

HIGH COUNTRY RECYCLING
July 17, 2018 3pm – 4:30pm
Custer County Resource Center,
615 Rosita Avenue, Westcliffe, CO

MEETING NOTES

Attending: Mike Banks, SW Bd. Member; Bess Cole, Westcliffe Trustee; Fred Hernandez, Silver Cliff Trustee; Lisa Kaufman, SW Bd. Member; Beth Lenz, Upper Arkansas Area Council of Government Recycling Program Director; Joanie Liebman, HCR Coordinator; Dennis Sprecher, Custer County Recycling Coordinator

Custer County Updates –

Commissioner Printz was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Dennis Sprecher, CC Recycling Coordinator reported that more cardboard is being recycled in all the years we have been baling cardboard. Unfortunately, the rate is down from \$150 a ton to \$80 @ ton. Dennis could not say when and if the rate would go back up. He is hopeful that he can match last year's revenue of some \$20,000 in cardboard sales.

Discussion was held on the need for more cardboard baling volunteers at the Waste Minimization Facility at the Landfill. Anyone interested should call Dennis at the landfill. He is there Tuesday through Friday in the mornings.

Dennis also reported that he is still baling the plastic bags that are being put in the plastic recycling bins. He is burying the bales in the landfill and is hopeful that the plastic bag recycling and remanufacturing industry will return. In the meantime, he believes it is a good habit to keep on recycling plastic bags at home and the office.

Everyone agreed that everyone needs to be encouraged to use reusable bags and that a plastic bag awareness/education campaign is needed. There was many ideas and suggestions shared, with no resolution or next steps settled on. This will be reviewed again at September's HCR meeting.

Westcliffe Updates –

Bess Cole, Trustee, reported that the recycling bins located by the Fire Station will not be moved behind the 'soon to be' new Westcliffe Town Hall on Bassick Place. This was a consideration but it came down to lack of space for the specialized and oversized truck that does the pickups. Bess will talk with Town Man, Mike Carter about other locations.

Bess also shared that the Town of Westcliffe continues to be the drop off point for rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries. This is a service the town provides and there is a fee based on weight. The fee covers the cost of sending hazardous materials through the postal service. All batteries need to have their ends taped. This includes hand tool to hearing aid batteries.

Silver Cliff Updates –

Steve Lasswell, Mayor, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. Fred Fernandez, Trustee, attended in his absence. Fred reported there has been a continuing and what sometimes appear to be a growing problem with people disposing their electronics in front of the recycling bins in the Dome Parking lot. At times people leave bags of nonrecyclable trash. They

are considering creating signage as to what and what cannot be recycled in the four separate bins.

Custer County High School Rotary Interact Status Report – Riley Smith is no longer the President of the CC High School Rotary Interact Club. Joanie will send Riley a letter on behalf of Sustainable Ways and High Country Recycling thanking her for her initiative and leadership this past school year to assure that paper recycling continued throughout the school district.

Bill Berry is the new (2018-2019) High School Rotary Interact President and was unable to attend due to a conflict with his work schedule.

Mobile Record Shred Event Report – Mobile Record Shredders were here on Friday May 10, 2018 from 10am to 1pm in the school parking lot. It was a productive day with boxes upon boxes and bags upon bags of paper to be shredded. Four volunteers from Mission:Wolf and several High School students and adult volunteers were present to help out.

Community Barrel Project Update – Joanie reported that Randy Kempe, a local business man is donating his skills and services to get the dozen new 50 gallon poly barrels ready for use as community recycling barrels.

Info Flyer – Status Report – Joanie reported that no progress has been made on getting the flyer updated and reformatted. She asked that everyone in attendance to please seek out someone who has tech and graphic skills who can assist this project as a volunteer.

Presentation & Discussion: Beth Lenz, Director Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments Recycling Program and Board Member of the Colorado Association for Recycling.

Beth shared that there is no place in the world that one can recycle plastic bags. Any plastic that is collected with the claim it will be recycled is in fact false. Plastic is going into landfills everywhere and if not there we all know about the floating islands in the oceans as big as some states and elsewhere. In fact China stopped accepting shipments of plastic recyclables in January 2017.

There was discussion about developing and administering a community plastic recycling awareness/interest survey. The results would be used to help guide HCR in the development of a community wide awareness campaign with the potential to target several different community groups. Beth stated she would work with HCR and will attend the next scheduled meeting on Sep 18th. There was discussion about hosting a community meeting to share the survey results. It was noted by several individuals it would be difficult to get people to attend. Ideas for incentives to motivate people to attend were shared. No decisions were made on how to proceed. This will be picked up at the Sep meeting.

Beth stated she intended to meet with Rusty Christenson, Landfill Manager, to explore the possibility of creating a SWAP at the Landfill.

The meeting was adjourned at 5pm.

Upcoming HCR Meetings:
Sep 18, 2018 4pm and Dec 12, 2018 4pm

Respectfully Submitted
Joanie Liebman