



OKRA Board Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15, 2023

Contact: info@recyclok.org for zoom invite

Report, discuss and take appropriate action, if any, on the following

- I. **Welcome** – Megan Waters, President – Called to order @ 10:03 AM
- II. **Roll Call** – Paul Streets, Secretary – 10:04 AM -- Ellen Bussert did roll call
- III. **Approval of Minutes** May 19, 2023 and August 30, 2023 Paul Streets – 10:05 AM 1st Crystal Bennet & 2nd by Sara Ivey

10:06 AM Guest introduction – Charles Kamendies from the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) spoke about the upcoming NRC National Congress. He is the lead for the conference. The theme this year is "Together We Are Recycling." It is a two day conference. The first day will cover nuts and bolts topics. The second day will focus on policy and the BIG PICTURE. Kamendies went over the schedule for both days. He will be sending Ellen a copy of the schedule to distribute to the board.

He also talked about the NRC is looking for a State Recycling Organization to co-host the 2024 in person Congress. Finished @ 10:25 AM

IV. **Committee Reports**

- A. Finance – Zac Benedict, Treasurer – Started @ 10:26 AM – A lot coming in from all the conferences. The ODEQ reimbursements have slowed down a bit. Was a donation from Michael Patton. Expenses are a little higher than normal. Partly due to a pay raise and stipend since July. PayPal has been very active obviously with the upcoming conference. Current balance is \$53,702.
 1. 3rd Qtr. 2023 Financial Summary -- \$12K of income. Expenses related to the conference are gearing up. Now all the subscriptions from Quarter 2 have finally be updated. Seems like all of the subscriptions come due at the 2nd Q.
 2. OKRA 2023 Budget Tracking – Budget for \$15 K which is an increase over last year. Anticipating more memberships coming soon. Expenses noted next to the right column.
 3. OKRA Check & PayPal Register
 4. DEQ Grant FY 2024
 5. OKRA Tax Return

Ellen Bussert added: she was late getting May and June invoices submitted to ODEQ. Now that we are on the grant we will not have to use our reserve money to pay for things associated with the conference.

Zachary Benedict: Added money for legal and CPA. Taxes have been submitted for Federal electronically and I have State doc's on my desk...CPA did all the heavy lifting. We were able to do an abbreviated form b/c our income was under a certain threshold, but now our income is higher and as such, we are using a CPA. They have the time and expertise to deal with these things.

Motion to approve the finance report 1st Jerry Schuber and 2nd Crystal Bennet.

B. Nominations Committee – Sara Ivey, Chair 10:37 AM – no report.

C. Membership Committee – Ellen Bussert, Chair – 10:37 AM a few memberships since May, but do not anticipate any significant membership additions.

1. 2023 Membership Status

D. Conference Committee – Ellen Bussert, Chair – 10:38 AM Big thanks to the conference committee.

Big shout out to ODEQ (Sara) and Kara Berst The Chickasaw Nation, along with Kara's staff.

- 85 people registered (58 paid, 27 free)
- Room for about 20 more people to register
- Lodging – CRCC full, overflow at Artesian Hotel still available
- Sponsorships = 17 sponsors (22 sponsors in 2022)
2023 sponsorship = \$8,000
2022 sponsorship = \$11,500
- Needs: corn hole boards
Outdoor lights
Door prizes
Volunteers (especially registration & exhibitors)
Confirm Cooks -
- Thursday Schedule
 - Exhibitor set up and OKRA set up 2:00 p.m.
 - Build a bin with OCASA 4:00 p.m. Pavilion
 - Cookout and networking 5:00 p.m. Pavilion
 - Corn Hole Tournament (approx.) 6:00 p.m.
 - Movie night – Environmental Shopping / Okie Recycling Tour to Norman (Styrofoam)

Cook out = OKRA provides hot dogs, chips, cookies, water, and iced tea. BYOB

- Friday Schedule
 - Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Country Breakfast
 - Conference starts at 8:30 a.m.
 - Italian buffet for lunch 12:00 p.m.
 - Concludes at 4:00 p.m.
- Conference Committee Meeting to be scheduled
- Recycling Partnership / Community visits

V. **Work Groups**

- A. Advocacy – Michael Barton, Chair – 10:58 AM Eric Pollard: spoke up to say that we should all be advocating for the effort made by Amanda associated with the SWIFFER (sp?) grant.
Amanda Scofield: Waiting on green light from the EPA.

Erick Pollard: ACOG is going to request that folks address this issue.

Amanda Scofield: Drafted compost rule changes. Now that there are compost rules out there, we need to hear from the compost community. We can see the minutes from the compost council meeting on the ODEQ website or I can send them to you if need be.

- B. Communication – Shavara Johnson, Chair – 11:04 AM presented by Ellen Bussert. There is a summary attached to the email.

1. Campaigns
 - Second hand September

- America Recycles Day – Going to do something fun for this!
- 2. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube update
- 3. Website – Have website woes right now. Google analytics have expired. Gravity forms are no longer free. Conference registration is still being done by Eventbrite. 2 webmasters are retired and Ellen doesn't have everything she needs.
- 4. Newsletter
- 5. Okie Recycling Tours – Keima Borsuah – 11:07 AM. Have done Broken Arrow and Bixby. Styrofoam video will be available @ the OKRA conference.
- 6. E-Mail Inquiries – Ellen Bussert – gotten about 10, two more recently...one was a contractor from SE Oklahoma who installs vinyl siding. The other was an inquiry about oxygen tubing which is not really recyclable. No market for it.
- 7. OKRA list-serve – Ellen Bussert – posted about 24 times...roughly 8 times a month.

C. Education and Outreach – Sara Ivey, Chair – 11:10 AM –

- 1. May 18 Safe Sharps & Meds Disposal Lunch & Learn
- 2. June 1 Food waste Lunch and Learn
- 3. Upcoming events – Looking at Sustain Salon or plastic recycling panel.

D. Product Stewardship – Cat Eker, Chair – 11:12 AM – Amanda Schofield and I just got back from a conference that had great information. Battery bill, would love to have this in OK. Made a connection with a battery recycling plant in TX. Mechanical versus chemical recycling...it was a heated debate. Pollution versus practicality. Was a great conference and we learned a bunch.

Updates for Product Stewardship:

- Continue to promote Oklahoma Meds and Sharps Disposal Committee (OMSDC)
- Attended this year's Product Stewardship Institute conference in Portland.
 - Truth and Future of Labeling
 - Standardization of recycling information through regulations is going to be difficult but necessary.
 - Must rebuild consumer trust to recycle through accuracy and consistency in labeling.
 - Must be clear to consumer where product should end up or stay in the system.
 - While QR codes are simple and easy, you cannot have a qualified claim that isn't listed on the package, can include additional information about how to and where to recycle.
 - Differentiate between compostable and biodegradable.
 - All compostable material is biodegradable but not all biodegradable material is compostable.

○ Batteries

- Washington Department of Ecology – Battery Product Stewardship Bill
 - Created a statewide system for collection.
 - Accepts all removable batteries.
 - All FREE!
 - Bill passed due to battery caused fires.
 - Megan Warfield
- Redwood – Battery Recycling Plant
 - Focused on circularity of batteries.
 - Buy or accept all removable batteries, recycles by disassembling, then sells materials back to producers.
 - Batteries are infinitely recyclable.
 - Currently have a facility in TX, we met with her to talk about establishing a partnership with transfer stations in OK
 - Laura Crapps

○ Mechanical vs Chemical Recycling

- Two viewpoints on chemical
 - It just turns one type of pollution into another type of pollution.
 - It's a solution for products other than packaging materials.

Goals

- Create connections and partnerships between Oklahoma and Redwood's Battery Recycling Plant.
- Establish battery drop-off locations

E. Glass Work Group – Fenton Rood, Chair – 11:16 AM No report...taking a proverbial nap.

F. Composting – Amanda Scofield, Chair – 11:18 AM – The compost conference is coming on 10/26/23. Registration is open. Please push this out to the rest of the world. Just got our website updated. Ellen Bussert: Please get me the information and I will get it pushed out. Amanda Scofield: Like to discuss our in-kind relationship with OKRA.

Ellen Bussert: OKRA was left out last year and so I made sure to sponsor OCASA and got our logo / information pushed to them. Motion made by Crystal Bennet and 2nd by Paul Streets

I (Paul Streets) make a motion to give Ellen the discretion to agree to sponsorships from the \$3K allowance already in the budget. 2nd by Crystal Bennet.

- VI. Invitation to Durant Sustainability Coalition Oct 19th – 11:27 AM – Ellen Bussert we have been invited to participate as a speaker / presenter for the coalition.
- VII. National Recycling Coalition Update – Keima Borsuah – 11:28 AM – So we heard from Charles about the conference. Looking forward to it. Trying to drum up registrations. Want more Oklahoma attendees. Will OKRA pay for it or do we need to pay for it ourselves. I (Keima) will be attending. Paul Streets made a motion to subsidize Ellen's attendance and 2nd by Keima.
 - A. Proposal to CO- NRC Recycling Congress in 2024 Charles Kamendies, NRC Congress Chairperson
Would be best to politely say no and look to see how it goes for whoever decides to do the national conference.
- VIII. OML Conference Sept 19 – 21st OKC – 11:35 AM – Ellen Bussert will be at the table with bamboo utensils and provide information. Talking recycling!!
- IX. Zero Waste USA, October 25-26, 2023 – Collaborating Organization – 11:36 AM – Ellen Bussert. We are a collaborating organization and will provide more info on our website and social media.
- X. Old Business -- NONE
- XI. New Business – 11:37 AM Ellen Bussert -- Environmental Excellence Celebration...does anyone want to use our tickets? We will be recognizing Jeanette and will have a card for her...get it signed on Tuesday before the conference.

Crystal Bennett: We are doing the Super Recycler event in MWC again. We'd love for any or all of you to participate in the experience to see how it works. Crystal will be sending out the dates and training video.

Ellen Bussert: America Recycles Day and OKRA supports The MET in Tulsa.

Keima Borsuah: OSU Extension will be doing a recycling festival to showcase recycling businesses in OK. Finding ways to recycle "hard-to-recycle" things. Looking to have this as a statewide event. Starting in Stillwater on 3/23/24. Collection / education / recycling businesses / food trucks / music / recycling games. Will OKRA be willing to support the event?

Eric Pollard: Want to commend Ellen on the KOCO interview.

Ellen Bussert: On behalf of my husband and I, thank you soooo much for your support. This has been a very hard year / summer and it was so nice to know that when I came back, I still had a job. He's now walking around and driving. It has meant the world to us to have your support.

XII. Next Meeting Date and location

A. December 1, 2023 – Oklahoma City

XIII. Adjournment – 11:49 AM – Paul made a motion to adjourn 2nd by Crystal.

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.