

## Heart of Florida Meeting Notes

April 28, 2011

Bushnell, Florida (Sumter County)

Hosted by ACMS, Inc.

### Attendees

Carmen Bruno, Citrus Co.; Casey Stephens, Citrus Co.; Bryant Johnson, Waste Management; Joseph Treshler, Covanta Energy; Don Hullings, Jones Edmunds; Karen Deeter, MSW Consultants; Juan Quiroz, Geosyntec Consultants; Morgan Booth, Earthguard Environmental; Marilyn Connell, ACMS, Inc.; Tim Vinson, Hinkley Center; Jeff Brannon, Earthguard Environmental; Shrawan Singh, Hinkley Center; Joseph Floyd, UF Office of Sustainability; Rhonda Rogers, Hinkley Center; Jackey Jackson, Sumter County; Mike Eastburn, City of Bushnell; Keith Raftery, City of Bushnell; Walter Wood, Nodarse & Assoc.; Steve Nataline, Putnum Co.; Shani Kruljac, SCS Engineers; Randy Messer, FDS Disposal; Aaron Mercer, City of Clermont, Emilio Bruna, Lake Co.

### Discussion

Emilio announced that this would be his last meeting as head of the Heart of Florida group. Emilio nominated Carmen Bruno to take over as the lead and the group agreed.

Emilio discussed news stories concerning waste management:

- 900,000 tons of organics/yr being diverted from landfill in San Francisco area, a northern Cal company does the composting and sends product to local vinyards. The key point in this project, is that they have the infrastructure and facilities to do it. Tim Townson, with UF took a fieldtrip to visit the site.
- Waste Management has invested in a company that creates oil from plastics...is this economical?
- LidWorks, a locally-based in Plant City, FL, is producing a 100% recycled lid using PS resin from recycled resin manufacturer, NextLife in Boca Raton, FL
- Marilyn with ACMS, Inc., coordinated a survey in order to generate discussion as to the direction of the Heart of Florida group. A summary of the results are as follows:
  - 18 responses
  - Some of the comments include: “need more representation from municipalities and counties”; “Need less consultants present. The presence of consultants hinders municipality dialogue”; “change of meeting day is good [from Friday to Thursday]”; “Want better partnerships with municipalities”
  - Most respondents seem to be happy with the current format of the meetings and are satisfied with the current structure of the group
  - Emilio stressed the three purposes of the group should be to concentrate on 1) Regionalization opportunities; 2) Getting local commissioners involved; 3) Working with cities
- Emilio invited everyone to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lake County Green Symposium to be held at the Mission Inn at Howey-in-the-Hills on June 10, 2011.

## County Updates

- Citrus
  - Finished Phase 3 construction, still waiting on DEP for permit
  - Economic impact still looming—effects are still being felt, people are moving out of the County, not enough high-paying jobs
- Putnum
  - DEP finally certified their Class III landfill (four years after cap was installed)
  - Building a constructed wetland onsite to help with runoff
- Lake
  - The Solid Waste Department has gone through a re-organization—they have eliminated Emilio Bruna's and Gary Debo's positions.
- City of Clermont
  - Considering privatizing recycling, they are looking at different options
  - Trying to increase recycling tonnage
  - Having a hard time getting the retirement communities to recycle

## Other Updates / Roundtable Discussion

- Waste Management (Bryant Johnson)
  - WM is beginning a door-side hazardous waste pick up including medical waste and electronics
  - Currently marketing to municipalities in Florida
- Jones Edmunds (Don Hullings)
  - Don informed the group of FDEP's change in philosophy concerning regulation. Explained that they had a client who they thought was about to be slapped with a half-million dollar fine; they were just told "not to do it again." DEP is also implementing a two-RAI maximum directive. Juan Quiroz (Geosyntec) also confirmed DEP's desire to reduce the number of RAIs.
- MSW Consultants (Karen Deeter)
  - DEP has been gagged, they can't go to meetings, they can't talk, everything has to go through the governor's office
  - There is interest in bringing back the bottle-bill
  - Waste tire fee being cut by DEP; however programs the fee funded were not cut
  - New person hired by FDEP to do recycling marketing around the State; however she is not allowed to travel
- SCS Engineers (Shani Kruljac)
  - Shani announced that she will be moving to Gainesville in June in order to establish a home-based, SCS-Gainesville office.

## Next Meeting

The group discussed changing the time and format of the next meeting to coincide with the Lake County Green Symposium. The meeting will be held on **June 9, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.** at Mission Inn, Howey-in-the-Hills. The meeting will be followed by a social mixer at 5:30 p.m.