



# Earth Action Committee

Minutes – April 10, 2019

Arcata Co-op Conference Room, Arcata

## Present

**Board Members:** Leah Stamper, Cheri Strong, Colin Fiske, Ivy North

**Member-Employees:** Kiya Villareal, Emily Walter, Travis Morgan, Laurie Talbert

**Members:** Kurt Christman, Moonlight Macumber

### 1. Welcomes and Review

At 6:47pm the meeting was called to order by Leah.

### 2. Approve Minutes

Consensus reached to approve the March 2019 minutes.

### 3. Member Comment

- Moonlight – I really like the Co-op News article about biking.
- Kiya is doing an Earth Day tabling event on April 22. It will focus on upcycling and include making shopping bags out of t-shirts.

### 4. Parking Lot Pop-up

The committee is interested in testing different ways to configure the parking lot for fun pop-up events. Perhaps set up something in the parking lot during farmers market in Arcata. Another idea is to implement wheeled planters to create a path through the parking lot for pedestrians. Laurie and Travis are working together to spruce up the outside of the Eureka store, including putting out umbrellas.

Ideas of what to test in the parking lot:

- Create more space for people to hang out at the Co-op
- Encourage people to use other forms of transportation
- Widening the walkway from the sidewalk in
- Have areas with signs that say member parking only

The group decided to review the Strategic Plan and see where these ideas fit into that timeline.

### 5. Electric Vehicle Parking – reported by Kiya

Humboldt County has \$1.17M available for Level 2 electric vehicle chargers. Level 2 chargers are the most common and affordable. The cost for the equipment is ~\$4K. The grant covers \$6K per connector which can cover equipment, planning/design, utility services, demand management equipment, warranties, installment and signage. Not covered is the permitting costs or installing solar. It would need to be ADA accessible. Redwood Coast Energy Authority (RCEA) can assist with selecting equipment. There is an option of having RCEA manage the charger. We would not make money from it, but we would not have to invest further money into maintaining it.

**ACTION:** Kiya will look into how much money we could expect to make to cover the costs of maintenance, what estimated annual costs would be and how much money we'd need to make to offset that.

### 6. Sustainability Coordinator Update – reported by Kiya

The bulk stickers have been updated from vinyl to a paper sticker.

**ACTION:** Kiya will look into why bulk wellness doesn't have a four digit # assigned to products. You just pay by the ounce.

Kiya reviewed her Sustainability report (See attachment).

- The Co-op is donating empty buckets to be used for picking up trash via NEC's Beach Clean-up.

## **7. Next Agenda Items**

- Ideas for becoming more bike friendly
- Review Strategic Plan to see what areas this committee is interested in
- Check in on electric vehicle station
- Feedback on compostable bags

## **8. Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting will be May 8, 6:45-8pm.

Leah will write the EAC report

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03pm

*Minutes by Emily Walter*

# **EAC Sustainability Update – April 2019**

Prepared by Kiya Villarreal

**In-Store:** In response to recent comments regarding our bulk stickers we have decided to change the material. Finding **paper** labels/stickers required ordering them as individual pieces rather than on a roll. Making them into booklet by hand is simple and quick. The paper version of the sticker is cost-comparative to the old dot-style stickers, while being much more instructive and welcoming to new and returning bulk shoppers. When we run out of the vinyl roll the paper booklet version will be put out.

**Community/City Involvement:** The City of Eureka has a non-CRV glass recycling program that would be wonderful to participate in. The program is too new for us to be added on as official partners with Mercer-Fraser, however there is a plan to pilot a trial from the Eureka store during the last two weeks of April.

HSU is creating a Sustainability Practitioner Directory which we have excitedly agreed to participate in. I will be attending an upcoming mixer.

North Coast Environmental Center is doing this year's Beach Clean-up in a Zero waste fashion. The Co-op will continue to drop off bags from the Bulk department and buckets from the Deli department that otherwise would have been single-use. This symbiotic relationship is incredibly beneficial (and cooperative!) for both our organizations achieving waste minimization and diversion.

**Events:** Earth Day is approaching and ideas for truly Earth-friendly appropriate celebration activities are welcome! Bike Month is on the horizon for May alternating weeks for each store. Zagster will be highlighted at this time