

MARION COUNTY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes



Date:
12 August 2026



Time:
12:00 – 1:30 pm



Location:
Home Builders Association

Meeting Called to Order at 12:05 pm

Attendance	
Name	Present/Absent
Members	
Kevin Cameron (Chair)	Present
Daniel Kohler	Present – Via Teams
Jenny Ammon	Not Present
Linda Nishioka	Not Present
Frank Lonergan (Vice-Chair)	Present
Jim Row	Present
Walter Wick	Present
Marie Traeger	Not Present
Jordan Ohrt	Not Present
Brian Asher	Present
Walter Perry	Not Present
Michele Tesdal	Present – Via Teams
Treva Gambs	Not Present
Duane West	Not Present
Shane Kuenzi	Present
Mark Lowery	Not Present
Sarah Steen	Present
Staff	
Brian May	Present
Cory Swartwout	Present
Whitney Ned	Present
Toni Whitler	Present – Via Teams
Erin Burt	Present
Guests	
Melissa Wood (City of Salem)	Present
Cat Rhoades (DEQ)	Present
Kennedy Jantzi (Haulers)	Present
Josh Landis (Republic)	Present – Via Teams
Marcus Gerber (Loren’s Sanitation)	Present – Via Teams
Stacey Perry (City of Keizer)	Present – Via Teams
Kathy Rogers	Present – Via Teams
Julianah Douglas (City of Salem)	Present – Via Teams

Quorum: Yes

Welcome & Introductions – Kevin Cameron

Chair Kevin Cameron brought the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. He shared that fellow Council member and Urban Citizen representative, Ken Hector, passed away. Details about his memorial service were provided.

Administrative

- Agenda Changes:
 - None
- Approval of June 2026 Meeting Minutes – **Action:**
 - Motion: Walt Wick moved to approve June 2026 minutes.
 - Second: Jim seconded.
 - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment:
 - None

Multi-Family Recycling: Property Management Perspectives

Guest speakers were not in attendance as planned. Staff provided an update on efforts to involve property managers in a multi-family recycling pilot project.

- Outreach has occurred with Neighborly Ventures, Centurion, SMI and other property-management representatives.
- Property managers expressed interest in participating.
- Staff may schedule smaller meetings with interested property managers to better understand their needs.
- Potential pilot projects could include:
 - Providing apartment recycling bins.
 - Improving recycling collection areas.
 - Testing educational materials.
 - Using available project funding to reduce costs to participating properties.
- One or two properties may be selected for an initial pilot.

Challenges Identified:

- Limited space for recycling containers.
- Existing waste enclosures may not accommodate additional containers.
- Fire lanes and parking requirements limit available space.
- Older complexes have different layouts and infrastructure.

- Some properties have no permanent on-site management.
- Lack of oversight can contribute to contamination.
- Recycling solutions may need to be customized by property.

The Council discussed proposed requirements for recycling service at multi-family properties.

- Proposed rules would address both new and existing properties.
- Requirements are expected to include:
 - Adequate recycling space.
 - Definition of “adequate space” would need to be developed.
 - Adequate service.
 - Resident accessibility.
 - Collection access.
- Factors under consideration include:
 - Number of units.
 - Volume of waste and recycling generated.
 - Container size and quantity.
 - Accessibility requirements.
 - Physical property limitations.
- Local governments may eventually need an enforceable ordinance or other mechanism requiring adequate recycling space.
- An exemption process is anticipated for properties where recycling service cannot reasonably be provided.
- Alternative solutions, such as shared recycling locations between neighboring properties, may be considered.
- Multi-family properties were generally described as properties with five or more units.
- Implementation timelines are expected to be extended while rules and standards are finalized.

Regional Task Force Update - Brian

The Council received an update on the Joint Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley.

In preparation for Coffin Butte closure, the discussion focused on long-term planning for waste disposal and regional infrastructure.

- Marion County and neighboring jurisdictions need to plan for future disposal capacity.
 - Marion County produces 330,000-350,000 tons of waste every year and over 200,000 tons currently goes to Coffin Butte.
- Regional planning could include:
 - Transfer stations.

- Recycling infrastructure.
- Organics processing.
- Material recovery.
- Waste reduction.
- Future processing technologies.
- Members emphasized the need for a coordinated regional plan before major infrastructure investments are made.
- State funding may be pursued for planning and infrastructure.
- Possible regional governance structures are being discussed.
- Members stressed the importance of industry participation in planning.
- Future facilities should be designed to accommodate changing technologies.
- The task force is expected to continue developing recommendations for possible legislation.

Solid Waste Software Update – Cory

Cory reported that the new transfer station software implemented June 1 is functioning well.

- Customers use driver's licenses during check-in.
- The system allows the County to:
 - Identify unpaid transactions.
 - Require payment before future service.
 - Send unpaid balances for billing or collection.
- The grace period is over as of August so customers without required identification are now being asked to return with identification.
- Only a limited number of complaints have been received.

Used Motor Oil

- The used motor oil receptacle at SKRTS is operational again after contamination.

Disposal Rate Changes

- Some form of adjustment expected around the beginning of 2027.

Updates/Announcements - All

Recycling Education

The Council discussed expanding recycling education and outreach.

- School-based recycling education remains an important tool.
 - Students can help reinforce proper recycling practices at home.
- Existing educational programs continue at Re:Source.

Recycling Education/Outreach Van

Kennedy shared that a van has been purchased.

Interior improvements include:

- Ramp.
- Solar panels.
- Television/display system.

The exterior wrap still needs to be done but should be complete by the next MMAC meeting for members to view.

OTR/RMA

The Council discussed the Opportunity to Recycle (OTR) report.

- Juliana may continue assisting with the OTR report while responsibilities transition to new staff.
- Cat with DEQ offered a “Recycling 101” orientation to new or interested members.
- Recycling guidance discussed included:
 - Milk cartons are recyclable.
 - Plastic lids should be removed from paper cartons.
 - Any coated refrigerator/freezer packaging is no longer recyclable.

Producer Responsibility

- Producers selling packaging into Oregon pay fees to the producer responsibility organization (CAA).
- Packaging that is difficult to recycle or manage may result in higher producer fees.
- The program is intended to encourage manufacturers to:
 - Reduce unnecessary packaging.
 - Improve recyclability.
 - Use easier-to-manage materials.
 - Reduce difficult or non-recyclable packaging.

Recycling Center Update

Sarah reported that the Salem Recycling Center is approaching its one-year anniversary, on August 18th. A BBQ event will be held for all employees.

Facility employs approximately:

- 14 full-time employees.
- 40 temporary employees.
- Recent contamination rate was reported at approximately 11%.
- Regular contamination audits continue.
- Staff will continue clarifying which packaging materials should be considered contamination.
- Updated information may be incorporated into newsletters and public education.

Membership and Vacancies

Urban Citizen Position

- Recruitment will begin for the vacant Urban Citizen position.

- Members are encouraged to recommend potential applicants.
- Applications are available through Marion County's MMAC/volunteer web page.

City of Stayton Representative

- Jordan Ohrt will no longer participate as the Stayton Elected Official Representative.
- Marion County will coordinate with the City of Stayton regarding a replacement.

City of Salem Representative

- Melissa Wood was identified as a prospective City of Salem - Staff representative, pending the official appointment process with Marion County.

Transfer Station Employment

Cory reported current part-time and potential full-time hiring needs for the transfer stations.

Marion County Public Works

Commissioner Cameron recognized Public Works staff and provided updates on several projects:

- Brooks water system improvements are progressing.
- Mill City/Gates water and sewer work continues.
- DEQ permitting efforts are progressing.
- Countywide radio system construction is underway.
- Canyon-area alarm-system improvements continue.
- Other ARPA-funded Public Works projects remain on schedule.

Upcoming Meetings

- September meeting location TBD

Meeting Adjourned at 1:26 pm