycling the school’s #10 tin food cans, using Kevlar gloves for safety. A new Food Service leader and the superintendent’s support would be helpful in accomplishing this. Dennis mentioned metal prices are up. This could be a fund raiser for the school district.

HCR Vol & Advisory Board Recruitment: Discussion was held about how to increase HCR participation. One idea shared was to utilize the upcoming Sustainable Ways Community Event (date unknown) to educate and invite potential volunteers. The Sustainable Ways event is being planned to promote renewable energy, recycling and local gardening.

Facebook Page: Sustainable Ways has a Facebook page and it was agreed to link to that page rather than create a separate High Country Recycling page. It was also recommended that we request links to the town and county's websites and the various Custer County Facebook pages. Jay Printz suggested sending HCR's Advisory Board minutes to Brenda Gaide, Secretary to BOCC, for publication on county's website of minutes.

HCR Info Flyer: Dennis shared that the Landfill has a dwindling supply of the HCR Recycling information flyers printed in 2016 and requested more. Discussion was held regarding a new format and a need for updated information before printing a new supply. The suggestion was made to remove a photo and use that space to insert a map showing the different recycling locations with a legend as to what can be recycled at each site. It was agreed that this would be done. Joanie will talk to Lisa Guarnere at the High School for assistance and recommendations.

Next Advisory Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday, July 17, 2018 at 3:00 pm. Location - to be determined.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Kaufman