

MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SWMAC MEETING

November 27, 2018
5:30-7:30 PM

Commissioner Conference Room
555 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: **Members:** Judy Skinner, Bonnie Sullivan, , Keith Bondaug-Winn, Joe Fowler, Tim Rice, Kevin Hines, Bob Anderson, Brian Sund, Will Posegate
 Staff: Brian May, Stephanie Pulvers, Rachel VanWoert, Jolene Kelley
 Public: Matt Marler (for Scott Anderson)

ABSENT: April Murazzo, Chris Ream, Julie Jackson, Scott Anderson

CONSENT

MOTION: Bonnie moved to approve the August 2018 minutes.

DISCUSSION: None.

RESULTS: Kevin seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Minutes approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Action):

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

AGENDA REVIEW: Will wanted to share an audit data update from Garten. It was added to the agenda, to be discussed after the City of Salem Bag Ban Update.

2019 Planning Subcommittee Report

Bonnie, April, and Keith met with Brian and Stephanie and came up with a draft schedule. They put the various “future agenda items” that the Council came up with at the May 2018 meeting into a schedule. Keith presented the schedule to the Council and explained the structure of the matrix, and the reasoning behind why certain topics were scheduled when they were. Time was allowed for questions and comments.

Illegal dumping and illegal burning of garbage was a suggested added topic. Some of the Council worried that as rates increase, illegal dumping/burning will also increase. Brian May noted that the County is watching this closely.

Joe asked for an update on legislative issues that might impact the solid waste system in Marion County. Matt and Brian May both had several in mind that could fall into this category. Keith wrote them down and plans to add them to the list of 2019 discussion topics/updates.

Mid-Valley Garbage & Recycling Association Cost of Service Analysis – 2019 Rate Request

Kevin explained the process of a Cost of Service Analysis (COSA) that is prepared by the Mid-Valley Garbage & Recycling Association (MVGRA) annually. Each Hauler gathers operational data, financial data, fuel costs, disposal costs, etc. and provides this information to a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) who compiles all eight Haulers’ information into one COSA. Once compiled, the information is given to a consultant who analyzes the data for accuracy and industry trends. After the consulting company analyzes the data, it is sent to the County to review.

This year, the MVGRA is asking for a slightly larger increase than normal, due to the rise in fuel costs and the change in recycling markets. Brian May added that he believes it's a justified increase and that most of the rest of the state has also raised prices for garbage/recycling service. There will also be an increase on commercial medical waste disposal.

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

City of Salem - Plastic Bag Ban Update

Rachel VanWoert, the new Waste Reduction Coordinator at Marion County, introduced herself to the SWMAC. Rachel worked at the Oregon Food Bank for 16 years. Not only was Rachel able to work with grocers and restaurants to help feed the hungry, but she was able to keep millions of pounds of food out of landfills. Rachel will now be taking on Marion County's EarthWISE program and working with businesses towards more sustainable business practices.

Rachel presented on the City of Salem's plastic bag ban that passed earlier in the week. Rachel guesses that there will be a full range of reactions to the bag ban – from "it's not enough" to "it's too much." Eventually, people will adapt as they have in all other cities that have passed a similar ban. The City of Salem's ordinance targets plastic carryout bags, defined as "any carryout bag made predominately of plastic, either petroleum or biologically based, and made available by a retail establishment to a customer at the point of sale...It includes compostable bags, biodegradable bags, and thicker plastic bags (e.g., 2.25 mils or 4.0 mils), but does not include reusable bags, recyclable paper bags, or bags exempted from the definition of carryout bag." Exemptions include plastic produce/meat bags, flower bags, prepared food bags, pharmacy/prescription drug bags, and bags sold in bulk for things like pet waste, food storage, or home garbage bins. Consumers will still be able to pay for paper bags if they do not provide a bag of their own. Customers using WIC or SNAP will be provided a bag for free.

Rachel explained that single-use plastics are a global issue and create a hazard to the environment and animal and human health and they create litter. Most plastic does not get recycled but instead ends up in landfills, the ocean/waterways, or as litter. This is a huge problem because they do not biodegrade; they only break down into smaller pieces of plastics. Thankfully, all the talk about the harm that single-use plastics cause has led major retailers to consider alternative options. For example, Kroger will be removing plastic bags all-together by 2025.

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

Garten Services – Audit Data

Will brought in recent contamination rate data. (See attachment) Columns highlighted in blue are items accepted in the curbside recycling cart in Marion County. Columns highlighted in yellow are non-program materials. The data is by weight, not by volume. Will was pleased to see that all contamination except for glass has gone down, especially the 3-7 plastics.

Kevin wanted to know if these numbers were residential, commercial, or combined. Will and Judy stated that with their current audit process, Garten only gets the truck number, but not that truck's collection route. Kevin and Will talked about working together to figure out how Garten could come up with a way to tell if the material was residential or commercial. Kevin also announced that Garten and the Haulers' Association are working on a pilot program to help pinpoint which areas/materials need special attention.

2017 Recovery Rate Review

Brian presented the draft recovery rate numbers by the DEQ . The recovery rate for Marion County dropped, but only because the disposal rate went up significantly. Marion County actually recovered more material than 2016. Glass recovery across the state increased by 12,500 tons, a third of which was Marion County’s glass recovery. This is likely due to the bottle bill and the expanding list of acceptable materials. Paper fiber dropped across the board which can probably be attributed to the decline in newspaper purchases and push for “paper-free” workplaces. Scrap metal recovery increased, likely due to an increase in pricing for scrap metal. Yard debris recovery was down across the state as well.

Marion County’s recovery rates are boosted by HB3744, where Marion County is given recovery credit for energy made and metal recovered at the waste-to-energy facility. At this point, the numbers are only preliminary so we are not sure where Marion County ranks in the state.

The 2025 recovery rate goal for Marion County is 64%. This means that we need to recover 80,000 tons of waste every year (according to today’s standards – this number will increase if waste generation continues to increase), which will not be possible without some serious waste reduction efforts. Recycling and composting alone are not enough to get Marion County to the 2025 goal.

FUTURE TOPICS/EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS (Information/Discussion):

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Bonnie wanted to remind everyone that today is the final day to RSVP for the SWMAC Holiday Dinner.

Keith wondered if Judy could give the Council an update on the OAR Conference on Homelessness and Solid Waste. Judy gave a brief explanation of the conference.

Other Business:

None

Staff Updates:

None

Future Agenda Topics:

None

Membership/Attendance:

Keith recognized and thanked Commissioner Carlson for attending her very last SWMAC meeting before her retirement at the end of the year. Commissioner Carlson thanked the Council for their hard work, the many hours that they put in, and the leadership they express. The Council has improved a great deal.

Meeting Review:

Brian wanted to thank Rachel for her presentation, for which she had short notice, and welcome her to the team.

Motion to close the meeting:

Bob motioned to adjourn the meeting. Will seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:29 pm