



**Henry McMaster**  
Governor

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Robert M. Hitt III**  
Secretary

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**10:00 AM – 11:30PM**

**Meeting ID: 959 5365 5639**  
**<https://zoom.us/j/95953655639>**  
**+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, BMW  
Tina Green, Mumford Industries  
Norman Chandler, Republic Services  
Dr. Andy Spicer, USC Darla Moore School of Business  
Kristen Brown, WasteZero  
Chris Fisher, GlassWRX SC

**ABSENT**

Bill Laursen, Universal Environmental Services  
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling  
Allison Brockman, City of Greenville  
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers  
Joseph McMillin, Atlas Organics  
Angel Lara, Southeast Recycling Resources  
Tyler Smith, Michelin  
Chad Prescott, Mid Carolina Steel  
Vic Carpenter, Kershaw County  
Ronnie Grant, Retired

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Retired  
Sherri Barnes, Okra Medical  
Harold Singletary, BrightMa Farms  
Jay Kramer, Economic Developer



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## **STAFF**

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce  
April Chaffins, SC Department of Commerce  
Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce  
Cynthia Davis, SC Department of Commerce

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Wes Westbrooks motioned to call the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes were not finalized due to a lack of quorum at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Wes Westbrooks** welcomed the guest and introduced the speakers.

### **Harold Singletary presented information on BrightMa Farms.**

Harold: We are South Carolina industrial hemp stakeholders and advocates for wellness, science enthusiasts, and innovators with a deep-rooted respect for nature — and we believe in its ability to bring us back to balance. We founded BrightMa Farms to provide the products, tools, and education that will lead us there. Together with our strategic partnerships, we will position a global footprint that will champion a circular economy with economic impact and development. In order to move forward, a systemic transformation needs to take place. We need to accelerate our efforts to develop infrastructure, shared visions, contextual understanding, motivational experiences, building knowledge, and spurring cooperation. BrightMa Farms and strategic partners will simplify the complex and make it accessible, desirable, tangible, and applicable.

BrightMa Farms is excited to partner with EdFarms and Apple Inc under their Racial Equity and Justice Initiative. EdFarm Propel Center will change the narrative and write a new story as we bridge the gaps with a HBCU focus! BrightMa Farms will help create the curriculum and build-out of the AgriTech Solutions program for Propel.

The Brightma “Big Vision” is to target every vertical of the US Hemp Market Industrial. They want to produce products for Clinical Research and Pseudo-Medicinal Cannabis Market and obtain the intellectual property to secure the Cannabis circular economy for Brightma Farms and Black American producers.

BrightMa will harness the technology in agriculture, horticulture, and aquaculture to improve yield, efficiency, and profitability. Develop agricultural technology products, services, and applications derived from the cultivation of industrial Hemp that will be used as advanced material technologies for various vertical applications.



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They are connected to all the 1890 Research Universities from Texas to Delaware. In addition, BrightMa Farms have collaborated with Clemson and SC State.

### **Sherri Barnes presented on Okra Medical.**

Sherri: Okra Medical is an innovation company committed to new methods for disposal or destruction to control substance waste. They were finding out what was going on with the opioid crisis and the industry. So, in 2019, they open up an office.

They began a clinical study for a home-use product. EPA focuses on the disposal of the drug, and DEA tracks the life span of the drug. They received a patent on this technology in 2020. Develop a technology that can destroy the drug molecule quickly onsite. Okra Medical's goal is to develop a technology that would eliminate that window of opportunity for diversion and eliminate many risks associated with the DEA & EPA compliance. The disposal side of things would eliminate the risk in the landfill environment of contamination.

In technology today, the drug does not destroy the molecule. The idea is to develop a technology that eliminates the medicine at the molecular level quickly and onsite. The most common thing used today for drug waste is a lockdown chamber. It takes the drug waste and puts it in a lock mechanism, and the device is transported to an incineration facility to destroy the medical waste. The process can take weeks or a month. In addition, studies have shown that the products in the acidic environment in the landfill can release the active drug molecule into the landfill environment.

They administered a lot of testing to ensure they could deliver a product that the customer could have confidence that the drug molecule is being destroyed and no risk that someone is putting into the landfill.

The future of drug waste management is to simplify the process of destroying the drug molecule. The goals are to reduce the risk, reduce the cost, and develop a platform that can adapt to each product. The product is fast and easy to use and has gone through a licensed EPA lab to ensure the legitimacy of the results.

They support any industry that handles controlled substance waste. Okra Medical can work with manufacturers, healthcare, government, animal care, and consumer products. Okra Medical has produced a product that could be dispensed with their prescription so the drug can be destroyed and placed in the standard garbage.

Sherri: Does medical or drug waste fall under the umbrella of RMDAC? Anna: Wanted to bring in RMDAC to have the conversation of medical waste. We need to bring DHEC into the conversation because local governments would be interested to see that there are other options for their communities to handle drug waste. Many people flush medicine down the toilet, and



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that becomes problematic with the waterways. Having Okra Medical here having the discussion is vital because RMDAC are ambassadors for taking information forward.

## **RMDAC UPDATES**

Mumford Industries Update - Plexiglass: Schools and governments are looking for ways to recycle plexiglass. Mumford found an end-user and starting to promote recycling plexiglass. Ina created a flyer, and DHEC has the information. Clients must remove all labels, metal hinges, and stickers from the plexiglass. Mumford Industries can take the material, it the must be ready to ship. Wes: Any other restrictions? Tina: No wooden frames and anything that is not plastic. They need to be stacked on pallets for shipping. Kristen: Will the shipping cost be covered? Tina: The preference is that the material is delivered. If the volume is significant, then the material can be picked up and fees can be adjusted. Kristen: What about doing a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drive? Working with businesses and local governments to get the material to a certain location. Tina: That's a great idea, have a central drop-off location for the collection of plexiglasses. Anna: Great idea, work with the local government to collect material at the HHW event. Kristen: Do an announcement in the newspaper and social media platforms. Statewide advertisement.

COVID Travel Restrictions: We are continuing the conversation about reentry. Sonoco still has travel restrictions. With CDC has new guidelines and hearing from traveling. Wes: As long as we are fully vaccinated and show our manager, we can move a little more. BMW relaxed the restrictions from face-to-face on-site visits. Travel must be submitted by written request. Travel request is on a case-by-case scenario. Tina: I have been busy this week over the last two months with Zero Waste visits. Kristen: Overwhelmed with business meetings. A big sustainability push and all projects are coming back online, and everyone is ready to start Zero Waste goals. Anna: Many companies are beginning to want to reach those sustainable goals, and the conversations are shifting. Wes: We should do a poll to get feedback on travel restrictions. Anna: We still have restrictions for overnight travel. In-person meetings are beginning to start and have more flexibility.

RMDAC Retreat: The retreat is on hold. Table the retreat Fall 2022. Keep the location intact to be in Beaufort with Chris Fisher.

## **DISCUSSION**

Policy and Media Updates: We had a very active legislation session. A few bills that DHEC has been watching. Pyrolysis bill expanding for gasification and depolymerization. Not sure if this Bill moved forward; because of incineration, the Bill might be on hold.



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The house Bill focused on the same thing but increased the incineration facility from 600 tons to 5000 tons per day. Both have been back with the American Chemistry Council. In addition, DHEC has been concerned about classifying the types of recyclers as manufacturers could end up stockpiling material, adding amendments for financial insurance.

Jana White mention the electronic bill – 2010 was revised in 2014, electronics can't go into the landfill – expanded. Legislation sunsets in December. The Bill has not passed but still active. There is a discussion about adding solar panel recycling to that legislation. Solar panels are a new issue, and the conversation about disposal is starting to happen more often.

A Bill was passed to protect the waterways. Pellets/Nurdles were getting into the waterways. The Nurdles Bill closed the loophole and making companies responsible for their waste. Tina: The resin will have an impact because it's a big stormwater issue. Stormwater control in those places. Anna: Absolutely, all waterways lead to the ocean. They are saying these pellets are showing up on our SC beaches. The Bill is taken action to stop the litter.

The [Post and Courier Article](#) mentions how single-stream recycling in Greenville was losing money. It also discusses how the City will continue its recycling program. Several RMDAC members (Tina, Wes, and Kristen) contacted Anna and asked about writing a rebuttal to the article. Jeff Swanson, the recycling manager, in Spartanburg is taking the lead and writing a rebuttal. It has not been stated when the article will go public.

Columbia Metropolitan, [Recycling's Second Act](#), article highlighted recycling as a whole and looked at the new market economy of recycling. The article was well written, and the journalist was very thorough.

DAK Americas is closing its doors. DAK Americas LLC (“DAK”) announced today its plan to close the Polyester Staple Fiber (PSF) manufacturing operations at its Cooper River Site, near Charleston, SC. It will have some implications on the plastic recycling industry. The decision follows an extensive analysis of the ability to be cost-competitive in the challenging PSF market.

Tires Representative: A few good candidates for a tire representative. I have reached out to our current representative and have not received an update. The first candidate, April Allen, with Centennial and also very active with the SC Manufacturers Association Board. Her background is from Columbia College.

The second candidate is Rick Joy. He is the Sustainability Ambassador at Michelin. He is also the chair for Sustaining Way, a non-profit that focuses on advancing sustainability. Clemson graduate.

The third candidate is Jason McSwain. He is the Director for the Environmental Health and Safety - Trelleborg Engineered Coated Fabrics. Wofford graduate. Background in Chemistry.



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Wes: What is your top pick? Anna: I think all three would be solid. They all have diverse backgrounds and able to bring excellent insight. Glenn: Are you committed to participate actively and engaged in the Council. It's essential to ask the question, will your schedule permit you to be actively involved in the Council? Anna: I agree. We must get someone to participate actively. Tina: I think April is going to be able to give more insight and feedback other than the tire industry. Anna: April has also participated with DHEC with the Waste Tire Committee.

CRA Recap: The Carolina Recycling Association (CRA) Conference was May 3-6, 2021. This year a Sustainable Business & Industry or (SB&I) Track was created that offered 9 hours of content for manufactures and businesses looking to advance their sustainable goals. The track was organized by the NC of Environmental Quality and SC Department of Commerce. The total views for the SB&I track session were 544. Our very own RMDAC Council member Tina Green participated in the New Frontiers for Recycling and Waste Reduction - the participants in this session were Mumford Industries, New River Tire, PowerHouse Recycling, and Rep. Zack Hawkins from NC. This session shared their experiences of companies within the Carolinas who have shifted or expanded their operational plans to serve a beneficial niche within the circular economy.

## **MARKET UPDATES**

Paper: OCC increased \$5 from \$95 to \$100 per ton. Mixed paper held at \$30 per ton. Sorted Office and Coated Book increased \$5 from \$110 to \$115 per ton. The forecast is for OCC to increase by \$10 per ton in June due to the upcoming holiday and vacation season. OCC Export markets seem to be slowing due to container booking difficulties, higher domestic demand and price increases in the US.

Glass: Clear glass \$20-\$25 per ton. Brown glass (clean) \$15 per ton. Green glass (clean) \$10 per ton. Mix colored glass, zero to negative \$15 per ton. Single-stream glass, negative \$40-\$60 per ton. The numbers don't include trucking cost. Hauling cost is going up.

Solid Waste: Landfill side volumes are up, and costs are up. Fuels price is up. 0.90 cents higher up than last year. Landfilling is getting more expensive.

Carpet: The demand for PET is on the rise. Nylon 66 is still in high demand, not a lot of material out there. If you have access to the material, please contact. Nylon 6 is still holding firm.

Plastics: Recyclers are busy. Resin shortage has made people aware of what they are throwing away.

Metal: Cooper hasn't increased nor decreased. Steel is up. Aluminum is up.



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Petroleum: Due to the pipeline shortages, the prices have skyrocketed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

April: An additional survey will be sent out to get input on the contamination definition for the Best Management Practices.

**ADJOURN**

The RMDAC board meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

The next RMDAC meeting July 15, 2021.