



**Henry McMaster**  
Governor

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Harry M. Lightsey III**  
Secretary

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 18th, 2023**  
**Continental- Sumter Plant**  
**10:00 AM – 1:30 PM**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, RMDAC Chair, BMW  
Tina Green, Mumford Industries  
Norman Chandler, Republic Services  
Dr. Andy Spicer, USC Darla Moore School of Business  
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling  
Elizabeth Morgan, City of Rock Hill  
Michelle LaRocco, Georgetown County  
Adam Padget, Green Energy Biofuels  
Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel  
Chris Fisher, Fisher Recycling  
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers  
Jay Spears, Continental

**ABSENT**

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Retired (Emeritus Member)  
Leslie Rodgers, Atlas Organics (Ex Officio Member)  
April Allen, Continental  
Jason Meredith, Continental  
Jurgen Dowling, Continental  
Stavros Polyzoidis, Continental  
Nicole Cuevas, Continental  
Joe Disher, Continental  
Eddie Cogdill, SC Department of Commerce  
Paul Buchenroth, SC Department of Commerce  
Carla Edwards, SC Department of Commerce  
Mark Hendrick, SC Department of Commerce  
Ellie Hayes, SC House of Representatives  
Ian Peters, BMW

**STAFF**

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce  
Allyson Barbier, SC Department of Commerce  
Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**



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Wes Westbrooks (Chair) motions to call the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

RMDAC and Guests make introductions.

## **MINUTES**

The May 16<sup>th</sup> RMDAC meeting minutes are approved.

**Jurgen Dowling welcomes guests and RMDAC to Continental.**

**Anna DeLage reviews the SC Scrap Tire Sustainability Coalition.**

- In 2022, SC Dept. of Commerce announced \$4.2 billion in investments from recycling companies
- The SC Scrap Tire Sustainability Coalition examined the \$2 to disposal fee for tire. Tires are banned from landfills.
- Two tire processors closed in 2015-2018 due to DHEC violations (Viva).
- In 2021 Representative Hixon led an effort to pass legislation that would crack down on processors that were working outside of DHEC guidelines.
- Secretary Lightsey kicked off a series of fall meetings with the S.C. Scrap Tire Sustainability Working Group hosted by South Carolina Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and Palmetto Pride. The coalition is a group of stakeholders dedicated to sharing knowledge, coordinating resources and working together to help South Carolina improve the safe and efficient end-of-life management of scrap tires.
- The SC Scrap Tire Coalition hosted several meetings in the Fall – Spring to discuss end of use tires. The Coalition has focused on fees, tire dumping, and market development.
- The cost to recycle tires has increased significantly and put a burden on the counties that are collecting this material.
- The risks of improper tire management are mosquitoes and fires.
- Majority end-of-life tires are used in tire derived fuel (TDF) and ground rubber tire applications.
- Jay Spears, We don't use a lot of rubber modified asphalt (RMA) in SC. We did one trial 15 years ago. The Department of Transportation (DOT) said it didn't work- Georgia uses it extensively, and California has mandated 100% on top layer. SC is a low bid state, and RMA is more expensive. Liberty Tire is one of the only haulers in the state. There is an opportunity to expand markets.
- Angel Lara, There is a method to recycle the steel from tires but right now most is going to landfill because it is combustible, and the steel mill does not want it.
- Nationally TDF processing has reduced over time and ground rubber is getting larger.
- The Recycling teams at the SC Department of Commerce is working with research team and global business development division to better understand the process.



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- This summer, DOT introduced a new spec that allows for rubber which can be GTR in the SAMI layer
- There is a \$150 cap for tires for local governments. A bill was filed last session by the Association of Counties to remove the cap.
- Woody Barnes is now the scrap tire coordinator for DHEC. He coordinates larger clean ups for tires and sends smaller ones to Palmetto Pride. He mentions that RMA has overtaken as the largest end market. Micronized rubber powder is best to source from the tires locally. Tires of new vehicles are not included in the fee

**Jurgen Dowling and Stavros Polyzoidis discuss the Continental Sumter Plant and sustainability at Continental.**

- Sumter Plant has over 1300 employees and focus on passenger tires.
- A big focus for Continental is an American made product.
- The Sumter Plant broke ground in 6/2012. It was a \$500M investment for both phases. Phase 2 started in 2022 and will be over by end of 2023.
- The plant has that manufactures silent tires utilizing a foam insert for Tesla called Conti Seal and Silent.
- The OEMs Continental supplies for are Nissan, Volvo, VW, Ford, Honda, GM, Subaru, and Hyundai.
- Plant is ISO 45001 certification and an Energy Star Partner.
- There is a heavy focus on green operations. They are focused on reducing power consumption. The goal is 20% reduction in m3/ton by 2030.
- Continental has a Bee Sustainable Campaign which includes an energy savings project. They have implemented flash steam recovery system to heat, rainwater harvesting, LED projects (74% LED in entire plant), and solar panel projects (solar panel walkway).
- Some of the other sustainability projects include:
  - installing a dishwasher to have reusable cutlery
  - recyclable packaging
  - liquid waste- reduced by 60% in 2022
  - reuse carbon black filter dust- planned for 2024
  - tire buy back event in October 2023
  - experimenting with dandelions to make tire rubber as natural rubber does not grow in

the US

**Other Business:**

- Leslie Rodgers notifies the Council that Generate Capital is downsizing, and Atlas Organics with no longer be hauling. Leslie will also be leaving Atlas.

**Market Updates submitted electronically**



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**Metal:** LME came off a low several weeks ago of 2130 trading around 2215. Aluminum Cans deliver to a mill .68-.70 cent/ .lbs.

**MSW:** Solid waste markets are steady. We do some decline in project work as companies are holding non-essential projects in limbo at this time.

**Paper:** We are seeing that all regions held with domestic demand softening but the market is in balance with supply and demand. The **current** forecast is the markets should hold around the \$60 - \$70 range for the remainder of this year.

July 2023 Baled OCC = \$60 per ton and Baled Mixed Paper = \$20 per ton

**Plastic:** PET market has been horrendous since July 2022. Virgin PET is long thus making PET Recycle near impossible. We are still running and recycling PET into pellet but from a business perspective should stop. Market will remain difficult for 2023 with many expecting a better 2024. Fiber Industries in Darlington, SC shutdown 180 million pounds PET virgin fiber assets in December 2022.

**Carpet:** Post-industrial Nylon 6 and 66 is going down. Still demand for post-consumer.

**Glass:** Clear flint is 30 to 44 per ton. Green is only 15 to 18 per ton. Brown only 12 to 15 per ton. Mixed glass is 7 per ton. Comingled is glass 0 plus trucking.

**Petroleum:** Overall, even with a lot of global macroeconomic factors, 2023 pricing has been fairly consistent compared to previous 2 years. We are expected to see a gradual rise in gasoline prices throughout 2023 and into 2024. In the Biofuels market, 2023 has been extremely volatile and downward trending due to a surplus of seed oils and lower than expected Renewable Volume Obligations set by the EPA. However, after a really bad 1st half of 2023, soy bean oil has rebounded from \$3.64 per gallon on June 1st to \$4.87 on July 18. This has helped raise biofuel feedstock pricing for now, but lower pricing is currently forecasted for 2024.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.