



**Henry McMaster**  
Governor

**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**Harry M. Lightsey III**  
Secretary

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 27th, 2023**  
**York County Material Recovery Facility**  
**10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, RMDAC Chair, BMW  
Tina Green, Mumford Industries  
Norman Chandler, Republic Services  
Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling  
Elizabeth Morgan (Proxy Kevin Richardson), City of Rock Hill  
Michelle LaRocco, Georgetown County  
Adam Padget, Green Energy Biofuels  
Chad Prescott, Mid-Carolina Steel  
Chris Fisher, Fisher Recycling  
Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers  
Jay Spears (Proxy Anna DeLage), Continental

**ABSENT**

Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel  
Andy Spicer, University of South Carolina

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Emeritus  
Alysen Woodruff, York County  
Cynthia Davis, SC Department of Commerce  
David Swenson, York County Economic Development  
John Daniels, SC Department of Commerce  
Mark Hendrick, SC Department of Commerce  
Representative David O'Neal  
Representative Randy Ligon  
Senator Michael Johnson  
Stephanie Johnson, York County  
Steven Williams, York County  
Troy Smith, York County

**STAFF**

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Wes Westbrooks (Chair) motions to call the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.



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## **INTRODUCTIONS**

RMDAC and Guests make introductions.

## **MINUTES**

July minutes will be approved at November meeting.

### **David Swenson welcomes RMDAC and guests to York County.**

- Swenson discusses how recycling is important to manufacturing and recent investments in recycling and green industries in the state. A car recycling company coming to the area will bring 48 jobs, clean up junk yards, and bring important materials back into the market place.

### **Anna DeLage gives an overview of RMDAC and its activities.**

- B2B Sustainability Matchmaker with Sustain SC and Commerce- Oct 25<sup>th</sup>
- Reviews the recycling market development team success stories.
- Shows who is on RMDAC and goes over council mission statement
- RMDAC 2022 Annual Report Recommendations
- Active Legislation:
  - Decrease capital investment in recycling facility from \$300 million to \$100 million to qualify for tax incentives
  - Association of Counties has introduced a bill to eliminate \$150 cap on tire collection for counties
- Goes over Recycling Markets Directory and Materials Exchange
- Highlights RMDAC activities an past meetings 2022-2023
  - Palmetto Synthetics
  - CMC
  - Continental

### **Q&A w/ Distinguished Guests**

- Representative Ligon- Chester is booming with economic development- E&J Gallo, Albemarle (have plans for recycling lithium in phase 2)
- Senator Johnson- Was at York County MRF the day it was dedicated. Where is the demand for recycled products? He does not have access to recycling curbside.
- Representative O'Neal- Former Mayor of Tega Cay says they stopped recycling plastic because of York County MRF stopped taking material. Economics of recycling are dynamic.
- Steven Willaims and Alysén Woodruff address the misconception that York County MRF stopped accepting plastic. This never happened. They do not accept glass because it is a contaminate and the MRF cannot handle it. They deal with a lot of misinformation and this is a big challenge for them.
- Council members discuss challenges in the industry.



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- Consistent recycling messaging in our state is a priority for the council. This can be done by bringing private industry and counties coming together.
- Glenn Odom says biggest mistake our state made in residential recycling was going single stream. Clean stream brings the most value.
- Kevin Richardson says separating at the source during collection is very laborious and intense for workers. Cost has also increased across the board in the last several years for new equipment.
- Europeans separate their recycling because they don't have space for landfills, whereas in the West we have.
- Brad Dutton suggests we put plastic or rubberized in our roads. The material lasts longer than traditional asphalt. Requiring the lowest bid for state procurement may shortchange this opportunity.
- Carol Gilchrist discusses Project Horizon and Sonoco's need to capture more cardboard, and their commitment to sustainability. Project Horizon was initiated, in part, to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of Sonoco's 100-year-old Hartsville Mill Complex, at which the Company produces almost one-third of its U.S. and Canadian URB. The introduction of the new operation is projected to drive \$30 million in annual cost savings by 2024 and will ensure the mill remains globally competitive.
- This launch also marks Sonoco's move to 100% recycled fibers in the Hartsville Mill Complex, which eliminated the manufacturing complex's virgin pulp processing and chemical recovery operation. This conversion to 100% recycled fiber is expected to reduce electricity consumption, driving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and total water use—advancing Sonoco's long-term sustainability commitment.
- Odom- All the carpet going to Wellman Plastics is coming from out of state.
- Williams says at times the price of virgin plastic is out competing recycled plastic which makes it difficult for the MRF
- Adam Padgett discusses Green Energy Biofuels issues with oil thieves which are costing them 10% of their revenue. Hired a lobbyist to make it a felony rather than a misdemeanor. Blythewood High School has an 8-week biodiesel program that will cost 50k- school needs funding.

**Other Business:**

Michelle LaRocco will be leaving the council and Georgetown County to work for Cirba Solutions. She says farewell to the council.

**Market Updates submitted electronically**

**Metal:** Aluminum LME 2325 UBC's .73 cents/.lb del mill.

**MSW:** Volumes have declined somewhat at the landfills however MRF volumes are up. The zero to landfill expense has risen significantly and in some cases companies are revisiting waste to energy opportunities.

**Paper:** OCC = \$80 per ton

Mixed Paper \$30 per ton

High Grade - Sorted Office Paper/Coated Book = \$145 per ton



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October pricing will come out on the 5<sup>th</sup> and we anticipate a \$5 - \$10 per ton increase in OCC, due to increased export movement to store up for their holiday season and typical US 4<sup>th</sup> quarter holiday generation.

**Plastic:** PET market prices are pushing higher due to oil price. With higher virgin price, recycling will get better. Market is still slow with certain markets slow Automotive and Furniture. PET recycling will be hindered with the Auto strike thus stopping production if it last more than a month. There is a large push to increase the amount of recycle PET used in textiles and the focus is turning to the Brands to make this happen. Today 14% recycle is used by clothing brands. With the push to increase recycle content will put added pressure on good quality PET bottle flake.

**Carpet:** Nylon 6 and Nylon 66 price are both down in price. PP Price is down. Still no market for PET Produced from Post Consumer Carpet

**Glass:** Clear clean cullet is 60.00 per ton. Green clean cullet is 30.00 per ton. Brown clean cullet is 15.00 per ton. Mixed clean Tri color is 10.00 per ton. Single stream glass is cost of trucking & disposal.

**Petroleum:** Retail gas prices have dropped slightly over the last month. Average price per gallon in the US as of 10/2/23 was \$4.05 per gallon. US Diesel prices had a slight uptick with an average of \$4.59 per gallon. Crude oil has also had its steepest drop since March of 2023 with WTI Crude oil valued at \$88.81 per barrel as of 10/2/23.

## **ADJOURN**

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 AM.