



North Coast Co-op  
Earth Action Committee (EAC) Minutes  
November 15, 2016 – Ten Pin Building Mezzanine, Arcata

EAC Members present:

Melanie Bettenhausen, Dave Feral, Collin Fiske, and Kala Eichamer (notetaker).

Member-Employees present: Duncan Thomas, Derick Powell, Erik Sharp

At 5:30 the meeting is called to order and introductions.

Agenda Review: Discussion included: Remove Roger and John from Agenda, approved.

**Consensus reached to approve the October 18 minutes.**

Presentation by Derick Powell and Erik Sharp:

They recently attended a Zero Waste Business Certification course where they learned how to create a score card for our business. Why pursue certification? They have a solid foundation, would be a third-party certification. ZW=reduce, reuse, recycle. ZW economy is a full cycle system, which creates demand for new manufacturing systems. Up and down stream this creates new jobs.

Other businesses using this certification: Yellowstone National park warehouse, Disneyland food courts. These are examples of how some businesses choose to certify only one department or building in their organization. Possible benefit, save money for example baled cardboard could be stockpiled and could create funds for group composting.

Why chose to pursue certification? They have marketing on their website would promote our business, we get certificate stickers to post at the stores. We would also have to become a member of the Zero Waste business council, which would be an additional fee.

We are already at 85% of what we can do to meet the 90% requirement. We were able to increase recycling by contacting Eel River Recycling, they now accept more types of plastics. Also we are reusing pallets before they were sent to west green for composting.

5% away from 90% required to meet standard, ways that we could close the gap include using plastic pallets and crates instead of using shrink wrap.

Budget conscious approach to reducing our carbon footprint, replacing coolers with more efficient models as they expire. Also plan to rebottle and sell our refrigerant once we no longer use it, valuable commodity on the market as it is no longer manufactured.

Derrick: phase out our current use of banned refrigerants at both stores. Move away from rack style cases to carbon free style, the new wellness cooler in Eureka is a great example of a uniquely styled zero global warming.

Discussion: Should we have the board make a recommendation regarding the feasibility of replacing units?

Need action? Melanie thinks not, she is confident that maintenance is already on a clear path. Add to operations plan? We need documentation. Use board as an ally in support of members to improve refrigeration. We will participate in rebate programs for redesigning our systems. Written proposal to be included in deli remodel as well as operational policy. Nudge from board staff to create a written document of feasibility analysis which will include rebate factor.

Should we pursue the Zero Waste certificate? Derrick thinks it is not necessary. Zero Waste Humboldt is easy, local and less expensive, we are already a partner with them

Valued by membership? Survey in next newsletter? Importance of supporting the collective movement/group/message.

Recommendation to the board: have staff conduct a survey and report back. Derick and Erik will write an article to accompany the survey and consult with marketing about timeline to add to newsletter.

Forming our Zero Waste Policy: Add to Agenda for the PPC committee (January). Create and include that coop will always pursue greater than 90%. Invite Maggie Gainer to meeting for guidance and input.

Researching the feasibility of food delivery service: Update, the business that was for sale has been purchased by a former coop employee. Melanie will get together with Cristo Ball, the new owner of Eureka Grocer soon to discuss partnership possibilities.

New Bus Route: nothing to report.

Solar panels for hot water use: Duncan has had conversations with Derrick. Need system to measure consumption of hot water. Working on finding a system that will measure both when and how much is being used. Will need to find a system that will fit our business at reasonable price point, including installation. Is solar significantly less expensive? We will need to add Roger and John to the conversation. Solar needs electric backup. Current system is natural gas which also has a heat recovery system from refrigeration systems. It is a tank system. Comment that this system would make an interesting article in the newsletter. If we continue our staged approach of refrigeration system replacement the current hot water heat recovery will lose the ability to properly heat water in this way. Instead of a roof top condenser we could switch to a cooling tower it is feasible option. The Eureka store roof is designed to bear the weight of a new system. Membership could use quarterly facilities update, maybe we don't need what we perceive we do. Reducing refrigerant is huge, recycled refrigerant. is getting more expensive, \$483 for a 25-pound cylinder. We will sell ours when we switch over.

Measuring Environmental Impact of Deli Remodel: Melanie: what are we measuring with net zero? There will be an increase in energy use. The contractor has developed the equipment list with efficiency vs. effectiveness in mind. We want to make sure that the equipment we buy is well balanced to do the job well while also conserving energy. What is bottom line for measuring? The metric was developed as broadly as possible the board did not settle on an exact measurement. Focus on reducing variables. Waste production currently is not being measured. There are several areas to measure separately including carbon, water, waste, toxics. The core metrics of Co+efficient are well captured, Kiya and Jolie are now doing this. It is a huge project and there is a massive amount of data. Regarding Grab and Go, increasing this area in the remodel seems to point us in the opposing direction of zero waste. How can we balance that out? Adding doors to cases the cases could help, composting packaging, commercial composting is coming soon. Plastics and cardboards are being phased out. Cellulose packaging, new options up and coming. Dine in will be part of remodel, durable to go containers with deposit will be available. Develop a packaging policy for employees. Is there a percentage of external vendors that will fill grab and go? This is not known now. Implementation of Zero Waste policy could encourage vendors to pursue better packaging. Focus on picking key indicators from data then not increase those numbers in new endeavors. Create a balanced system. Co+efficient could be used for this purpose. Replacing freezer cases could buy us a lot of carbon credit. Eureka store refrigeration lines and system are inconsistent with the needs of the store Ask staff to create index of indicators to measure and present to the board how they are tracking things. This would clarify intent and be helpful to educate the board as to what staff is doing. This will be ready by the next phase of approval. Recommend a presentation at the Finance committee and one at the board meeting, then the board will approve Finance committee recommendations.

Durable Goods Bank: Review feedback from other coops. Some report program is going ok, others have had problems with dirty bags. There could be a pilot program at one store, could be as simple as adding hooks to the box area. This could also fit somewhere into operational plan, current or for the future. Continue to

incentivize bags in the meantime. Put it to membership, the coop could make suggestion to encourage. This is a good idea but could be extra work when we are already busy.

Recommend that MAC review this and consider the details of setting a up durable bag bank.

Prioritize outstanding items from Charter: not discussed

Discuss agenda items for next meeting:

Recommendation to the board that EAC take a break for December and meet in January.

Discussion item:

Nicole would like to further explore how to promote the bulk department and teach members how to use it. She will bring to the monthly M&M&M meeting. Promote in spring for backpacking season. Maggie Gainer has mentioned that she wants to do expose on members who use bulk, idea of "Bulk Up". Dave will give Nicole contact info of bulk backpacker.

Review: Next meeting will be January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40pm

Minutes by Kala Eichamer

**Committee Recommendations:**

- 1. Zero Waste: Direct staff to conduct a member survey and report back. Derick and Erik will write an article to accompany the survey and consult with marketing about timeline to add to newsletter.**
- 2. Direct development of Zero Waste Policy to PPC, invite Maggie Gainer to add to the discussion and draft policy.**
- 3. Regarding measuring ecological impact of the deli remodel. Direct staff to develop an index of indicators to measure environmental impact and how they will track these factors. Have a presentation at the finance committee meeting and one at the next board meeting at which time to board can approve any finance committee recommendations.**
- 4. Durable Goods, MAC should review the idea of a durable bag bank and pursue how it might be set up.**