

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Reeves
DATE: September 25, 2019
RE: Executive Director Update

Executive Director Updates will consist of the Past, Present, and Future. The Past reviews recent items on which a member has requested additional information, or items needing closure. The Present reviews pertinent activities from the month preceding the current Board meeting. The Future alerts Commissioners to upcoming activities, reports, or deadlines in which the Board may be interested or need to be made aware.

PAST

- Josh Tyler has been promoted to the position of Director of Operations. Josh began the job on September 3rd. He is managing the MRF, DOC, Maintenance, and Biosolids programs, as well as all Engineering projects. Josh Estey is managing the Compliance program and the Environmental Depot and Rover programs, and I am managing the Organics/Compost program. Over time, Josh Tyler will assume management of the Depot and Compost programs.

PRESENT

- Josh Tyler, Jen Holliday, and I toured two MRFs, one R&D facility, and three plastics facilities in South Carolina and Alabama. The Alabama MRF is a “dirty MRF”, where all household disposed items are bagged together, tipped at the MRF, and debagged. Approximately 20% of the material tipped at the MRF is recoverable as a saleable recyclable, over 50% is considered residue and is landfilled, and 30% is baled as a “fuel pack” for local incineration. Organics are not recovered. The plastics plants were fascinating. We followed PET bottles through the wash and flake process, and followed Polypropylene containers through the wash, flake, pelletizing, and reforming process. PP containers that we recycle at our MRF are made into paint containers in Alabama.
- Also in South Carolina, we attended a Food Waste Summit at Sonoco headquarters. We were the only municipal representatives at the summit. Major brand representatives attended, and while the focus was on food waste reduction through improved packaging, the unifying theme of the day was climate change and the urgent need to focus time and resources on the issue.

FUTURE

- I’ll be providing a mid-month communication to the Board which will consist of a reflection of what I heard as concerns or questions that may not have been answered or answered adequately. The purpose of the communication will be to help ensure that I’ve correctly understood and interpreted the tone of the conversations, which may not be captured by the official minutes.
- Business Travel: October 15-17, Cleveland, OH (Municipal Waste Managers Association Fall Summit); October 29-30, Providence, RI (Northeast Recycling Council Fall Conference).