

# **Summary of First U.S–Mexico Border Scrap Tire Group Meeting**

**May 17 and 18, 2006**

**San Diego, California**

**Sponsored by California Integrated Waste Management Board**

**Participants:** SEMARNAT / Mexico, U.S. EPA, California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), CalEPA, Border Legislative Conference (BLC), Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA), RCC Scrap Tire Workgroup

## **May 17, 2006 Meeting Notes**

### **Opening Remarks:**

Rosalie Mule, CIWMB Board Member -- There are 41 million scrap tires/year in CA. Scrap tires are a valuable resource. Senate Bill 772 - Requires CIWMB to coordinate with CA EPA on scrap tire issues involving Mexico. They are committed to make tires into a commodity instead of waste. It is critical to first understand the facts clearly in order to know the effective direction to take.

### **Actions by CIWMB:**

- 1) Working with San Diego State Univ. to study flow of tires in border region
- 2) Using contract with CA Highway Control to hold tire checkpoints
- 3) Agreement with City of San Diego to provide training and services
- 4) Working with Mexican officials and city commerce
- 5) Toll free number for scrap tire related issues

### **Group Discussion – Interests and roles they play on border tire issues:**

Michael Blumenthal – It is important that all parties collaborate. RMA has a lot of technical information they can share and can help create markets for these tires, and infrastructure that can support these markets.

Emily Pimentel - U.S. EPA Region 9 - Helping to clean up largest tire piles along borders and develop policies on this issue. First must deal with nature of problem; education needed, looking at options. Public health and environmental risks are big problems, so solutions needed quickly. Partnerships are working well – expertise, funding, government, industry, etc. Accomplishments and next steps are to develop long-term policies. Act quickly so piles do not return.

Daniel Chacon - “Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC)” –

Ciudad Juarez - biggest tire pile on border. Since 1994, tires have been placed in a sanitary landfill, now 4-5 million tires. Have a cement plant that can use the tires.

Adriana Oropeza - SEMARNAT

Working actively on removing stock piles. Developing markets, have 28 cement kilns in country. Good private and public partnerships. One million tires cleaned up and one site cleaned up. Working to finish clean-up at Centinella pile.

Lillian Conroe - CIWMB

Going to border to educate tire haulers on permitting, how to haul, etc. Setup illegal dumping regulations.

Robert Snowbarger – U.S. EPA Region 6

Not a unique vision. Issues the same across the border. In many ways a scrap tire pile is a scrap tire pile. Important to transfer knowledge. Obstacle is a lack of knowledge - need to translate documents into Spanish.

Terry Gray - TAG Recovery

Stockpile cleanup guidebook with an effort with EPA. Use experience in US to help develop markets in Mexico. Goal is to develop final draft of guidebook.

Luis Carranza - Cemex

Use tires as a solution, an important example is to create fuel.

Catherine Huybrechts - Endpoint Environmental

Will continue to work on mapping tire on border with CIWMB and San Francisco State University. Using computer template to show tire piles on satellite imagery.

**May 18, 2006 Meeting Notes:**

**Opening Remarks:**

Gary Petersen, CIWMB Board Member

**Updates on ongoing or possible border scrap tire projects:**

*SEMARNAT Tire Policy*/Adriana Oropeza- Mexico currently does not have a national environmental policy on scrap tires but they are currently seeking to issue new legislation for hazardous waste, municipal waste and special management waste. Tires are not specifically defined within the law.

*Border 2012 Scrap Tire Strategy*/Rick Picardi and Adriana Oropeza- Work on the completion of the strategy will be the highest priority for the next couple of months. The

strategy can serve as a framework for all partners to work within. This can also lead to more specified action plans. Comments on the draft were provided by participants Emily Pimental, Vernon Myers, Michael Blumenthal, Rosalie Mule, Tab Tesanau, Christina Buccanan and a representative from the BECC. Key points to remember from the participants are as follows:

- The general population in the U.S. does not understand the scrap tire problem and many communities do not understand the basic issues. The solution will require a combination of resources stemming from economic knowledge, civil engineering, environmental education as well as an understanding of binational and geographic differences.
- Participants stated that feedback from the Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) participants as well as collaboration of work on shared goals between the two groups is needed.
- Information and resources for action items 1-6 on the draft are already available. The key is to work with the Mexican counterparts to adapt to their economic and political infrastructure.
- Assuming the strategy is on the right course more feedback is needed from Mexico. The needs and tasks need to be identified.
- The California Board for Energy and Environmental Technologies wanted to know: What is the RCC currently doing?, What needs to be done that RCC is not doing?, How do the groups dovetail their efforts and compliment rather than duplicate one another? and expressed that we needed to fill gaps and to focus time and resources accordingly.
- It was recognized that the RCC efforts are on very efficient scale without true funding. The major resource of the RCC Scrap Tire Workgroup is the collective knowledge of the participants.
- Representatives from the border municipalities and states from both U.S. and Mexico should be included in the border scrap tire efforts. There should be a comprehensive database of scrap tire management efforts from states, municipalities, feds, universities and the private sector. This type of information will be covered under the first principal of the strategy.
- There needs to be an update on the size of the problem (# of tires and size of tires).
- There needs to be an agreement between the U.S. and Mexico on the resources for market development.

*Market Development*/Michael Blumethal, Terry Gray - Michael Blumenthal suggested the development of cottage industries to develop an infrastructure which can be expanded as markets are found. Terry Gray gave an outline of the approach to accelerating the growth rate. Suggestions were made to develop markets and then expand to build a solid foundation. Civil engineering technologies should be used initially in the municipalities with a small number of projects without a fee in exchange for a guaranteed demand for future work.

*CIWMB border tire plans/Lillian Conroe* – Lillian Conroe reported on the state of California’s current border activities in tire management which included: an agreement with San Francisco State University for a satellite mapping program, training for local enforcement agencies and tire haulers, a tire flow program study focusing on how scrap tires cross the border and the economic impact of this problem, a waster tire grant program, monitoring of dumping activities, community education.

*Border Legislative Conference/Edgar Ruiz-* described the Border Legislative Council, a group developed to identify best practices and outline multi-state solutions, and the Council’s activities on scrap tires.

*Inventory of Tire Piles along border/ Rick Picardi, Robby Snowbarger-* The EPA is working with SEMARNAT and state and local governments to identify locations, classify size, and find ownership of all tire piles.

*Illegal tire dumping, a study of the Texas/Mexico border/ David DeGroot, Paul Hobart-* David DeGroot and Paul Hobart discussed their study using aerial mapping software and efforts to provide data to the Texas legislature and map the border region to identify illegal dumping. They will continue the project throughout next year with funding through the Border 2012 program.

*Border tire pile health study/ Rick Picardi -* The Border /Health task force of the Border 2012 program is interested in working to assess the health risks along the border through EPA Office of Research & Development funding provided through the Pan American Health Organization. Proposals have been reviewed a research proposal will soon be selected.

*EPA/SEMARNAT report on management experiences/Rick Picardi-* The two agencies are working on a report detailing the lessons learned from management experiences to help those new to scrap tire issues, providing information for a variety of stakeholders including state and local governments as well as entrepreneurs who are interested in starting scrap tire using companies scrap tires.

*Tire Flow study in the California-Mexico border region/Dr. Paul Ganster-* Paul Ganster discussed a study which will estimate the number of used and waste materials that are transported from California to Mexico since 2000 as well as the environmental and economic impact of trans-border waste tire flow. The measurement of the tire flow will use information from tire permits, data from highway patrol, discussions with haulers and used tire dealers and survey research.

#### **Identify feasible potential border tire projects: : Open discussion**

- Region 6- Request for proposal for Border 2012 coming soon. Tires are a priority in Region 6.

- Columbus Polamus is burning tires for heat. This may be a place to start on environmental health issues
- The rural Border 2012 task force is looking at tire issues through the air program.
- University of Chihuahua can share information from a study on tire burning and public health.
- The use of tire bales in rural areas versus shredding is an application that may be resubmitted as a grant proposal.
- Promotion of a cottage industry such as the promotion of crumb, shredded and stamped rubber at the International jewelry and Art show.
- An architectural contest to promote and increase public knowledge of the application of these products.

**Brainstorm on which obstacles impede progress and suggest solutions: Open discussion**

- Continuous funding mechanisms don't exist in most states to solve the problem, for example, a tire fee mechanism.
- M1 company- has a uses for inner tubes as raw materials and are willing to pay. This will reduce volume and there is a demand for the supply. Participants stated that these are generally found only in specific geographic areas and older stockpiles.
- There are differences in the populations along the border that should be considered.
- Differences in regulations. While there are some similarities from border state to border state for common regional protocols, some regions should consider developing similar protocols.
- Because of community misconceptions, information and facts need to be made available to the public.
- There is an international agreement that does not allow U.S. to ship solid waste to less developed countries.
- Tires need to be reclassified as a source of alternative fuel rather than as waste. There is a market if classified as recyclable. For example, batteries have been imported to Mexico for recycling and use.

**Suggestions on prioritizing border Tire Projects: Open discussion**

- Completing the scrap tire strategy
- Scrap Tire Management Program- should be drafted by the end of this year and completed in the following year.
- Completion of the Tire Inventory
- Cleanups of tire piles
- Need to differentiate between large and small tire piles.
- Put substance into the program without needing a great deal of spending. Review actions that have already been funded. Look at groups such as the RCC's action plans and work within this framework.

- Edgar Ruiz will provide a summary of laws in the 10 states to make sure there is large distribution.
- Include representation from the states in the scrap tire workgroups. The representative should be a high level executive branch member and serve as an advocate for getting the work done.
- Michael Blumenthal has the state regulation for the U.S. and can email to Edgar Ruiz. He will be able to produce charts in electronic format during the next few months.
- The BECC representative volunteered to work with Michael and help with the distribution.
- Tab Tesnau, the Coordinator for the RCC Scrap Tire Workgroup, was asked if she would take the lead on Action item 5 along with Robbie Snowbarger. Adriana Oropeza will represent Mexico.
- Goals and timelines would be helpful in the administration of the scrap tire strategy.
- Government and industry collaboration is needed to implement Action item 6.
- Michael Blumenthal has information on how to work with the public and how to deliver materials. Education materials need to get to the right audience.
- Where are the venues for making presentations and delivering tools? Tire distributors in Mexico were suggested as a starting point. Adriana volunteered to get Michael in touch with RMA in Mexico.
- Distribution of materials can be considered a project.
- Education outreach through the public school systems.
- Need to formulate a process or campaign for educational outreach with appropriate materials.
- A fact sheet using the model from the National Coordinators Meeting outlining goals.
- Organizations agreed to send information for summary action plans by June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The summary action plans are to be living documents.

**Ideas on how groups can work together on border tire efforts: Open discussion**

- Have at least one meeting a year, with the RCC Scrap Tire Workgroup.
- Send names of individuals working on border issues to Rick so that their names can be added to the list and distributed to attendees at Border Scrap Tire Group meeting.

**Ideas for Developing a means of Internal Communication:**

- A Yahoo list serve
- Send email addresses out to all participants.
- Quick place
- Listing of future meetings should go out to everyone.
- Reports to be listed on U.S. /Mexico Border 2012 website - Centralize the information.

### **Ideas for Additional Action Items:**

- Develop an initial plan & goals for possible Civil Engineering applications.
- Develop binational policy for the border waste policy management. Identify ways to implement.
- Central location to store current & past accomplishments and experiences as well as future initiatives.
- Coordinate market development programs.
- Border Tire list serve established (Look as merging w/the domestic list serve/Yahoo E-Group)
- Develop database to share w/ U.S. & Mexico stakeholders.
- Local input for the general Binational Strategy.
- All groups on the same general page w/the tire strategy.
- Identify all relevant groups/individuals.
- Agreement on next steps.

### **Identify next steps:**

- Finish the scrap tire strategy
- Get the scrap tire summary action plans started
- Develop a Yahoo list serve
- Send contact information for others who work on tire issues.
- Other groups working on scrap tire issues should submit their information to Rick so that they can be included.