



OKRA Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Broken Arrow Solid Waste, 485 N. Poplar, Broken Arrow, OK.
Friday, May 19, 2023 from 10:04 a.m. – 12:09 p.m.

President called the Board of Directors meeting to order Friday 19 May 2023 @ 10:04 AM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

Present: Zach Benedict, Crystal Bennett, Kara Berst, Keima Borsuah, Tracy Horst, Trudi Logan, Eric Pollard, Amanda Scofield, Bret Scovill, Jerry Schuber, Paul Streets, Megan Waters.

Absent: Michael Barton, Sara Ivey, Chris Knight, Bob Masterson, Michael Patton.

Others Present: Ellen Bussert (staff), Shavara Johnson, Jeanette Nance, Galea Albano, Bobby Schultz, Matt Aldridge, Cat Eker.

- I. **Welcome** – Megan Waters, President 10:04
- II. **Roll Call** – Paul Streets, Secretary
- III. **Approval of Minutes** March 10, 2023– Paul Streets **Motion to accept the minutes made by Crystal. 2nd by Paul**
- IV. **Overview of Broken Arrow Recycling & Waste Reduction Initiatives** Jerry Schuber -- **Slide presentation....**
- V. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Finance** – Zac Benedict, Treasurer **10:07**
 1. 2nd Qtr. 2023 Financial Summary – Zach reported that our income was 80% from the ODEQ grant and 20% from membership. As far as expenses most was spent on administrative labor and exhibiting at conference.
 2. OKRA 2023 Budget Tracking – **Everything is going according to plan. We might go over budget in Facebook Ads, but it is not a big deal. Travel expenses picked were up. Ellen did some conference facility exploration (Durant) and went to some of the Recycling live several environmental events on behalf of OKRA. Lot of membership renewals this quarter. A lot of recurring expenses like administrative costs, website maintenance. 2nd quarter financial report. Some later payments but got some silver memberships from Batliner and ??? Muscogee Creek Nation. Balance as of 3 days ago \$59,700.77 – 10:15 AM Crystal made a motion to accept the financial report and Tracy made the 2nd.**
 3. OKRA Check & PayPal Register
 4. DEQ Grant FY 2023 – Ellen reported that amount OKRA asked for in its FY24 grant application is \$51, 230.00. OKRA is still waiting to see if they will be awarded funds.
 - B. **Nominations Committee** – Sara Ivey, Chair – **11:06 AM Ellen said there was nothing to report at this time.**

C. Membership Committee – Ellen Bussert, Chair

Ellen reported that OKRA now has 78 members, up about 15 from the last board meeting in March. Membership income is about \$6,000.00. There has not been any activity with the Each One, Reach One campaign. The 2023 OKRA Membership has been updated on the website. The 2023 OKRA Membership Directory has not been finalized. Bussert will be scheduling the next OKRA Membership Meeting in June or July.

B. Conference Committee – Ellen Bussert, Chair – **11:08 AM**

Ellen presented the conference report.

Conference Theme ***“Offsetting the Recycling Objection”***

- September 28-29 Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center
- Vote = Bamboo Utensils with RPET Pouch - \$2,000 for 500 A motion was made by Paul Streets and was seconded by Bret Scovill to purchase 500. The purchased was approved.
- Cost = Member early bird \$65 Regular \$85
Nonmember early bird \$85 Regular \$105
Senior/Student \$30
- Lodging CRCC \$98+ (46 rooms) at the Artesian Hotel \$179.00
- Registration should be open in June
- Need sponsorships – Bret will be sending out a letter. contact Bret if you are interested
- Thursday, September 28th
 - Vender set up
 - Networking time at Pavilion – fishing/visiting
 - Corn hole tournament and cookout
 - Late movie “Environmental Shopping”
- Friday, September 29th
 - Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. conference starts at 8:30 a.m.
 - Keynote speaker: Vincent Leray – Recycling Partnership
 - Community Tools for local gov’s that brings together TRP granting, education and technical assistance resources in one place
 - Granting Opportunities for communities and processors in OK
 - Wood waste panel
 - Innovations in the Chickasaw Nation Recycling Program (pending)
 - Market Update – Chaz Miller, also roundtable
 - Refillery
 - E- Waste (Traci Phillips pending)
 - SW infrastructure study (Patrick Riley – pending)
 - 3 sessions of Roundtable discussions
 - OCASA
 - Chaz Miller – talking to the public about realities in recycling
 - Glass recycling
 - Recycled Fashion
 - Rural Recycling
 - Styrofoam Recycling
 - Super Recycler Program
 - Plastics
- Recycling Partnership Visit – while in Oklahoma, Vincent Leray would like to visit communities interested in curbside recycling programs and talk to them about what resources the Recycling Partnership has to offer.
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VI. Work Groups

- A. Advocacy – Michael Barton, Chair – **Eric Pollard 11:19 AM** did not get to meet and ran out of time to get to the capital. **Lessons learned, get to the capital earlier, focus on next year. Would like to look at doing an interim study (August / September / October) to get a look at what's going on with recycling / waste. Waste characterization study. Economic development opportunities through recycling / sustainability efforts.**
 1. OK Capitol Visit Update
 2. OKRA Summary handout
 3. Discussion HB 2359 Wind Turbine Recycling Bill – **Ellen was contacted by a Representative about a wind turbine recycling bill that was in the House about Renewable energy recycling facilities. Hot topic to pursue recycling options for the parts associated with wind turbines. Eric Pollard said the industry is supporting this bill.**
- B. Communication – Shavara Johnson, Chair **10:15 AM**
 1. **Looking forward to “Plastic-Free” July.**
 2. 2023 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Photo Contest EB: Had 6 people enter about 20 pictures total. There were 3 categories. **Photo contest was a huge success and relatively easy. Hardest part was getting tee-shirt sizes.**
 3. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube update - **Report from March through mid-May. FB likes are up and gained 46 page likes for FB. Gained new followers for Instagram. O-I glass tour in Muscogee was the biggest attention getter. OKRA has never had that many “likes” before. Community and citizens are more likely to repost when it is a local story or a person in the pic. 2nd highest was the photo contest. The Salon owner covered in the contest helped push the post. Biggest Twitter response in March came from introducing Crystal. For April the top – rated post was the photo contest. In May, it was the lunch and learn about pharmaceuticals and sharps. On the OKRA website, our sessions were up...average duration was a little down and the bounce rate had no change. New vs. returning visitors...had more returning visitors. We want people to come back to our page, so that's good news. Platform use was a mix of mobile and desktop.**
 4. Website - **Top pages, compost was big...#3 overall.**
 5. Newsletter - **Newsletter is not in the top 10 on the website, but it had 26 touches according to Ellen which is the most we've had. Could be more, but can't capture the list-serve. Campaigns we covered were about Earth Day and the photo contest.**
 6. Okie Recycling Tours – Keima Borsuah - **Exciting! We've done 2 tours. Tire and recycling event in Bixby and Broken Arrow. Good interviews but the wind got in the way. Working on another tour. Church in Norman doing a Styrofoam collection event in June.**
 7. E-Mail Inquiries – Ellen Bussert - **5 email inquires**
 8. OKRA list-serve – Ellen Bussert - **posted 16 times on the list-serv.**
- C. Education and Outreach – Sara Ivey, Chair – **ABSENT – Ellen Bussert 11:30 AM**
 1. May 18 Safe Sharps & Meds Disposal Lunch & Learn – **Hans Atia spoke about pharmaceuticals and sharps disposal. Great event.**
 2. June 1 Food waste Lunch and Learn – Stephen Sturdivant **will be talking about how you can reduce the adverse environmental impacts of food waste OKRA's goal is to produce at**

least 4 Lunch and Learns this year. The one in June will be the 4th one. Ellen said she hopes we do another one in the fall.

D. Product Stewardship – Cat Eker, Chair – 11:32 AM Formally introduced herself, works in sustainability at ODEQ.

- Continue to promote Oklahoma Meds and Sharps Disposal Committee (OMSDC)
- Promote community recycling opportunities and collection events o Broken Arrow’s “Trash Bash” on April 29th
 - o OKC Memorial Marathon’s “Green Team” on April 29-30th
 - o Dell’s “Recycling Day” - April 30th
 - o Keep McAlester Beautiful “Spring Clean Up”

Dell had a big e-waste event on 4/30. E-cigarette & vaping waste is a thing. 4 generations of e-cigarettes so far. Do not throw them away. Take them to a battery recycling location or HHW site. Biggest concern in the waste industry are fires caused by the Lithium-Ion batteries. Wrap them in a non-conductive cover. Also spoke about the fact that 14% of the youth vape or use e-cigarettes. Trying to get drop boxes in school, but most are metal which are a problem. Future goals are to revive the mercury thermometer recycling effort.

D. Glass Work Group – Ellen Bussert 11:37 AM

1. Tour of the O-I Muskogee Glass Plant **April 28th 6 members met at the plant. Good convo with processor.**
2. New Work Group Chair – **Fenton Rood will now be the new chair!**

E. Composting – Amanda Scofield, Chair – Amanda 11:38

May 7th through 14th was the Compost awareness week. Ellen tabled at the Compost event in Scissor Tail Park (OKC). 90% of the people that stopped at the table said recycling was all a lie! 6 people stopped by to purchase OKRA...too close to the farmer’s market. Crystal asked if we could do a composting presentation or workshop at the next conference. Maybe, Amanda can do one at the next conference. Ellen said we have done that previously and it was a success. Right now we are doing a round table. Last thing, ODEQ is in the planning stages of opening up the composting rules and will be hosting a stakeholders meeting to hash out some details. Momentum is good, but facility in Tulsa needs a permit and is located in the flood plain. ODEQ went to visit and are trying to help them get permitted. “Full Sun” food waste was stopped from going there to compost their food waste and now they’re closing.

VII. SWANA Conference March 28-30 2023 **Ellen 11:45 – Great event, made new friends, and had a lot of fun!**

VIII. Enviro Expo (The MET) Tulsa April 19th – **Tabled and had great conversations with several people. Mostly discussed recycling right.**

IX. Earth Day Activities – **discussion – Two different events in Broken Arrow.**

Crystal: Norman had a nice event...solid waste crew gave away a “ton” of compost. Weather was wonderful in Norman. Crystal said they did a recycling / trash corn hole game. Got points for correctly answering the questions associated with trash and recycling. \$2K in prizes given

away in Norman. MWC had a good event too but was VERY cold and should be bigger next year.

Kara: Chickasaw nation had a weeklong event and got lots of tires.

Amanda: Memorial marathon event collected 1K pounds of recycling.

Cat: did a pre-cycling tabling set up at UCO and had a super market choices game / experience.

Amanda: Sorting activity at the Scissor Tail event.

- X. National Recycling Coalition Update – Keima Borsuah – 11:52 AM Not much, but still working on the conference. Looking for speakers and sponsors.

- XI. Possible Twine – Plastic Wrap Campaign – Ellen 11:53 AM this has come up several times. Ag-waste has an issue associated with the plastic twine. Need to see about getting organic twine pushed out. Maybe we should take the lead.

Jerry pointed out that plastic twine is a tangle issue at the MRRF. Cows can't digest it and can get their head stuck on it.

Cat Ecker: Cherokee county reached out to ODEQ about the twine issue. They've done some research about recycling, but the best option is to properly dispose of it. School contest involving collecting the twine...biggest amount of twine collected gets a visit from a wildlife ambassador.

Ellen said she would reach out to discuss it.

- XII. Old Business -- NONE

- XIII. New Business – Ellen 11:57 AM – EPA is doing a recycling opportunities map. OKRA needs to make comments. Jerry recommended doing a survey similar to what's been done with the solid waste survey. Need to get the movers and shakers from the State of Oklahoma involved.

Jerry: said that the Rooster Days Event (Parade) in Broken Arrow is this weekend.

Amanda: Received a question...what percentage of paper waste is in the waste stream?

Unfortunately the data from the EPA is outdated but believed to be 13%. Bret has some stuff related to residential and drop centers, but it will be hard to get your arms around it.

- XIV. Next Meeting: Date and location

A. July 21, 2023 location: The Golden Spoon in Edmond, Tracy Horst will get the information to Ellen for her to make arrangements.

- XV. Adjournment: 12:09 Motion made by Jerry and 2nd by Eric Pollard.

OKRA Mission Statement: To improve recycling in Oklahoma by encouraging waste reduction, reuse and best management practices through education, information, and networking.

Vision: OKRA serves as the premier recycling point for communications among business, government and citizens.