

## **ABSTRACT**

HWMA Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 14, 2011 6:30 p.m.

Eureka City Council Chambers

A full Board was present, with Boardmembers Madsen and Leonard sitting in as alternates for the Cities of Eureka and Rio Dell, respectively. Comment from the public continued to request Board discussion of the creation of a citizen's advisory committee for the Authority.

Discussion of the consent calendar focused heavily on wording issues present in a contract for CQA services at the landfill, force account increases per the State Controller's Office, and a job description for a grant-funded position meant to assist with the food waste digest project.

The Board revisited the topic of purchasing the Samoa Processing Facility from ACRC, in light of strong public reaction to the potential loss of jobs and local industry posed by acceptance of an agreement with SWoW to transport and process recyclables. Discussion focused on the issue of establishing flow control, and the likely reworking of the Authority's JPA to better express the Authority's ability to manage recyclable materials. Public comment ranged from strong support for purchase negotiations to requests to consider alternate private enterprises capable of handling recyclable material over government intervention and competition. The Board discussed their various views on the subject; from the ups and downs of ACRC's stance on the subject and various Council reactions to the idea, to the necessity of publicly operating recyclables processing and the benefits of negotiation to the community. The Board approved Staff to being negotiations and look at the necessary steps to rework the JPA to assert flow control over recyclable materials. Boardmember Schapiro and Chairman Maxwell will represent the Board on the negotiating team.

Final discussion of the agreement and MOU with SWoW for transportation and processing of recyclable materials took place. Jim Test, Executive Director, reviewed the history of the process leading to the evening's discussion; at this point, with negotiations for the Samoa Facility beginning to take shape, the SWoW agreement would be a backup and placeholder for handling of the Authority's recyclables until negotiations reached a conclusion. The Board discussed the split of the various member agencies regarding the support of ACRC, and the issue of using the dual-stream tonnage generated through the Transfer Station drop-off to help bolster ACRC through the negotiation process. Discussion on that topic settled on the assumption that, as contract administrator, the Authority would guarantee its tonnage to SWoW to help cement their agreement. Emmett Jones, representative of SWoW, presented the case for the agreement with SWoW, revisiting the strongest suggestion for the Board to consider – namely, that the member jurisdictions be allowed to make the choice of whether or not to sign the MOU that would volunteer their tonnages for sale under the SWoW agreement. Mr. Jones could not comment for certain on the issue of using the Authority's tonnage to supplement ACRC, however he spoke to the issue of good faith in agreements and the need for that tonnage with the loss of key member agencies within the Authority to ACRC's operation. Public comment on the topic, in general, stayed the course of urging the Board not to accept the agreement with SWoW in the hopes of maintaining local industry and jobs. Ultimately the decision of the Board was to accept the agreement with SWoW and distribute the MOU, with Boardmembers Schapiro and Winkler dissenting.

The Board was introduced to a representative from FlexEnergy, who may be providing methane gas conversion at the Landfill for use as electricity, both to offset costs at the Landfill itself and to sell to PG&E as a revenue source. The technology will cost around a million dollars; staff has been tasked with investigating whether or not the expenditure is a worthwhile one.

In addition, the Board authorized the broadcast of Authority meetings on local access television. Staff reports focused on the second stage – and preliminary results of – the waste characterization study being undertaken at the Transfer Station; the reward of a State Tire Grant for the next fiscal year; the status of well installations taking place at the Landfill; and the status of laws regulating the ability of municipalities to enact bans on plastic bags, which the Authority plans to restart work on now that an EIR will not be required to enact an ordinance.