

Study Session Minutes

Board of Directors of the Red Rock Road Enhancement Maintenance District
February 9, 2017 – 2:00 p.m. at
Village of Oakcreek Association, Board Room, 690 Bell Rock Blvd., Sedona, Arizona

District Board Meeting Guidelines: The meeting will be held in accordance with A.R.S. Title 38 Open Meeting Laws. Board and attendees participation shall be civil and courteous. Any disruptive behavior could result in removal from the meeting. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Jennifer Bartos, Improvement District Services, Inc. at (928) 443-9484. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. Requests for copies of Board Meeting minutes or other District documents, inquiries, or complaints should be submitted in writing to: Improvement District Services, Inc., 1965 Commerce Center Circle, Suite A, Prescott, AZ 86301.

RRREMD Board members present:

Present and participating in the meeting: Mark Price of Green Earth. Several members of the public also present.

Call to Order - Dave Norton, Joanne Johnson, Ruth Kane, Paul Gazda, Ann Crossland present.
Also present and participating in the meeting: Mark Price of Green Earth.
Several members of the public also present.

1. Study Session: Discussion regarding Integrated Pest Management and its possible applicability to the RRREMD landscape maintenance program.

No public comment period will be allotted for this study session.

The Board discussed a document prepared by Director Gazda, "Discussion Points and Background for RRREMD Board Study Session February 9, 2017" and a document prepared by Director Crossland containing information on non-toxic herbicides and possible grant opportunities. During the discussion, Chairman Norton, Vice-Chair Johnson and Director Kane requested various items of additional information (listed below) related to Integrated Pest Management.

Director Kane found the wording of the discussion point "In 2011, 85 of 96 Hwy 179 VOC businesses (front lines of spraying) signed BOS petition requesting toxin-free maintenance" confusing because it suggested the BOS initiated the petition. Director Gazda agreed to change "BOS petition" to "petition to the BOS".

Chairman Norton and Director Kane asked that the statement "VOC Sustainability Alliance says sustainability is important to 75% of tourists planning vacations" be removed from discussion points. Chairman Norton pointed out that toxin-free landscape was not covered in the Sustainability Alliance presentation. Director Gazda said toxin-free landscape is a sustainability issue, but agreed to remove the statement from the discussion points.

Chairman Norton distributed an email from Green Earth owner Dave Grondin containing several questions about the discussion points. The questions were addressed throughout the meeting and summarized here: 1) EPA minimum risk herbicides include edible foods such as salt, vinegar, clove oil, etc. They are effective in weed control at certain concentrations. Commercial minimum risk products often combine several ingredients to enhance effectiveness. 2) Authorization for use of herbicides that are not minimum risk would develop procedures over time so that problems, options and results could be documented and used in future for identical situations without case by case review. 3 & 4) RFP option being discussed would require each vendor to submit one bid for conventional herbicides and one for Integrated Pest Management (IPM), similar to bids for "Traditional" and "Non-traditional" maintenance in 2009 and 2011. Vendor IPM bid would cover expected additional labor and materials for IPM program. Proposed incentive would award an additional percentage over and above the IPM bid if only minimum risk herbicides are used for entire contract year. It was pointed out that the use of these alternative materials takes longer to kill weeds.

Chairman Norton distributed a document summarizing his analysis and estimate that RRREMD is only .6% of Big Park's landscaped property. He said if there is a real concern over toxic materials, the .6% of the area is probably not where that interest should be focused. Director Gazda pointed out that the RRREMD is a public space, everyone has a say in how it should be maintained, and it's very visible. If we can show that it can be kept beautiful without the toxic chemicals, it will set an example for the rest of the community.

Director Gazda reviewed possible budget reallocation that could make funds available for an IPM trial. Chairman Norton expressed concerns about specific budget items, but concurred that there were areas in the budget that may have some excess funding.

Board members discussed possibility of extending current Green Earth contract as a trial of IPM to learn more about it before issuing an RFP. Vice-Chair Johnson and Director Kane expressed concern about the shortness of time available to develop a good RFP that includes IPM. Several issues were identified where the Board would like guidance from the Board attorney (listed below) before further considering that option.

A study session packet will be available when the Board has finished review of the IPM issue.

Additional information requested to be provided prior to a follow-up study session

Documentation regarding Environmental Protection Agency's advocacy of IPM.

Documentation on cities using IPM that are listed in discussion points (Seattle, Eugene, San Francisco, Santa Fe). Vice-Chair Johnson would like the information on paper.

Letter from Santa Fe, and if possible one more city in similar climate, designating a contact person and reporting their experience with IPM, what has worked best, etc.

Wording of petition signed by VOC businesses in 2011 requesting toxin-free RRREMD maintenance.

Background information on Organic Materials Review Institute.

IPM rules for RRREMD.

Guidance from Board attorney desired for the following issues

1. Is there a specific time required between issuing an RFP and receiving bids?
2. Can we extend our current Green Earth maintenance contract and ask them to use alternative products (i.e. IPM trial)?
3. If we can extend our current contract:
 - Can we pay Green Earth an additional amount to cover any additional expense for IPM trial?
 - Would running IPM trial with Green Earth be considered giving them unfair advantage in a future IPM RFP?