

Recycling Task Force Committee Minutes of August 12, 2013 Meeting

Present: Taylor Edenfield, Desmal Purcell, David Steptoe, Dianna Wedincamp, Dr Jimmy Wedincamp, Zoey Marsh, Mary Smith, Dr Boehmer

Mary Smith welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the task force. Dr Boehmer commented on the lack of strong support for recycling in the community. He urged the task force to consider that the College emerges as a leader in the community recycling efforts. He then charged the task force to think about the key aspects of the its work: (1) education (2) mechanics of a recycling program (3) review of business models in other communities (4) devise a budget for program (5) think about what the program should be like 5 years from now. He asked the task force to complete its work by the end of Fall Semester 2013.

The group discussed current college recycling efforts: Plant Operations collects cardboard, plastic bottles, batteries and ballasts (college pays for third party pick up), paper is picked up and shredded on site (college pays fee for this service); students lead the aluminum can recycling efforts and Swainsboro Fire Department picks up cans and retains the proceeds for burn victims. Emanuel County Recycling is located behind the wastewater treatment plant. A few years ago, Keep Emanuel Beautiful lost its funding and the recycling program has dwindled as a result. David Steptoe will gather information to document the college's recycling efforts to date.

Additional recycling opportunities at the college exist for food service (excess food, eliminate trays) and ink cartridges (many public schools do this now). Possible grant funds may exist from Coca Cola or other companies; the group will research this further. Taylor Edenfield shared information on the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education; the task force will consider joining. The task force discussed adding a Recycling webpage to EGSC website that would detail what the college is doing now, the existence of task force and its plan. The website would provide a baseline of the college's efforts and could track its progress. A suggestion was made to add Dr Brianna Simmons to the task force; all agreed and Dr Wedincamp will extend this invitation to her and notify her of the next meeting.

Dianna Wedincamp summarized Georgia Southern University's efforts in conjunction with Keep Bulloch Beautiful. She mentioned that it may be possible for KBB to pick up materials for recycling in Swainsboro, if there was enough interest from other businesses to add Swainsboro to the KBB route. She offered to obtain speakers from KBB and GSU to present to the task force. Dianna will follow up via e-mail and notify the group of available dates in September; this presentation will be the next meeting of the task force. Dianna noted that city and county representatives should be invited to the September presentation to engage them in this project; she will invite county commissioner Rusty Lane. Mary Smith will invite Mayor Schwabe or city representative.