

OKRA

Oklahoma Recycling Association

11:00 a.m.
February 8, 2008

The M.E.T.
Tulsa, OK

Present: Traci Phillips, Ande Reed, Michael Patton, Garmon Smith, Ellen Bussert, Susie Shields, Linda Sturman, Richard Chapman, Chris Daniels, Doug Weirick

Guest: Rep. Jeannie Daniels

Absent: Garold Beasley, Trudi Logan, Kathy Moore

I. Welcome

Traci Phillips welcomed everyone to the meeting; She thanked Chapman, Daniels, and Weirick for joining the meeting by telephone.

II. Minutes

Phillips asked everyone to review the minutes and asked if there were any correction. Weirick said that his named was spelled incorrectly on agenda. Patton made a motion to approve. Minutes were approved.

III. Committee Reports:

A. Membership Committee – Weirick

Weirick apologized for not having a membership packet and said he was thinking about resigning. To date, there is no progress on the 2008 membership drive beginning on March 1, 2008. The group talked about the components of a welcome packet. It should include a welcome letter, latest copy of newsletter, membership card and certificate if it is a business. To date, OKRA has nothing in place for new members. It was decided that the membership committee should come up with a card or certificate for members, certificate for corporate sponsors, maintain a data base on membership and send that information to Secretary and Treasurer, write operational procedures. Smith recommended that OKRA ask Trudy Nevland to develop a certificate. Patton and Weirick decided to meet on Monday, February 11, 2008 to develop procedures for the membership process. Shields asked Weirick to post the membership information on the website once it was developed.

B. Finance - Patton

Patton reported that there is a balance of \$1,662.00. OKRA has a Pay pal account and Patton will check to see if it works. Phillips said the Pay pal option needs to be put on our website and membership brochure. The fundraising letter is still pending.

IV. Workgroups

A. Advocacy – Chapman

The Advocacy subcommittee met on January 24, 2008 and reviewed 8 bills alive in this year's legislative session. The group reviewed and discussed HB 3318 Creating the OK Recycling Task Force, HB 2455 creating the container deposit task force, HB 2991 directing the DEQ to employ a state recycling coordinator and other recycling activities, SB 1496 setting a goal for solid waste recycling by a certain date, SB 1631 creating the OK Computer Equipment Recovery Act. After reviewing bills decided to actively follow 2 of the bills. One is a re-file of SB 498. SB 1496 is the same language as SB498. SB 498 is now sitting in House Committee of Natural Resources. Chapman went earlier in the week and talked to author, Representative Wes Hilliard. Rep. Hilliard agreed to move it forward. Chapman then talked to Rep. DeWhitt. DeWhitt agreed to put bill on committee agenda of the Environment and Wildlife Subcommittee (Chairman is Rep. Richardson.) Chapman went to Rep. Richardson and he agreed to put SB498 on the agenda for his subcommittee. The Environment and Wildlife subcommittee meets on Monday at 10:30 a.m. in room 412A. This week it will strictly be wildlife issues on the agenda. Feb 18th SB498 will be heard and passed out of committee. SB 498 currently has a title. If no changes are made to the bill, it will then go to Governor Henry for signature. The bill will establish a goal of 10% of the solid waste stream to be recycled by 2009. The State Recycling Goal has the support of Steve Thompson and DEQ. Chapman also had a long visit with Paddock. She Filed SB 1496 in case the bill in the house didn't move. She left the bill in committee. The bill has support from the democrats and the republicans.

Another bill of interest is HB 3318, creating the Oklahoma Recycling Task Force. It is the next logical step to what OKRA should want to support next year. He talked to Paddock about including this bill in amendment. Both agreed that it would be too much. Rep Al Lindley is author (south OKC.)

Phillips asked if he had heard any more on SB1631? He said that Senator Paddock is trying to get support for it, but doesn't have a feel for if it will go forward or not. Phillips thanked Chapman for all of his efforts and the report.

Representative Jeannie McDaniel (who represents midtown Tulsa) talked about recycling legislation and gave an explanation about the origins and purposes of the bills she had introduced. She said that Michael Patton had asked her to run the Bottle Deposit Task Force bill, HB 2455. Senator Paddock has agreed to be the Senate author on the bill. McDaniel said the purpose of the task force is to begin discussion on recycling options in a public format, and that a task force is a much less threatening way to start looking at issues for most people.

She was asked to carry HB 2991 for another representative (Rep. Ryan Keisel.) HB 2991 generally supports the efforts of the DEQ to provide recycling information and brings the requirement for the agency to have a recycling coordinator.

The Board thanks Representative McDaniel for all of her work and tenacity to bring solid waste and recycling issues to the legislature and public's attention.

A brief discussion was held regarding SB 1631, the Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act. Smith said he believes we need to support the electronic bill. He had a discussion with Senator Paddock, and she made it clear to him that she is not tied in to Dell. Smith believes we need to add input into it. Paddock's major concern about adding other electronics is markets. She said there is already someone ready and able to take computers. When you take other devices, there is not an entity readily available to take TV's etc. To start, she wanted to only include items that have a system to take them to a recycler. Patton said television

people do not get a long with computer people, so it would be challenging. It was pointed out that on page 12 of the bill, it said the DEQ's Environmental Quality Board might promulgate rules to get fees to administer the program. It was asked does that include administrative and any other recycling fees. The thought was maybe it could open the door to look at the possibilities to pay for recycling of TV's. Smith gave the example of charging \$5.00 for every new TV. The fee collected would be used to operate the program.

Smith made a motion to keep the bill as is and OKRA support the bill as it stands. If it is amended, we will consider support of that as well. Patton seconds. Approved by all present

B. Education

Brian Whitacre was unable to attend. Bussert will check and see if Dr. Kimball had asked Whitacre to chair the subcommittee.

C. Market Development - Daniels

Phillips introduced Chris Daniels, the new chair for the committee. Daniels met with the Board via telephone. He said that the State Chamber was meeting next week in Midwest City. Patton talked about new company coming into Adair County. He said the State's market development strategy should be – how can we help 17 existing do better, how can we get 17 or more of their friends come.

D. Communications/ Outreach – Ande Reed

1. America Recycles Day - Shields

Shields asked if OMEA had paid their \$500 sponsorship of ARD. She said that Dianne Wilkins, DEQ, gave KOB \$500 from her grant for the ARD budget. Shields said that it took her 5 months to get program done, with very little, if any help from anyone. She said that we need to evaluate what OKRA wants to do, because she cannot do it by herself again and spend so much time on it. It was decided that American Recycle's Day would be reviewed and the focus for the next meeting. There were a lot of problems with National not coming through with promised materials and support. Reed asked if we had ever heard back from nationals. The answer was no. Patton asked for Shields to draft memo, outlining problems Oklahoma had with support from National. Phillips asked Shields to put together list of things that took a lot of time.

2. Networking Event – Reed

May 10, 2008 at the OKC Zoo with the tentative day and location for a lunch and information exchange. Reed said that we needed a budget, sponsors, and volunteers to help her with the event. Goal to buy lunch for members to have everyone come for free. It was suggested that she look on membership lists and see that can help. Invitations need to go out by April 1st to "Friends of Recycling." She was asked to send out e-mail updates to the Board. Ada Recycling Coalition (ARC) is willing to help sponsor the event. It was suggested that "Friends" of recycling could include the M.E.T. banquet list, legislators, \$1 members, and people on the list serve. Someone said it was also a chance for people to join and pay dues.

3. Newsletter – Logan

Logan told Bussert that she sent report to Shields. Shields said that she has not been in town, and did not get the report. There was no report. A newsletter will be published soon. It was suggested in the upcoming newsletter to print information about bills related to recycling in the 2008 session.

V. Old Business

A. 501 (C) 3 Status – Patton

Patton said the 501 (C) 3 status is still pending. He got a letter back from the IRS saying the OKRA application was received, pending review. He believes we should have by the middle of May.

B. Bi-laws – Bussert

Bussert said that the committee was waiting for editorial comments from on the members before they could continue the process.

C. Review of work group membership and tasks

Shields passed out a list of Board Members. Bussert is to send out an update of 2007 Goal status and revise the ones for 2008.

D. Brainstorming 2008 Goals

No discussion was really held. Discussion of the 2008 Goals was tabled until next meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Recycle bank – Bussert

Bussert is sending out inquiry to curbside programs, to see if there is an interest in learning about Recycle Bank. She hopes to send out announcement next week.

VII. Next meeting date, location & time

The next meeting will be held at the Stroud Public Library from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Bussert will check on availability and send out notice to the Board members.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.