

CORC Board Monthly Call
9/11/2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Attendees: Matthew Cotton (co-chair), Hilary Ganz (co-chair), Clark Ajwani, Kimberly Cook, Will Bakx, Janette Hana, Deepti Jain, Lindsey Lagos, Nick Lapis, Caitlin Lelles, Mary Lindemuth, Jack Macy, Dan Noble, Teresa (Last Name), Kim Scheibly, Judith Silver, Karen Stern, and Michele Young

Agenda

Minutes from last call – Additions/corrections – Approved without exception

Minutes are automatically posted to the website if no one has additions/corrections following the meeting.

Old Business: None

New Business

CRRA Conference Download – Matt led discussion about CRRA conference. While virtual, it was good to hold. Discussion about the technical challenges. Attendees were understanding of the challenges. Big Marker feature got mixed reviews. People liked the breakout room feature. Liked the live comments – NCCRA was popular. CORC had a lot of content at conference. Set the bar high with our content.

Michele Young – is CRRA going to push content out for a fee. Can CORC help promote it? Mixed reviews on the after-the-fact viewing. Most agreed there isn't much appetite to view after the fact. Although Kimberly Cook noted later in call, she views many conference recordings. The Compost Marketing session was recognized as a good one for someone new to industry.

A summary of sessions, attendees and questions is forthcoming.

COVID Discussion - Matt mentioned S. CA MRF that is still closed because of lack of social distancing. Michele Young talked about bulky clean up and the brush clean up events. Not a good infrastructure for collecting green brush. Fires also generating food waste when cleaning out refrigerators after evacuations and power outages and going to landfills. Need a better infrastructure to capture these organics for composting.

Fire Cleanup Discussion - Will Bakx recommends CORC engage the fire discussion. CalFire & CalRecycle should use compost and mulch in its cleanup should use compost and mulch to prevent erosion. Marin County and Sonoma County have fire safe initiatives. Matt suggests a subcommittee. Kim Scheibly and Will Bakx will work on subcommittee. Nick Lapis – bill passed a year ago, CalRecycle was directed to coordinate with agencies to increase use of compost and mulch.

Committee Reports

- **Education, Training and Workshops (H. Ganz, J. Macy, M. Cotton)** Positive feedback on Caltrans workshops. Lunch & Learn for landscape architects on WELO and fire prevention seem like a great opportunity for CORC. Will suggested PG&E be a partner in lunch & learn. Matt noted we haven't done CORC workshop in a while. CORC survey could provide additional topics.

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- **Policy and Legislative Issues (N. Lapis, N. Edgar, M. Cotton)**
 - Legislative Session Recap – Legislature ended a week ago. Circular Economy bill did not pass – 4 votes short. Would have passed if more time.
 - AB 2287 – compostable plastics labeling passed. Marine bio-degradable prohibited. CalRecycle given authority to identify false marketing of compostable plastics.
 - SB 1383 Regulations – basically complete, not sure what the holdup is now.
 - SB 1335 – State purchasing of compostable plastics – only buy from CalRecycle approved list. Lots of conversations with manufacturers to list products that have been field tested. List will become the standard for jurisdictions across the state and what can be sold in CA.
 - **Will Bakx** asked if this means compostable plastics will be forced on composters. He opposes single use plastics. Biobags recognized for collecting food scraps as long as NOP approved. SB1335 will help narrow accepted compostable plastics.
 - **Mary Lindemuth** – when we accepted compostable food ware, it was highly contaminated, very little food. Does accepting compostable food ware drive food collection?
 - **Jack Macy** – compostable fiber has the problem of PFAS. We’ve moved paper cups to recycling. Reuse is preferable but this will take time. COVID has increased volume of compostable packaging. ASDM Standard shows that compostable plastics break down over time. This a complicated issue.
 - Recology Ballot Measure – wasn’t discussed
 - Statewide Commission on Curbside Recycling and Marketing – 17-member commission. One charge is achievement SB 1383 goals – Eric Postasner (Recology) is chair of SB 1383 subcommittee. Nick is member and encourages everyone to send him suggestions. Another discussion area is the definition of compostable plastics.
 - BAQMD announced research into compostable plastics. **(M. Cotton)**
 - CalRecycle is investigating VOCs at composting facilities. **(M. Cotton)**
- **Communications (M. Lindemuth)** – Mary will upload minutes to website.
- **New Member Outreach (K. Scheibly)** – Brief survey sent to conference attendees. Kim will summarize and report on survey results at October meeting. Matt mentioned interest of new members based on attendees at CORC sessions and how to engage them. Mary recommended using CORC lunch attendee list to invite to workshop. Needs further discussion.
- **SWANA Conference (K. Cook)** – scheduled for Sept. 18 - topic is composting. Encourages everyone to attend.
- **Retreat Planning (M. Cotton)** – Typically held at Stopwaste in October but COVID prevents this gathering. Ran out of time to discuss retreat alternatives.

Next meeting: October 9, 2020, 10:00am - 11:00 am

Potential Topics:

Officer election & 2021 Budget required by CRRRA by-laws.

Minutes submitted by Karen Stern, Sept. 11, 2020