**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**

**Thursday, November 2nd 2023**

**Lowcountry Fresh Market & Café**

**10:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, RMDAC Chair, BMW

Tina Green, Mumford Industries

Norman Chandler, Republic Services

Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling

Kevin Richardson, City of Rock Hill

Adam Padget, Green Energy Biofuels

Chris Fisher, Fisher Recycling

Jay Spears, Continental

Angel Lara, Mid-Carolina Steel

Andy Spicer, University of South Carolina

Ed Marr, City of Myrtle Beach

**ABSENT**

Brad Dutton, Dutton Polymers

Chad Prescott, Mid-Carolina Steel

**GUESTS**

Glenn Odom, Emeritus

Charlie Stone, Beaufort County Economic Development

Ross Taylor, Seaside Grown

Cindy Rolfe, Lowcountry Fresh Market & Café

Chef Duane Copeland, Lowcountry Fresh Market & Café

**STAFF**

Anna DeLage, SC Department of Commerce

Allyson Barbier, SC Department of Commerce

Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

The Chair welcomes guests.

**MINUTES**

July and September minutes will be approved later this afternoon.

**Anna DeLage gives an overview** **of recycling industry impact in SC**

* $13.6 billion economic impact
* spotlight on Redwood Materials investment
* overview of Don’t Waste Food SC
* Food is the #1 item thrown in the landfill and the potential for recovery is tremendous

**Ross Taylor gives an overview of Seaside Grown**

* fifth generation farmer
* products were launched in 2018, taking red tomatoes they would have been left on the vine and sending them to production of value-added products
* buying bottling/packing company from family- this market is growing very fast
* products are bottled in their own co-packing facility, The Frogmore Bottling Company.
* looking at other co-packing opportunities (peaches, tomatoes, greens, berries)
* - working with farmers throughout the state- bottling produce that would otherwise been thrown away- use to throw those tomatoes away- farmers typically waste 50% of their crop
* waste truck moves 10,000 lbs everyday- ability to move fast is challenging – you need to process immediately because the tomato is ripe on the vine
* The US is becoming more reliant on other countries for produce- national security issue
* peaches, tomatoes, greens, berries
* can help bring in companies outside of SC so they can help these products get to market
* looking for 100,00 sq ft, currently at 6,000 sq ft
* mission of Seaside Grown is to support local farmers
* everything is handpicked- helps with marketability
* looking for potential CPGs to partner with that offr sustainable packaging
* more storytelling of their value-added products from Dept of Agriculture would be helpful

**Charlie Stone gives overview of Beaufort County Economic Development and investments in the area.**

* mission statement includes being respectful to environment
* looking for industry that is appropriate for the community – sustainability is a big piece of this
* They are proud of their landing pad program as a tool to recruit new business
* first tenant in landing pad was Skydrive
* Harris Pillow, Glass WRX, Burnt Church Distillery are a few companies they are working with in the recycling space
* Beaufort County Economic Development works with the recycling team to support manufacturers in recycling more material in their area

**Cindy Rolfe gives an overview of Lowcountry Fresh Market & Café.**

* est. in 2021
* connected with local farmers through Beaufort County Economic Development
* promoting local food/farmers through store- \*85% of food comes from SC- sold millions of dollars of product from local and regional farmers
* employees are paid a livable wage, that has not been easy
* managers have 401ks and healthcare
* weren’t enough grocery stores to showcase the local food opportunities, they wanted to offer that service to the community
* take a truck up to St Helena once a week to replenish product- also farmers come to store
* ask farmers what they need to sell to make money
* looking for a composting option
* recycle cardboard and have solar panels and would like to do more

**The Council will continue a strategy session at the Don Ryan Innovation Center**

**Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC) Meeting**

**Thursday, November 2nd 2023**

**Don Ryan Innovation Center**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**RMDAC**

Wes Westbrooks, RMDAC Chair, BMW

Tina Green, Mumford Industries

Norman Chandler, Republic Services

Carol James-Gilchrist, Sonoco Recycling

Kevin Richardson, City of Rock Hill

Adam Padget, Green Energy Biofuels

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Ashley Jenkins, SC Department of Commerce

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

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

The Chair welcomes guests.

**MINUTES**

The July 18th and September 27th meeting minutes were approved.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Board votes to remove Q&A with Distinguished Guests from morning schedule. Motion was approved.

**Market Updates:**

**Tires**: EPR program has been mandated for the state of Connecticut; first program in the US.

**Petroleum**: Low is Charleston sub $3 a gallon, (ask adam for the update)

**Solid Waste**: 3rd quarter earnings per share have gone up, volumes tend to be steady

**Carpet:** Nylon 6 & 66 Post industrial has come down, post-consumer is steady and not getting enough volume

**Glass**: has remained the same.

**Paper:** cardboard is at $90 a ton, went up 1$0 since September- forecast is to go up another $10, new paper mills coming online and they have export markets, mixed paper is coming up $35 a ton, SOP- $140

**Metal-** steady market, inbound market has decreased because manufacturing activity has gone down

Recycling industry in general: business owners are struggling with taxes, insurance expenses

**Anna DeLage reviews the 2022-2023 RMDAC Year**

* RMDAC has engaged with leaders across the state this past year Palmetto Synthetics, North Augusta MRF, CMC Steel, Continental Tire, York County MRF
* Chair and Vice Chair were able to meet with the Lt. Gov to discuss 2022 recommendations
* Legislative Day 2023
* B2B Matchmaker
* SC Scrap Tire Sustainability Coalition

**Anna DeLage reviews bylaws and guiding principles.**

* comment is made to call out recycling challenges in RMDAC annual report
* DHEC is splitting up, recycling will stay go to Department of Environmental Control
* DHEC recycling identified six priorities with SWIFR Grant
  + Waste characterization study
  + Be Battery Smart DHEC
  + Updating of state plan
  + Don’t Waste Food SC
  + DHEC creating Recycle Right SC App
  + C&D- DHEC is looking to add C&D to MSW measurement

**Anna DeLage reviews priorities to for RMDAC for 2024.**

* advanced energy- recycling lithium-ion batteries
* tire recycling market development
* recommendations to the general assembly

**Anna DeLage reviews priorities council voted on through survey.**

* expand tire recycling markets in SC
* engage stakeholders to expand lithium-ion battery recycling- lack of education and infrastructure
* research active legislation in SC and other states
* What can we do better as a council? – more meetings for planning and less with local delegation

**Council engages in SMART exercise to create a strategy for the top three priorities over the next five years.**

* Lithium-ion Battery Infrastructure

1. Engage and convene stakeholders
2. Add a lithium-ion battery rep to RMDAC
3. Participate in Be Battery Smart Campaign

* Tire Market Development

1. Gather relevant information about tire recycling across states (and countries)
2. Develop a holistic plan that RMDAC agrees with and passes

* Research Active Legislation/Reevaluate Recommendations

1. RMDAC will develop a committee that will oversee the RMDAC Recommendations for 2024
2. Committee will research market development grant program for the recycling companies/private sector
3. Committee will communicate recommendations to full board

**Retreat 2024 locations**

* November is a bad time of year because of budgeting. September for retreat would be better.
* Location ideas BMW, Darla Moore School, Boeing

**Adjourn: 4:10**