



Here it is. Your July edition of the NCRA [e-]News.

Below is the NCRA News for July 2010.

Don't forget, NCRA Meetings & Tours are the third Thursday of every month! Meet us in Benecia on Thursday, July 15th at 3:00pm for a tour of CCL Organics and at 4:00pm at Pacific Rim Recycling. More details can be found below. Board assembles at 6pm for dinner and sharing; all members welcome to join in.

Members interested in the Agenda for the Board meeting next Thursday can get a more detailed agenda from the president on Wednesday the 14th by emailing arboone3@gmail.com; all major items will be listed in the NCRA News before decisions are made.

TOUR OF CCL ORGANICS/ORGANIC SOLUTIONS SET FOR JULY 15TH at 3 PM.

As a prelude to our Pacific Rim tour, it's seems a shame to miss one of the great small composting yards in the Bay Area, the CCL facility wedged between the old SP tracks and Highway I-680 two miles east of Benecia at 146 Goodyear Road. Long-time composters may have seen such a facility in the past but to those of you new to facilities, this is a well-run operation that keeps itself clean and the materials moving through. Join us with manager Ken Gerlack and thanks to owner David Burnley for setting this up. ARB

TOUR OF PACIFIC RIM RECYCLING IN BENECIA SET FOR JULY 15TH.

We have arranged for Steve Moore, President and chief operating officer for Pacific Rim Recycling, to give NCRA members and their guests a tour of his Benecia-based facility on Thursday, July 15th at 4 p.m. Carpools are available from Concord BART station and the Martinez AMTRAK station if you contact Teresa Bradley in advance. Pacific Rim is a major NCRA donor that supports our educational efforts and does contract work sorting curbside materials for several collectors and also operates its own commercial, source-separated, recyclables collection systems. Steve is a recycling pioneer, starting with a newspaper collection program on the Peninsula in the late 1960s. ARB

TOURING SUTTA RECYCLING IN OAKLAND:

We have been trying to arrange a tour of the Sutta Recycling plant in West Oakland but have run into Mr. Sutta's busy travel schedule and our preference for Thursdays; stay tuned. ARB

**NCRA SUMMER PICNIC: Sunday, August 22nd.
WILDCAT CANYON REGIONAL PARK in RICHMOND.**

After several years in Berkeley on a Thursday, we are moving the 2010 Summer Picnic to Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in Richmond on a Sunday. From I-80 southbound, exit at McBryde or at Amador (northbound off I-80) and go uphill on McBryde into the Alvarado Area. We will be at the Elderberry Picnic Space. Parking is on surface streets or further up the hill off Park Avenue inside the park. Grilling is possible, a good creek to play in for the little ones and room for Frisbee, etc. Also good access to 2400 acre Wildcat Canyon Regional Park for hiking, birding, etc. For the adventurous, you can walk 2.7 miles from the top of Spruce in Berkeley (all the way downhill) and catch a ride home. NCRA provides beer, wine and charcoal; all else is up to you and yours. We start at 3 and go to 7.

SEPTEMBER TOUR OF REBUILT SMART STATION IN SUNNYVALE:

Mark Bowers of the City of Sunnyvale has agreed to assist us in scheduling a tour of the renovated SMART station in Sunnyvale on the third Thursday of September, the 16th. We also expect to tour ECS Refining, a major reprocessor of CRT glass in Santa Clara, earlier in the afternoon.

OCTOBER TOUR AND MEETING IN RICHMOND AT CAMPUS

CALIFORNIA: For its October meeting, NCRA will assemble at 1081 Essex Avenue in Richmond for a tour of the Campus California materials receiving, sorting, and marketing operation. The tour begins at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner and sharing at 6 p.m. and the boardmeeting at 7 p.m. Campus California is an international non-profit that hustles clothes, shoes and books in the USA to pay for training and placement of volunteers at development projects in Southern Africa. They move 150,000 pounds of clothes per month and have over 800 steel reception boxes scattered over the nine Bay Area counties that are served by four trucks running 16 hours per day. Essex Avenue is in west-central Richmond just off the Richmond Parkway and car shuttles will be available from the Richmond BART/AMTRAK station that is 1.2 miles away.

WHITHER MANDATORY/VOLUNTARY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING?

About a year ago the Air Board approved the concept of requiring commercial recycling to account for some of the GHG emission reductions needed in the state to meet AB32's goals; the official intent now is to remove five million tons through new emission reductions by 2020. The CIWMB was told to develop a plan and on Wednesday, June 16th, the first draft of the regulations was heard for comment at a meeting in Sacramento. I attended and was impressed both by the lack of opposition to the regs but also to their vagueness; the message in all this to local governments is 'you gotta have a plan but we're not telling you what that should be.'

My own general impression over the years has been that in response to AB939, a lot of local governments who knew little and cared less about recycling started curbside programs for residents but continued ignorant of how scrap materials move around in commercial ventures. For several years CAW had tried to get commercial recycling attended to by the legislature but threw the issue to CARB after the ETAAC wanted some meat about recycling in the action plans. Where this will all go I have no idea but am not generally hopeful that good things will come of this. Unfunded mandates from the state are not popular with local governments and with

Oakland talking about laying off 80 police officers, I have to believe the public pie is going to get re-cut a lot in the near future and local governments will pay little attention to this vague requirement. ARB.

WILL BCDC ISSUE POTRERO HILLS AN EXPANSION PERMIT?

At the hearing before the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, David Tam on behalf of SPRAWLDEF and I on behalf of NCRA reiterated our positions that allowing the Potrero Hills landfill to expand was unnecessary because 1) the county had enough space under state law for all its own garbage, 2) the citizens voted to limit all imports to a small amount, recently held valid in Solano Superior Court [not directly relevant to the expansion but with 85% of the current inflows gone away with Measure E being upheld, Potrero Hills has no feedstocks], and 3) taking a half-mile square of rain out of the fresh water recharge system will only increase the brackish water intrusions and destroy the fresh-salt balance even further in the marsh (when they built the C&H Sugar plant in Crockett, fresh water flowed by the docks there; now that everyone in the Bay Area has his/her straw in the Delta and further up the rivers, the Sacramento River is too salty to use at the sugar-maker). Arthur Feinstein, a wildlife biologist, also noted how birds attracted to garbage (crows, gulls, etc.) wreak havoc on protected species and “species of concern” (not yet protected but in trouble). It was good to have one former and one present member of the Board of Supervisors in Solano testifying against the expansion; not easy when the current Board voted 3-2 to approve the permit. My final comment about the self-congratulating masters of Potrero was a dig at their tour of the facility a year ago where they kept the visitors away from the tipping face, guess what?, brush, leaves, tree trimmings, bottles, cans, etc. Someday the world will learn that there is no solid waste, only wasted solids, but it sure is a long, slow, slug. ARB

Hub-and-Spoke Recycling: Can it Take New Mexico from 10% to 30% Landfill Reduction?

By Dan Knapp

This year the New Mexico Recycling Coalition hosted a statewide conference on recycling June 21 to 23 in Albuquerque. I was a speaker on reuse and zero waste site design, but I also got to attend as many conference presentations as I could get to.

The week before the conference, the NMRC put out the good news that it had landed a \$2.7 Million federal stimulus grant to work with local authorities to build new “hub and spoke” processing centers around the state. The idea was the centerpiece of the conference, so the grant put everyone in a good mood. The idea of the grant is to jumpstart recycling, reuse, and composting with a capital and design infusion, one intended to reduce landfilling by tapping into resources coming from the vast rural hinterland. The Hubs will prepare, beneficiate, densify, and ship the collected resources to world markets via new cooperative transport systems aimed at big city markets in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio.

It's an ambitious plan, but it seems more do-able after actually being there. New Mexico's vast distances have until now throttled the recycling rate down to one of the nation's lowest, just over 10%. But when you see so much evidence of social cooperation in the way people live, with the distinctively beautiful pueblo style architecture dominant in so many places and done so well, while strolling through the generous and open marketplaces in well-preserved "old-towns", and observing the judicious use of coral, turquoise, and delicate shadings of earthen colors as design elements everywhere, it makes sense that this could actually happen.

Technically, the hub-and-spoke system revolves around a mechanical centerpiece, a new, state of the art horizontal baler. The more or less urban center "Hub" gets a capable, export quality baler, a building to house it, and a loading dock so that densified material can be forklifted into trailers.. The operators of the Hubs then seek to attract materials to be processed from the surrounding hinterland. They finance themselves with a combination of tipping fees and product sales. The "Spokes" are the people in the rural hinterland collecting and transporting recyclable and reusable materials to the urban "Hubs".

People interested in materials conservation will like the Hub's collection of commodity-specific disposal options for materials such as various grades of paper, metals, polymers, glass, and other materials. The Hubs will also offer a variety of options for disposing of regulated materials such as TVs and lead acid batteries. One of the Hub's main functions will be to help clean up New Mexico countryside.

One serious problem is that the cost of landfilling is very low in New Mexico; in some cases it is free. There was some recognition that wasting fees should rise. I for one brought it up every chance I got. But it was Ed Skernolis of Keep America Beautiful who gave me a strong sense that higher waste fees are in the offing. Mr. Skernolis cited statistics showing landfills are far fewer and bigger; the state that used to have 200 landfills now has just 33. Other speakers commented on how difficult it is to site new landfills. A spokeswoman from a big waste company said "we think constantly of the value of that permitted airspace". She said "the avoided disposal cost from recycling should reflect the inflation of landfill pricing".

The NMRC's mapping project found that small "convenience centers" have sprung up around the state to collect some kinds of recyclables; there are 210 of these statewide today. But the project found only 8 processing centers taking the materials in the entire state.

This service void is what the federal grant to NMRC is designed to fill, with the horizontal baler as centerpiece. Justin Stockdale presented NMRC's Hub and Spoke Plan as an integrated program with a "language" and similar look and feel. He believes as many as 15 Hubs can be built with the grant funds. The buildings and layout will be similar from site to site, using similar materials. He said the baler will need a conveying system, and there will need to be a glass crusher onsite, and a wood chipper, and someplace for household hazardous waste processing. He said "ideally, the Hubs would be sited on closed local landfills".

The Santa Ana Pueblo distributed their plan for a Resource Recovery and Recycling Transfer Station that is already up and running on the Pueblo. This facility features 11 separate tipping areas for different commodities including tires, ashes, appliances, green plant material, etc. Wasting is a last resort. The waste tip is into two forty yard debris boxes inside a fenced area.

A gentleman from the remote town of Angel Fire east of the Taos Mountain said his version of a Hub currently handles many of the recyclables that Justin Stockdale cited. He and his five employees, “all cross-trained”, collect, process, and ship materials from about a dozen remote locations around the long agricultural valley rimmed with recreational areas using fifth-wheel collection trailers with multiple bins.

Conference organizers English Bird and Sarah Pierpoint made sure there were many other interesting presentations, an awards banquet, a trade show, and plenty of chances to meet and greet at this lively conference in the high desert Southeast of here.

PEDI-TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR USE AT EVENT RECYCLING GIGS.

During the recent round of grants from the Alameda County Education Advisory Board, Arthur Boone requested and the board granted funds that would enable his firm to purchase a pedi-truck, made in Colorado and a human-powered vehicle that can carry 500 pounds in a two cubic yard compartment behind the driver. Boone believes that pedal-powered vehicles can be of great use to recyclers, particularly in event recycling gigs, and funds allow for the use of the vehicle by event recyclers over the next two years. The vehicle should arrive in California by mid-August. If your firm or community would like to test-market this vehicle, let Boone know at arthur@recyclingres.com or 510/910-6451. A similar vehicle is being used satisfactorily in the landscaping department at UC Davis; this will be the first known application of this equipment in a recycling venture. ARB

CHIT CHAT:

The May 31 issue of the New Yorker has an eight page article on additives in plastic and their problems: BPA and others. The word “precautionary principle” isn’t mentioned and it reads more like an old Time article, (quoting experts on all sides) than something we’d applaud. I have long thought that the failure of plastic to manage the side effects of its additives will lead to a resurgence in glass and paper packaging but not yet.

At the ZWBT meeting on June 18th (see story below), I had occasion to catch up with Bernie Meyerson, NCRA boardmember in the 1990s and now fully retired from 4Ms, his long-time consulting firm. Bernie lives in the Cow Hollow section of SF with his retired-professor wife and keeps busy working on a City committee that works to assure that the port areas stay in marine-related work and don’t get captured by the housing and commercial interests. He’s also been drafting a policy document that follows the lines of the UN’s Declaration of Human Rights but involves the care of the natural environment as a human obligation. He’s looking well. One of the few NCRAites older than I.

Rebecca Jewell was seen recently wearing a lovely old-style diamond ring. She and Bob, her beloved, are planning a December wedding. Bob is an assistant Chief with the Alameda County Fire Department and the couple will live in Alameda, (as they say).

I bumped into John Hanscom and his lovely daughter Alexandra at the Alameda County Fair. The family is moving to Chile for six months so John can study energy issues and Alexandra can learn Spanish, her mother’s native tongue and John’s pretty good (three years in Guatamala 15 years ago). ESA gave him a leave of absence instead of requiring that he resign (he was grateful) but he wanted you all to know he wasn’t in rehab, just taking some time to smell the roses. We’ll see him again in January.

Bumped into Justin Lehrer on his bike in my neighborhood (where he also lives). The missus is getting great with child and they are all pleased. Justin has been the mainstay of our RU powerpoint team and has continued to help a lot with the distribution of ITR and RU announcements; a volunteer who's given a lot to NCRA. His former boss at StopWaste.Org, Rory Bakke, is now off on her own as a sustainability consultant and working with Joel Makower of GreenBiz.com on a sustainability index that will incorporate third party certification to rate sustainability of businesses; a suitable project amidst rampant "greenwashing." ARB

ZERO WASTE BRAIN TRUST HOLDS FIRST MEETING IN SF ON JUNE 18:

The ZWBT, which our board funded to the tune of \$2,000 at its May meeting, held its first working session on June 18th with 33 in attendance. Fueled by some grants from the City and County of San Francisco, the Global Resources Council of CRRA, and the Education Advisory Board of the Altamont Settlement Agreement (as well as ourselves), waste reduction and recycling experts met in San Francisco to define the benefits of zero waste, the steps along the way to getting there, and particularly transitioning municipal ordinances and hauling agreements into pro-zero waste documents. The event was marked more by getting it all out on the table rather than by synthesizing information, but the leaders (Ruth Abbe, Linda Christopher, Tedd Ward, Gary Liss, Timonie Hood, Portia Sinnott, Kevin Drew and others) will be planning two more sessions to complete some usable work products. Future sessions are on July 9 and 23. The current and still-looming economic downturns in California kept the conversations sober and cautious but zero waste has to work in all economic environments, not just good ones. Papers will be posted on the Zero Waste Brain Trust website as we go along.

Gary Liss reported as follows: "This first meeting in San Francisco more clearly defined how RFPs, contracts and overall municipal solid waste and recycling systems are currently established and what could be done better in designing RFPs, contracts and systems to be a pivotal tool in helping communities to harness the forces of the marketplace to get to Zero Waste. The next session [July 9] will focus on the language and clauses for RFPs, contracts, rate structures and ordinances that will be needed to accomplish that."

For more details, contact the organizer, Portia Sinnott, at 707-824-9931 or lite@sonic.net."

REPORT ON JUNE BOARDMEETING:

The highlight of the June Board meeting was the decision to grant GAIA \$5,000 to publicize its new report on recycling and jobs, prepared with support from some major trade, industrial and service worker unions. We also agreed to support NCRA members who would volunteer to be part of a local action in Del Mar in July opposing the development of WTE facilities. We also enjoyed the presence of Stephanie Barger and Gary Liss, both with interesting and informed commentaries on the passing scene; Stephanie, particularly, wanted letters supporting AB 1998, to oppose the use of plastic bags in most retail establishments. The Board took a briefing from Robert Reed, PIO for Recology, with additional comments from four Recology staffers, on the planned use of the Yuba disposal site for SF garbage after 2015 but took no action. We also agreed that Boone would continue as NCRA News Editor for the summer and Portia would be offered the job when her current project is done, probably in the early fall. For other items, see the minutes.

NCRA MINUTE BY MINUTE

Minutes of the Board Meeting held June 17, 2010 at the law offices of John Moore.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Knapp, Temp. Secretary, with help from AR (Robin) Boone, President

Those who arrived punctually were rewarded with home-cooked hot lasagna prepared by Natalie Peterson, Arthur Boone's partner.

(Secretary's Note: The meeting was bigger than usual because a major change in landfill destination has just been proposed for San Francisco's trash, and the switch, when and if it happens, will upset established patterns of cash flow to various entities. Some of those who would be most affected sent emissaries to discuss the change, which was agendized for 30 minutes.) Secretary Knapp was late and missed the first part of sharing. Arthur Boone, who was NCRA Board Secretary for years, kindly supplied the missing minutes, as follows:

President Boone called the meeting to order at 6:50 PM. Present were boardmembers Anthony, Boone, Bradley, Knapp (late), Moore, Oliveira, Sinnott (late), and VanDeventer (late); Hibbs and Quinn were absent but had indicated that their work had kept them too late to travel. NCRA members Steve Chiv, Kevin Drew, Gary Liss, Laura McKaughan, David Tam, and Monica Wilson were also present. Present as visitors were Robert Reed, John Glaub, Chris Choate, Adam Alberti and Stephanie Reichin with the Recology delegation, Stephanie Barger from Orange County, and Richard Schneider with the Sierra Club.

AGENDA: A three-page written agenda from President Boone was distributed to all and approved with the deletion of Oliveira's London report. He noted that an on-line version of his report would be available shortly, with photos.

SHARINGS: (started at 6:53 p.m.)

David Tam has lost 32 pounds through the VA Clinic guidance and program, following the Plus One book on dieting.

John Moore recently celebrated his 30th wedding anniversary with some time at the TimberCove Inn near Jenner; weeknight rates are the best.

Laura McKaughan is now leader of recycling at SFConservation Corps where they have three crews working on pick-ups. She has lived in SF since 2001 and has a green MBA from New College but this is her first NCRA meeting.

Teresa Bradley has returned from a nine-day family reunion near Jacksonville, Florida where EPS abounds. Dolphins and sharks are moving close to the beach, an effect of BP disaster – no one is sure. A student at on-line Prescott College is doing a documentary as an independent study on waste reduction best practices and Teresa's her mentor. Working on signage for event-and-venue projects in Marin and South Bay; James at Green Waste in San Jose is also tackling this problem.

Gary Liss noted that Zero Waste New Zealand has uploaded all of their signage materials for downloading by all who wished. He's here from Loomis, California where he is serving as

mayor this year. He also reported on attending the six county pow-wow with leadership from Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson yesterday in Sacramento, trying to move forward on green agendas in that area; Ron Mittelstadt of Waste Connections is the lead on waste sector work. Tomorrow in SF he will speak at the first Zero Waste Brain Trust session with 30 scheduled to be in attendance, two more sessions are planned. He had attended the Mandatory Commercial Recycling session at CalRecycles on Wednesday. Ecocycle in Boulder is looking for an operations manager. CRRA will meet in Sacramento on August 8-11.

Douglas Anthony is readying his house for sale. The event bins that he and Janice had worked on have had two recent sales using standard templates with local options. Richmond food scraps collection starts July first.

Stephanie Barger from Earth First Foundation in Orange County. She had come north to attend sessions yesterday in Sacramento and tomorrow in SF. Forces opposing proliferation of plastic bags continues to grow. AB1998 looks like it can pass. Curbside programs are finding PE film is incompatible with their equipment. Plastics industry spent over one million opposing anti-plastic bag ordinance in Seattle but lost.

Steven Chiv from SFDoe is at his first NCRA meeting although he spoke at RU-15 this year on residential recycling in SF where “every building is a challenge.” A native of Santa Cruz, he took a BA from UofA in Tuscon and worked for Genentech in SSF before joining city staff.

Donnie Oliveira is keeping on keeping on in his green jobs coordinator job in SF.

Chris Lehon reported that Richmond and El Cerrito would start full-spectrum organics collections on July 1st; he has attended today the California Special Districts Association meeting; his agency is one of only four waste-management type agencies that belongs.

Mary Lou Van Deventer is looking forward to a trip next week to Albuquerque where her husband Dan is speaking at NM Recycling Assn meeting; they’ll have some time in Santa Fe as well.

Following are Dan Knapp’s minutes from about 7:30 PM to end, starting with the last sharings:

Kevin Drew of City and County of San Francisco said he was a hands-on recycler when he ran the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood’s dropoff center. Eventually he headed up San Francisco Community Recyclers, then transitioned to City employment a decade ago. Lately he’s been getting up at 5:00 AM to do enforcement on behalf of ratepayers in support of the City’s black carts, which are supposed to contain pura basura only, with no banned recyclables.

Adam Alberti, Chris Choate, Robert Reed, John Glaub, and Stephanie Reichin all introduced themselves by name and identified themselves as employees of Recology, Inc., which is the company that has proposed taking San Francisco’s unrecyclable trash to their own landfill in Yolo County by railhaul.

Dick Schneider is on the Altamont Settlement Agreement’s East County Open Space Group and occasionally attends meetings of the Educational Advisory Board, both of whose annual budgets are dependent on trash disposal fees at the landfill that San Francisco currently uses in Alameda County. Since the EAB’s budget has been used to promote less landfilling at Altamont, and garbage is in fact shrinking, any drastic reduction in funds is of interest to both funds; he noted that 60% of SF-derived mitigation funds are used to purchase or upgrade habitat lands.

Monica Wilson said she came to the meeting representing GAIA, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives. {Secretary’s note: GAIA has an interest in efficient use of remaining permitted airspace for landfilling so as to forestall any need for waste burning as a disposal option.}

Dan Knapp recounted a little of his experience at the Illinois Recycling Association’s annual conference in Oak Brook, Illinois. The IRA, like NCRA, is a 501-C-6 nonprofit, and there was

more than a sprinkling of entrepreneurial types among the 200 or so attendees including some with substantial businesses. The conference is co-sponsored by SWANA (Solid Waste Association of North America), and the intellectual turf is divided into a SWANA track and an IRA track. Dan's presentation on zero waste transfer station design was on the IRA track, but he attended one notable SWANA track, where he learned that Hydrogen Sulfide gas is manufactured in large quantities in standard landfills that have accepted gypsum wallboard; that the H₂S is invisible, flammable, and highly poisonous; that it is heavier than air and pools in low spots; and that while it smells like rotten eggs at less than 300 parts per million, **in lethal concentrations it is not detectable by the human nose.** Hydrogen Sulfide gas can kill in minutes. He learned a lot more, too, but that's for another piece of writing.

MINUTES OF MAY MEETING: It was moved and approved unanimously to accept the May minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The new Treasurer, Chris Lehon, stated that he is still in "learning mode" after getting the NCRA checkbook from outgoing Treasurer Doug Anthony last month. He expects to have an income statement and a format for an annual budget by the next meeting. In the meantime, the current account balance is over \$40,000. Boone said that all of the checks that the Board approved at last month's board meeting had been cut, signed, and mailed. He recounted that the Board had spent time last year trying to figure out how much of our money was earmarked, and finally concluded that "we don't owe anybody anything".

Annie Leonard's Gratitude: Boone passed out two copies of Annie Leonard's new book "The Story of Stuff" and any boardmember was free to take one home; Ms. Leonard appreciated NCRA's donation of \$500 to her projects.

EAB Grant to Prepare NCRA Exhibition at AC Fair, 2011: Boone recounted that at previous meetings the board, led by Dan Knapp, had discussed preparing a trade show exhibit product that could be used at public events. On his own and with the Treasurer's agreement, Boone had prepared a proposal for the EAB mini-grant process in early May for \$2,000 that would pay our exhibition fees at the Alameda County Fair in 2010. The funds were granted in late May but Boone thought it was too late to try to rush through booth design and construction in 2010 (Fair starts June 23rd) and unilaterally decided to postpone any consideration of exhibiting until a later fair. Boone thought that the Board needed to decide to accept this grant with the understanding that the actual cost of preparing and assembling the booth materials would be NCRA's separate and capital expense. MSV to accept the funds and to begin planning what we would do. Boone said he would commence planning shortly.

GAIA Proposal: Boone announced that GAIA sought a cash donation from NCRA and wants to partner with NCRA. GAIA is also working on a partnership with the Teamster's Union under the banner of jobs from recycling. GAIA has gotten cash donations from three unions so far. With Tellus Institute, GAIA is working out a report that will show how many jobs are created at various waste diversion levels, focusing on a practical goal of 75% reduction to landfilling short-term. They are working on several case studies of different cities. One of these summarizes a program run by the San Francisco Department of the Environment showing how involving janitorial staff in planning and implementing recycling positively affects actual performance. The budget for this project is \$45,000; other donors have pledged the first \$40,000, leaving \$5,000 to go. Therefore, GAIA is asking NCRA to donate \$5,000 to the cause. They expect to complete and distribute the study by September.

Discussion: Gary Liss commented that the latest report by the State of California estimates that 25% of all green jobs are in recycling. Mary Lou moved to donate \$5,000 to GAIA for their project and it was seconded. Dan Knapp hoped that the Tellus/GAIA study would have some

commentary on how various institutional barriers can perpetuate wasting as a disposal option. Stephanie Barger said she thought just about everyone in Orange County is a member of the “Zero Waste Team” down there. Kevin Drew said it is very important to get the Teamster’s Union support. He cited Teamster’s support for AB 3222 as an example of the benefits from cooperation. The Teamsters have also been supportive of the SFDOE’s effort to move away from dependence on landfilling.

David Tam proposed a substitute motion to donate \$10,000. He says county staff really don’t want to approve the Potrero Hills expansion. He also cites the rise of a significant new collection of local interest groups in the form of Chambers of Commerce. These folks have realized belatedly that reuse and recycling and composting are businesses too, and that they can help the community by helping us. Mary Lou Van Deventer demurred, however, saying “\$10,000 would be 25% of everything we have in the bank”. She reminded everyone that NCRA was running at less than breakeven just one and one-half years ago. She said a donation higher than \$5,000 “makes me nervous”. President Boone agreed. The substitute motion was voted, and failed. It was then moved and voted to donate \$5,000 to GAIA to publicize its report on jobs and recycling.

Request for \$500 to support picketing at a pro-incinerator conference: President Boone asked for \$500 to offset expenses of some people who want to picket against incinerators at a Southern California conference of incinerator proponents. Dan Knapp suggested doing a skit in addition to or instead of picketing. Monica Wilson said Rick Anthony will have lots of people there in opposition. Gary Liss said local organizers have 500 people on a listserve that support zero wasting. Dan Knapp moved to spend the \$500 to send a delegation, but the motion died for the lack of a second.

President’s Report: Boone reported that the Zero Waste Advocacy Committee drafted and sent a letter to the Bay Conservation and Development Commission regarding NCRA’s opposition to the Potrero Hills landfill expansion. Boone said he expects that an impending software change may reduce the hours required to publish NCRA News and handle membership comings and goings.

Tam has been tracking Berkeley’s new RFP to study itself using an outside consultant. Two consultant teams are in the running for this \$75,000 contract. Both city worker unions were granted seats on the selection panel. He thinks the way the RFP was promulgated was a “breach of good procedure.”

NCRA’s Possible Role in the Proposed Switch from Altamont Landfill to Yuba County Landfill as a final burial place for San Francisco’s unrecyclable trash residue. (Secretary’s note: San Francisco’s trash has dropped from 1.5 million tons per year to 400,000 tons per year. This proposed change is for the 400,000 tons of residue and will probably not affect recycling directly.)

President Boone explained that this issue began bubbling up a week ago when John Moore suggested taking a half-hour of Board meeting time to discuss it. Boone agreed to a thirty minute time slot, after which he was contacted by Recology people asking for permission to attend and comment. After saying yes to Recology, he contacted Waste Management to invite their participation as well, since their landfill will be seeing a reduction in tonnage if the proposed actions are taken. He got no response from WMI by the meeting time, but Recology and others are here tonight. Since Boone wanted to participate freely in the discussion, and John Moore sometimes serves as a judge, he said he had arranged for John Moore to “preside over this topic”.

Mr. Moore started by citing “friction” between San Francisco and Alameda County over this issue. He said a succinct summary is that “the fewer dollars go to Altamont, the fewer dollars go to StopWaste of Alameda County”. A related issue for the landfill owner is that the Altamont Settlement Agreement precludes Waste Management from taking wastes from other jurisdictions to make up for the lost revenue and business. Mr. Moore told the Board that tonight we have with us only the proponents, City of San Francisco and Recology. He had hoped the Waste Management would be here, so that there might be more of a debate, but since one side did come, he said, then “let them start”.

Kevin Drew of SFDOE provided some background; the proposed change will be governed by a new contract between the SF Department of the Environment and Recology, that the contract is being vetted now, and that it is a “huge issue” internally. He thinks it is important for Alameda County and SF to meet regularly and often. He thinks many more meetings will be necessary. Moore asked for a “framework”, some guidance on what the main issues might be. Drew said everyone has to understand that while this negotiating goes on, news organizations are becoming interested. He said SF has put out numerous briefing reports over the last four years but no one really started tracking this issue until now. SFDOE is required to do an assessment every time the amount of permitted airspace for wasting is equal to less than 5 year’s capacity. A few years ago, SF estimated that they would reach that threshold in or about 2012, so they “got the process rolling” to decide what to do next. The question is “where will the next five years’ capacity be”? Papers they have already written include an assessment of the principle of seeking highest and best use, and explorations of other topics like mining old dumps and the extent and range of toxics in landfills. All this work “set the stage” for the current proposed change.

Starting in 2007, four public meetings covering “overarching issues” were held and a Request for Qualifications was issued in 2009. Three potential contractors responded: Waste Management, Allied Waste, and Recology. Allied Waste missed a mandatory meeting and was disqualified. In September 2009 the panel met to decide which of the two remaining potential contractors to use. They had created a scoring system for themselves to objectify judgements as much as possible by reducing them to numbers. Recology outscored Waste Management numerically, and was given exclusive right to negotiate a new contract for the next round of disposal capacity. Drew thinks the process will conclude sometime this fall. It will go to the Supervisors, who will craft a public process for review. He says there are “already some lawsuits” over the scoring.

Drew noted in passing that both companies scored high on environmental values and concerns, and that Recology won on price. In other words, Recology was substantially cheaper. He found it interesting that the two were so close on environmental factors. He said there will likely be a carbon fee, “more than the fee for Measure D”, that the contractor must collect if the company starts landfilling too much that is recyclable. Then, “money has to be paid in until the process is back on track”. Drew asserts there are “revolutionary” ideas about landfilling in this new contract, many of which have not yet been made public while negotiations continue. Drew thinks the operator should be solicited for “revolutionary ideas” as well and thinks that if SF ratepayers could change their wasting ways soon enough, then “maybe we won’t even need this contract”.

As for CEQA, the sequence will be first, get the contract completed and signed, then do the CEQA review. Gary Liss commented that a full CEQA report can sometimes be avoided if a negative declaration can be issued. But if a lawsuit seems possible, then CEQA review may be preemptively required. David Tam cited an additional state regulation that may be relevant, one that requires competition in cases where a single operator’s use of permitted space “exceeds 66% of unused daily landfill capacity”.

Robert Reed spoke for Recology. He said it “feels good to be here with people who care about zero waste.” As an employee-owned and -operated company, he said, Recology is full of people who feel the same about zero waste as we do. The company itself is motivated by service to the City. “If the City decides it wants zero waste”, he said, “then we do too”. “We provide services at city direction”, he said, “it’s as simple as that.” Since the city indicated it wanted to pursue a zero waste goal, he says, “we have made progress every year.” “We present discards as resources” by putting pictures of recyclables in 3-D on the sides of collection trucks. “We don’t see garbage”, he said, “we see paper, we see food, we see....” We focus on doing a good job with our composting. “We are interested in nutrient conservation.” Recology currently has 22 collection contracts in various parts of the state and they partnered with the California Product Stewardship Council and support EPR as a part of reducing waste. They train their employee-owners about source reduction and reuse. They think staff will train their customers once staff is confident they know the rules.

Mr. Reed asked rhetorically, “Where is the Yuba County landfill”? Using a new I Pad for prompts, he explained that the Recology landfill is situated on the Sacramento Valley floor on a “very flat, open area”. It is also remote; “they fly U-2s out of nearby Beale Air Force Base”, he said. He said it was the first Subtitle D-compliant landfill in Northern California, with a liner system layered 6 feet deep. He said it had double geo-membranes, all in all “a “very strong barrier”, The landfill is permitted for 3,000 tons per day, but it is currently receiving only 800 tons per day. He stated that shipping waste by rail is 3 times as efficient as shipping by highway. He said railhaul will reduce daily truck traffic up the 680 corridor past Livermore to the current landfill. San Francisco’s current waste stream will require three trains per week to make the trip north to Yuba County. Switching from truckhaul to railhaul will save about 1 million truck miles, and an estimated 100,000 gallons less fuel will be burned to get the waste where it can be buried. In summary, Mr. Reed said the Austin Road landfill is fully permitted, with 65 years capacity at current rates of fill. He says if this proposal goes through, that capacity will reduce to 61 years.

Mary Lou Van Deventer asked “Where is the groundwater”? Mr. Reed said it varies; sometimes it is as shallow as 35 feet below the surface. He said current regulations require a minimum separation of 5’. The unrecyclable residue that would come from San Francisco is “mostly quite dry”, he said. He believes that by 2015 it will be much dryer due to increased public compliance with compost collection requirements that now mix wet food with dry plant debris. Food is co-collected with plant debris, not mixed rubbish.

Van Deventer said she thought only the “worst stuff” would be in the residue, and then it would get wet before burial at times, so it would produce leachate. Mr. Reed said that the landfill has a leachate collection system, and that some leachate is being treated onsite while some is transported to the county’s sewage treatment plant. He thought what would go to landfill will change over time to be dominated by film plastics and painted wood and similar hard to recycle materials. He said the landfill does not knowingly accept hazardous materials, and they have put in place “upstream solutions” to capture troublesome materials like batteries. In the last analysis, he said, Recology wants to get out of the landfill business.

Laura McKaughan asked about methane capture, and cited a Waste Management estimate that WMI achieves 90% capture at Altamont. A Recology spokesperson responded that that “methane mitigation starts with removal of water and organics”. He believes that the materials from San Francisco will be so dry that they “will not generate much methane.”

Dan Knapp asked whether anyone could explain why the last attempt at railhaul failed. Rabanco built a railhaul facility near Vallejo and for a few years hauled garbage to northern Oregon. But then the railhaul stopped. Why? The explanation offered is that Allied Waste

acquired Rabanco, and, since they owned Keller Canyon Landfill in Contra Costa County, they switched from the Oregon fill to their close-in local one.

John Moore asked whether the Recology people would consider coming back to a NCRA forum on the issue, if the Board could get Waste Management to come too. The answer was no. Mr. Reed: “We stayed in the process, we won; now we don’t want to have to disrupt the process with a debate. Recology wants to communicate with you, NCRA”. Recology has posted a website where they plead their case to any who sign on. Moore said he was thinking of something like the judicial system, where everybody thinks he or she is right, and a system is set up allowing a detailed comparison. Recology again declined to participate in such an arrangement.

Mary Lou Van Deventer asked what Recology would like the Board most to remember about their presentation? Mr. Reed said he wanted NCRA to: 1) Recognize the City of San Francisco for its “good management” of this issue; 2) Consider the environmental benefits, especially the reduction in truck miles and fuel use; and 3) A corollary of Recology’s least-cost proposal is that additional dollars are made available for financing higher diversion, and they really believe in zero waste.

Arthur Boone said that NCRA was a party to Alameda County’s Measure D, which created a landfill surcharge fund that has strongly supported the growth of recycling in Alameda County. We “opposed landfill expansion, so we increased payments for landfill mitigation efforts”. Now NCRA’s Board needs to consider the fiscal impacts of this destination switch on programs we care about. “NCRA is in the business of protecting the environment too”. President Boone declared the end of public discussion, thanked the Recology people for their presentation, and said further Board discussion of the issue will be in closed session.

Zero Waste Advocacy Committee Report: Portia Sinnott passed out multiple copies of Paul Palmer’s book *Getting to Zero Waste* to all who wanted one. As to Solano County, David Tam noted that the Sierra Club and SPRAWLDEF have asked a judge to agree that his recent decision was defective in some details but John Moore thinks their motion is doomed to fail. The proponents of expanding the landfill there are running into opposition from BCDC but a decision will be made by August 5. Tam thought AR Boone was eloquent in his testimony on NCRA’s behalf in front of the Solano County Board of Supervisors. John Moore noted that a federal court case involving Waste Connections attacking Solano County’s Measure E, limiting waste imports, was dismissed in trial court and is now being appealed the federal circuit court; a decision is “a long way off.” Boone is working to stir up interest in the question of whether or not to burn biosolids; nothing yet to report.

On the legislative front, David Tam said that while he had not completed a legislative update, he was “thrilled” at passage of AB 1998, the plastic bag ban. It requires no plastic bags in big grocery stores by 2012, and none in convenience stores by 2013. Paper bags must be 40% postconsumer fiber. The proponents of AB 1998 need letters of support from recyclers now. The governor will support this one, and it looks like grocery stores are “on board”. Heal the Bay is a prime sponsor. Tam also said that AB 222 has been improved slightly by cutting a provision giving operators diversion credit for burning, but it still gives burning wastes “renewable energy” status. He cited a “sense of dread” that this may pass in its amended form. Californians Against Waste is actively opposed to AB 222, and the strategy is to keep it bottled up in Senate Committee processes.

Industry Support Committee: Suzanne Hibbs is absent, but she has lined up two tours: Steve Moore’s MRF for the July meeting, and the new Sunnyvale SMART station for September. The

NCRA picnic will be at Wildcat Canyon Regional Park in West Contra Costa County on Sunday, August 22.

Internal Affairs Committee: Boone said he has been looking for a person to replace him organizing NCRA's annual Recycling Update Conference and thinks Donnie Oliveira, who says he is willing, is up to the task. Oliveira said that he has handled big events while he was in Davis and once was in charge of a two quarter-long course where he brought in speakers, so he thinks he can get RU done as well.

Regarding the NCRA News Editor position, Boone reminded everyone that the June issue was the last under his four-month term as Editor and that there seemed to be an agreement between Mary Lou and Elizabeth Quinn that Portia Sinnott (who was one of the candidates when the editorship was advertised last year) would make an excellent next editor. Portia Sinnott said she was honored to have the job but noted that she is now overbooked and can't take on the editorship right now, so it was agreed that Boone will continue and deliver at least the July issue. There was no discussion about compensation for Boone in this interim period.

NCRA and RONA: Mary Lou Van Deventer brought up the question of whether NCRA should join Recycling Organization of North America. She said she has checked out their website, and it is "luscious". Nevertheless, the organization seems quite new. Discussion ensued. RONA was set up to take over from NRC; but NRC unexpectedly is still going, albeit in a greatly weakened state. RONA has no staff. Everyone who attends the Resource Recycling Conference on October 26 and 27 will have a chance to work on RONA. Another conference of reusers, Reuse Connex, is scheduled to meet in North Carolina one week earlier. One reason RONA is "waiting in the wings" to take over from NRC if it fails is that many do not want to see KAB become the voice of recycling nationally. David Tam proposed joining RONA at no more than the \$1,000 level, with the actual dues/contribution to be determined by whatever membership formula RONA uses. Portia moved to support David's idea. Doug Anthony seconded. Further discussion ensued, but the motion was tabled for action next meeting.

NCRA as an Exhibitor at League of California Cities' Annual conference: It was agreed that we did not want to do this.

The time becoming late, the matter of whether and how much to charge for NCRA News to be mailed in hard copy was deferred to the next meeting.

Going Into Closed Session on SF Garbage: Arthur Boone asked the Board if it wishes to take a position on the question of shifting San Francisco's garbage from a landfill in Alameda County to one in Yuba County; a general but brief discussion ensued that was not in closed session. John Moore responded that we don't have to do anything, since the contract is in process, and no action was asked of us. Oliveira said the process is moving very fast, and could be done by August. Tam said that the Altamont Settlement Agreement "limits the wasteshed". He sees the financial choice as one of known public benefits paid now versus unquantified benefits accruing to City and County of San Francisco if the switch happens. He doesn't want to "leave Alameda County in the lurch". He posed the question as one of "equity", asking that we look for a solution that "lets Alameda County down gently somehow". He thinks a larger question is "what will happen to the waste disposal industry over the next ten years?" John Moore expressed the thought that there are many issues, but there is not a sense that action by NCRA's Board is urgently needed now. Chris Lehon said he used to work for Recology. Diversion is incentivized internally by payment of bonuses to worker/owners. He praised Boone for bringing up the question "Where is the voice of the Yuba County residents?" Mary Lou Van Deventer said she has "no problem" with City and County of SF choosing what county takes their garbage. She says San Francisco is doing a "good job" with one of the highest

waste reduction rates anywhere. It's true that Alameda County will lose money, but so far she believes that the weaning-from-wasting process has been a good one. **Portia Sinnott** wants to take the ideas that will be floated in the Brain Trust meetings and apply them to this situation. She would like to organize a fall event around the general theme of whether landfilling is a "declining industry." Boone said "what I learned from the Recology/SFDOE presentation is that the main difference between the proposing companies was cost to SF ratepayers". Oliveira says he is neutral between the two companies, but that it would be counter-productive to repeat the bid process while it is proceeding well. He strongly advises waiting to comment until all the information is public. Tam agreed that having a debate is "not a good idea". A final comment by someone: "Recology is looking at mitigations for using Yuba County permitted airspace instead of Altamont".

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT: Boone said we would meet in July in Benicia at a small compost yard run by Contra Costa Landscaping before going to Pacific Rim at 4:30 p.m. Chris Lehon moved adjournment, Van Deventer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knapp, Secretary

Tam's Legislative Update

All the latest on NCRA's positions on current legislation. Download it here:
<http://www.ncrarecycles.org/news/2010/NCRA.ZWAC.LegReport.3Jul10.pdf>

CALENDAR:

July 15th: 3:00 p.m. Tour of CCL Organics/OrganicSolutions of Benicia.
4:00 p.m. Tour, dinner and meeting at Pacific Rim Recycling in Benicia.

August 22nd: 3-7 p.m. NCRA Summer Picnic, Wildcat Canyon Regional Park.

September 16th: 4:00 p.m. Tour, Dinner and Meeting at SMART Station in Sunnyvale.

September 27-29. Introduction to Recycling, Class in SF.

October 18-20. First ReuseConex Event, Raleigh, NC.

October 21st: 5:00 p.m. Tour of Campus California Clothes and Shoes Processing Operation in Richmond, California, followed by dinner/sharing and Board meeting.

October 26-28. First National Joint Recycling Meeting: RONA, NRC, and others. San Antonio, Texas.

Jan 23-26, 2011. 21st Annual US Composting Council, Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara, CA

Submissions for the next *NCRA News* are due Friday, August 6th at noon.