

## Discussion Summary for November 1, 2006 Meeting

A welcome was extended to our newest member- Erin Gold of Goodwill.

Minutes from meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

US Mayors City Recycling Challenge (Cans for Cash) project was discussed. According to the info provided by Baker and Wise and the LFUCG Recycling Center, 105,000 pounds of aluminum beverage cans were recycled during the contest period in Fayette County. This is equivalent to 3,780,000 cans using a conversion factor of 36 cans to a pound. It was noted that our recycling numbers went up during the two-week contest period at the LFUCG Recycling Center and at Wise compared to the prior two weeks but dropped at Baker. Baker has indicated they double-checked their numbers and could find no reason for the drop. The LFUCG Recycling Center processed 44,000 pounds (our totals went up by 4,000 pounds) worth approximately \$33,000 dollars (at rate of 75 cents per pound). Tom Gregory noted that the Boy Scouts had passed out clear plastic bags & collected approximately 1,000 pounds worth of cans at the last UK home football game but he did not think these got turned in during the contest period. Tom Webb noted that the Stu's News FCPS publication had an article promoting the contest in the packet. Tom Webb requested the Team review the draft media release about the contest numbers in the packet and get suggested revisions to him by Friday so he could finalize the release. An additional release will be done if we win any awards for numbers of cans recycled or for having an innovative marketing campaign when the US Mayors Conference announces winners on Nov 15th. November 15 is National Recycling Day. Tom will send final to LFUCG-PI, Anna to UKPR & FCPS. Dr. Das requested that Tom send him electronic version of the finalized media release so he could also distribute it. He also suggested we encourage the contest to adopt a pounds per person award. He stated Bowling Green competed in the contest and recycled approximately \$75K worth of cans.

Dr. Das relayed that he had spoken with Ben Crutcher (UK) who told him that the new residence halls have aluminum Rosies; Tom Gregory said several have new Rosies, some have older Rosies, and the new dorms have aluminum can containers and other recycling containers. Dr. Das requested more recycling containers be placed beside vending machines at UK. Tom said that many machines dispensed plastic containers (as opposed to cans) and most folks did not actually drink the beverages in the vicinity of the vending machines so he did not believe this action would increase recycling rates very much. Tom said they have 250 recycling containers in place now at UK.

Tom Gregory recommends “LFUCG Recycling Center” be used when referring to the facility on Thompson Road as opposed to “Lexington Recycling Center” since “Lexington Recycling” was formerly the name of a local recycling company. Barry Prater confirmed that the rights of this name are still held by Central Kentucky Fiber and affiliated companies even though the name is not being used presently. Richard Boone said that the LFUCG facility is also referred to as the “LFUCG Material Recovery Facility.”

Barry has identified boxes and bags for recycling cans that could possibly be used for next year’s contest– we could probably distribute them through Bluegrass PRIDE and create more collection sites. Bill Clarke said he was at an event where Rumpke had supplied containers that were particularly well suited to recycling at outdoor events but he has not been able to run down any info about these specific containers.

Dr Das said he would like to suggest that we use the approach taken on Lexington’s Indoor Air Ordinance to increase recycling rates. He suggested we emulate Elaine Hahn (UK’s Smoke Free Lexington) approach– taking an academic study and using it to positively influence public policy – how can we do that? He felt that one of the keys was that she regularly met with Lexington Herald-Leader editorial board. It was noted that the Partnership (specifically the Outreach Team) would like to have a regular column in the paper. It as pointed out that one of the reasons the smoking issue got so much press may have been that it was viewed by some as controversial.

conferences in Lexington and Louisville (EQC and Governor’s Conference)

Esther gave an update on Bluegrass Pride projects they are undertaking in cooperation with the LFUCG Dept of Public Works. They now have 40 Fayette County schools signed up to participate in recycling program. Finishing dumpster dives in all 40 schools; a lot of the schools participating have not been recycling thus far; they are measuring by poundage and percentages and will share with the team. The BCTC dumpster dive for half a day showed 600+ pounds of refuse, half of which was recyclable – they are now promoting recycling efforts and hoping to decrease the twice a day dumpster servicing – will follow-up with another dumpster dive in April or May. Esther is working with apartments and restaurants. Currently has 4 apartments signed up and 4 pending as well as 18 or 19 businesses. Anna suggested that Esther email list of businesses to Anna to present to Business Lexington editor for a news article. Steve Feese noted challenges with container sizes and space at some locations. Esther noted language barriers with heavily Hispanic apartment complexes can impede recycling.

Steve Feese gave update on LFUCG Solid Waste activities. Steve noted planning for the LFUCG HHW facility is ongoing. Currently working with architects and information gathering re HHW. The intent is to

build a green facility. Also briefed Team on the recently completed Solid Waste study prepared by an outside consultant. In the study, consultant suggested that: mandatory recycling be considered; that services should be provided to all businesses (LFUCG does not currently provide waste or recycling service to many large generators e.g., Wal Mart, Lexmark, etc.). They felt that either services should be provided to the businesses or the businesses shouldn't pay for services they are not receiving. There was also some discussion of charging for solid waste services based on volume of waste picked up.

Steve noted the (residential) electronic scrap drop-off event held the first week in October (Oct 2-7) went well and we collected in excess of 100,000 pounds of electronics. This led into a discussion on reuse potential for computers that we collect.

Tom Webb informed Team that he and Steve Feese met on site with Tracy Roterman of Connect Kentucky to discuss computer reuse possibilities subsequent to last Team meeting. Tracy had expressed an interest in machines that have a Pentium 3 or better hard drive and that many of the machines we now get from residents are Pentium 3 so the potential for reuse is there. Under the Connect Kentucky program, the machines are refurbished at the Leestown Road correctional facility in Lexington and then given to eighth graders that cannot afford a computer. They have existing agreements with software companies regarding licensing. Tom felt that they could not use all the computers we get- just a portion.

Erin stated that Goodwill is active in computer recycling across the country and is very interested in establishing a robust local program to reuse and refurbish computers as well as sell computer parts. She said Austin Texas has a very active program along this line and they process several truckloads each day. The Goodwill program would also be used to teach job skills to their workers.

We also discussed whether Central Kentucky Computer Society or Tubby's Clubhouse should be involved in this effort.

Decided to pursue following actions: confirm other interested parties (e.g. Goodwill, Tubby's Clubhouse); set up an ad hoc team of people who want to work on computer issues (Erin, Garry, Bill volunteered to serve on this Team and we will also contact Rudy Kruse in Parks and Leanna Martin in IT); won't try to reuse computers from Jan 07 event but will survey residents during January event to identify number of Pentium 3 computers we get as well as to whether they support reuse. Our initial goal (hope) is to have something in place to capture and re-use computers by the April 07 collection event. Rudy Kruse at Parks (Picadome) about whether or not Tubby's Clubhouse should be included.

Erin said that on Nov. 18th Goodwill will be hosting a hundred teenagers for a how-to recycling project with their environmental engineer and computer person; also showing remanufacture of clothing, shoes, etc.;

Potential to reuse unwanted cell phones was discussed. Tom Webb noted that very few cell phones were collected during the October electronics recycling event and the ones that were dropped off were older models and appeared to have little if any value. Erin said Goodwill does recycle cell phones and she believes they get \$1.00 for each phone- she was unsure if Motorola was paying Goodwill for these or another company. It was noted that it may be possible to increase volume if we specifically focus on promoting cell phone recycling during future collection events.

Tom Webb and Anna briefed Team on Partnership Steering Committee activities. Committee is currently drafting bylaws to give the organization more structure and to better define what it means to be a Partner. The bylaws may include criteria for partnership. In draft form there are bronze, silver, and gold partnership levels which are based on the number of environmental projects the organization performs (the projects would be of the organization's choosing). The results of the environmental projects would then be reported to the community to show our progress. A one-page agreement of support to avoid "diluting the value of the partnership" may also be required. It was noted the Partnership has evolved as we go and the bylaws should help ensure all the Partners make meaningful contributions. The draft bylaws also contain language about meeting attendance/participation and the responsibilities of the Steering Committee.

Opportunity for the Partnership to participate in planning for the 2010 Equestrian Games was discussed. Jack Kelly of FEI addressed the Steering Committee at last meeting. He wants BPGC to help make the games "greener", which will make for a greener community after the games. If we are successful, it gives the Partnership more visibility, creates more contacts, and may establish the Partnership as the premier local environmental organization in Fayette County. If we do not participate, the "vacuum" will likely be filled by other groups, since they plan on having over 100 committees. There are lots of waste management issues and it would likely take a significant amount of work. They have asked the Partnership for a green policy such as the Olympics' policy; this could address issues such as carbon credits, mass transit issues, biodegradable food service ware; purchasing synergies; building design; etc. Tom Webb noted that the FEI was not yet a Bluegrass Partner but he anticipated the Steering Committee would extend an invitation to the FEI to join since this would likely facilitate our involvement with the Games. Tom Gregory suggested we also extend an invitation to the Horse Park itself to join the Partnership. Steve Feese stated that the LFUCG is going to be heavily involved and Steve

thinks getting the Partnership involved on the front end could better allow us to positively influence the Games.

Tom noted the LFUCG had joined the Energy Star Change a Light Campaign and asked citizens to change incandescent bulbs to fluorescent bulbs to save energy.

Tom noted there was an EPA Resource Conservation Challenge (solid waste) grant possibility in the packet with an application deadline of Nov 15. It is too late for our Team to develop a grant application but maybe we could next year. Dr. Das stated SECAT may submit a proposal this year to increase recycling.

It was noted that there was info in the packet for the Nov 29 and 30 Governor's Conference on the Environment and the EQC Meeting on November 13. Both will be worthwhile if members can attend.

Next meeting date and location: Wednesday December 13 at 1:30 at McConnell Springs.

--Tom Webb