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Memo

To: RONA Board of Directors

From: Gary Liss, RONA National Standards Project Manager

CC: John Frederick, Jack DeBell

Date: 1/18/12

Re: Certification Board Recommendations

The Plan for National Standards for Certifying Sustainable Resource Management Training Programs and Professionals adopted by the RONA Board on August 26, 2011 recommended the appointment of a National Standards Certification Board. The Plan suggested that this should be established under RONA University to oversee governance and the implementation of the Plan.

The Plan noted that the Certification Board could include representatives from the following:

- ◆ State or Provincial Recycling Associations offering training programs that wish to be certified by RONA
- ◆ Different aspects of the industry, including local, state or national organizations that focus on reuse, recycling, composting, and extended producer responsibility, and experts in all 12 Market Categories¹ of Resource Management.

¹ Categories developed by Dr. Daniel Knapp, Urban Ore: Reusables, Paper, Glass, Metals, Yard Trimmings, Putrescibles, Wood, Polymers (e.g., plastics and rubber), Textiles, Ceramics (e.g., concrete and asphalt), Soils, and Chemicals (including household hazardous materials and e-waste).

- ◆ Local, state and federal governments that wish to hire individuals that have met the requirements of a national standard
- ◆ Measurement and testing experts

The Plan further noted that the RONA Certification Board could establish its own “Content Committee” that would be subject matter experts to help develop the content for the program and proficiency exam. These two components (a governance committee and a “scheme” committee of subject matter experts) are required to comply with ISO guidelines for establishing certification training programs.

RONA posted on its website a survey instrument beginning in the summer of 2011 to solicit candidates for the Certification Board at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CertificationBrdSurvey>. In December 2011, RONA sent out a News Release to media contacts and industry listservs soliciting additional candidates. By January 12, 2012, a total of 33 candidates applied for being appointed to this Certification Board.

RONA’s Certification Project leaders² met on January 12, 2012 to review the candidates and consider how best to recommend candidates for the RONA Board to appoint. The Project leaders clarified the criteria that should be used to evaluate the candidates as follows:

- ◆ Industry experience and technical knowledge of the industry and/or certification programs;
- ◆ Involvement with RO Certification programs and the RONA National Standards process to date
- ◆ Geographic distribution
- ◆ Under-represented interests; and
- ◆ Whether they are involved with higher education.

The Project leaders kept in mind that the primary focus of this program is to support state and provincial Recycling Organizations (ROs) throughout North America so it was important to have good representation from those involved in developing and running existing RO certification

² Gary Liss, Jack DeBell and John Frederick

programs. In addition, for the Certification Board, it was important to identify people who could help with strategic alliances to other groups and who had strong experience in policy-making and program development roles.

Jack DeBell then developed a matrix of all the candidates and highlighted their background according to key criteria. Project Leaders then met by phone on January 18, 2012 to review the 33 candidates that submitted applications via RONA's website. The Project leaders felt that it was important to have a small enough Board to be workable. Initially, they hoped to have a Board of 5-7 people. After detailed review and analysis of all the candidates and all the criteria, they recommended 9 of the 33 candidates be considered for the Board to serve in a governance and policy-making role, as follows:

- ◆ Athena Lee Bradley, Northeast Recycling Council (NERC)
- ◆ Bert Jacobson, Kankakee Community College, Illinois (and involved with all 47 community colleges and the Illinois Recycling Association new certification program)
- ◆ Cary Oshins, US Composting Council
- ◆ Gary Liss, RONA Board
- ◆ Joanne Shafer, Centre County Recycling and Refuse Authority, Pennsylvania and Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP)
- ◆ John Frederick, RONA Board
- ◆ Judi Gregory, CA Resource Recovery Association
- ◆ Marie Kruzan, Association of New Jersey Recyclers
- ◆ MaryEllen Etienne, Reuse Alliance

The Project leaders are also recommending 18 to serve as members of a Content

Committee to work on the details of how to proceed, as follows:

- ◆ Joseph Floyd, University of Florida - Office of Sustainability
- ◆ Sue Beets, SBM Management and US Zero Waste Business Council
- ◆ Carol Pepper-Kittredge, Sierra College Center for Applied Competitive Technology
- ◆ Joel Ostroff, Macon County Solid Waste Management, North Carolina
- ◆ Frank Mills, State of Alabama; Military Department
- ◆ Dawn Quirk, Tufts University campus recycling manager
- ◆ Ashlea Smith, Alice Ferguson Foundation
- ◆ Pete Pasterz, Cabarrus County, North Carolina
- ◆ Dave Wade, University of California at Santa Cruz
- ◆ Ed Newman, Ohio University Campus Recycling
- ◆ Ann Schneider, Sierra Club Zero Waste Committee, California

- ◆ Celeste Johnson, CT Recyclers Coalition
- ◆ Rachel Leven, Duke University
- ◆ Ana Carvalho, City of San Diego Environmental Services Department
- ◆ Bruce Olszewski, San Jose State University, Environmental Studies Department
- ◆ Lisa Friend, Boulder County Zero Waste Planner
- ◆ Courtney Lindberg, City of Ventura Recycling Manager
- ◆ Julie Muir, PSSI/Stanford Recycling
- ◆ Anne Nicklin, Building Materials Reuse Association

The Project Leaders believe that we have a great set of candidates for the RONA Board to consider appointing. In addition to these recommended appointments, the Project Leaders recommend that Jack DeBell be appointed RONA University Project Manager to oversee this project for RONA hereafter. The Project Leaders also recommend that the Project Manager be authorized to invite other people to serve on the Content Committee, or such other Advisory Committees and/or Task Forces may be necessary to develop and implement this important Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Liss