

MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SWMAC MEETING

October 22, 2019
5:30-7:30 PM

Commissioners' Board Room
555 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: **Members:** Judy Skinner, Bonnie Sullivan, Tim Rice, Keith Bondaug-Winn, Brian Sund, April Murazzo, Kevin Hines, Kurt Tackman, Will Posegate, Joe Fowler
Staff: Brian May, Stephanie Rosentrater, Barbara Young, Jolene Kelley
Public: Carroll Johnston, Matt Marler, Pamela Vasquez

ABSENT: Scott Anderson, Julie Jackson, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis

CONSENT

MOTION: Bonnie moved to approve the September 24, 2019 minutes.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Action):

PUBLIC INPUT: Carroll Johnston is part of a coalition that includes local, state, and nation organization that are interested in Waste Reduction. The coalition is looking at ways it can interact with Marion County. Institute for Local Self-Reliance in Maryland has put together a plan for Montgomery County, Maryland that he will send to Brian to use as ideas for planning efforts, especially involving outreach and education. The Coalition would love to work with SWMAC and Marion County.

AGENDA REVIEW: None.

DEQ Video

The Chair and Vice-Chair wanted to show the Council the DEQ video about materials management to remind them what the focus should be when discussing education and outreach strategies.

September Meeting Recap

April briefly reviewed the three presentations from September's meeting from Carolyn Stein of BRING, Tom Egleston of Washington County, and Jessica Ramey of Marion County. BRING talked about their shift out of recycling and into reduction/reuse. Carolyn told the Council about their waste audit assessments, green building demonstrations, partnerships with businesses, school-based education, and construction material reuse programs. Washington County is in the process of transitioning toward a reduce/reuse mindset. Currently, they're focused on food waste prevention, reuse/repair, equity, multifamily, microenterprise support, and green business awards. Jessica Ramey presented on Marion County's programs, its most successful being the EarthWISE program and Master Recycler class. Jessica said that if Marion County needed to shift focus, they should prioritize food waste, construction and demolition material reuse, and engaging community change makers.

After the presentations, the Council broke out into three small groups and came up with ideas on how to improve education and outreach in Marion County and shift it to waste reduction. April noticed that the groups all came up with big ideas, but April was hoping that in tonight's exercise, the focus could be

on action items for SWMAC. The end goal is to come up with a Work Plan and get the Council to start working toward something. What can SWMAC do in 2020?

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

Activity – Education & Outreach

The first group wanted to see programs focused on data. They also wanted to see a focus on items that had more weight, as the recovery rates are measured in weight. Construction debris is one of these items, and a good way to target this material would be to partner with local governments to educate during the building permit process.

The second group wanted to assist in creating a marketing campaign that focuses on reduction and urging a culture shift. SWMAC would focus on building the campaign and presenting it to the Board of Commissioners. They would like to do so by creating “ambassadors” that will help with the campaign. They would create contests and use incentives to help promote the campaign. They would also like to work on communication and relationship building with other communities and governments.

The third group wanted to focus on the upstream and downstream impacts of food waste. One of the ways to do this is with longer term messaging campaigns. The group felt that the most effect would come from legislation, but that they could also leverage existing efforts (like the haulers and facilities) and build on their efforts.

Legislative Process

Barb Young presented on the legislative process for both supporting and creating legislation. About a year ago, the County developed an advocacy policy, to assist all departments and advisory boards within the County in speaking in one voice. This policy states that advisory board members cannot advocate for a bill or policy individually and say that they are representing the advisory board or Marion County. Anything advocated for by the County or its advisory groups must first be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

To move a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners, the most important step is research. Find out what other organizations, states, or agencies are doing in regards to the issue and who is in support of it. The Council should then write a letter of recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Brian and Barb will present the letter at a Management Update meeting and receive feedback from the Board of Commissioners, who will agree, disagree, ask for it to be modified, or to be held off on for a while. If the Board of Commissioners supports the recommendation, they will do what needs to be done to help support it, including writing a letter of support, testifying, or whichever resources they feel it requires.

Barb then explained the legislative process, using the upcoming short session as an example. The short session will last for 35 days, from February 3, 2020 to March 8, 2020. Because the session is short and moves quickly, issues should be vetted out well in advance. New issues should be brought to a long session. Sometimes it takes several legislative sessions to pass something. Each legislator, committee, and the governor has a certain number of “priority bills” (bills that they can introduce) each session. The Senate President and the Speaker will set timeline and due dates for each session. Bills will be sent to the Senate or the House and the President or the Speaker will assign each one to a committee. The next hurdle is to get a hearing in that committee, which involves convincing the committee chair that it is

important enough for a hearing. Marion County utilizes Association of Oregon Counties heavily (they have five lobbyists, and sometimes hire more).

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Judy wanted to encourage the Council members to convince their friends and colleagues to take a tour of Covanta.

Brian Sund mentioned that he was in Sunriver for the weekend and read an article about plastic bottle manufacturers switching back to aluminum. He asked if it could be shared with the Council.

Staff Updates:

Jolene Kelley mentioned a Statesman Journal article that came out on Sunday about medical waste at Covanta. Some of the statements were incorrect and others were mischaracterized. One of these is that Marion County emphasizes support for medical waste incineration, which is not true. Marion County has always thought municipal solid waste should be a priority and then if there's leftover capacity, medical or supplemental waste is fine. It also stated that Marion County has "given over control" to Covanta. This is a mischaracterization because everything we do is contractual or set in Marion County ordinance, both of which have been set for years.

Jolene spent two whole days answering questions and only about 10% of the information she provided made it into the article. Because the Council members are ambassadors of the system, Jolene wanted to urge them all to contact her if they have questions or are unsure about an issue or something they've read.

Brian announced that Scott Anderson has taken on a new role at Covanta and won't be able to attend anymore. In June 2018, when the Nomination Subcommittee interviewed Scott, they also interviewed Matt Marler to be his "alternate." The alternate program was something the Bylaws/Handbook Subcommittee was looking into at the time for the industry positions to have an extra person come and weigh in (though not vote), when the elected member could not be present. The Bylaws/Handbook Subcommittee did not end up writing this into the bylaws, so the issue was dropped. Nonetheless, Matt has been interviewed and Brian wanted to know if the Council would be willing to vote to elect him without having him go back for another interview. Judy pointed out that they could not vote tonight because it was not an action item on the agenda, so they could not vote for it. The Council decided to vote on it at the next month.

Brian also announced that Chris Ream has resigned.

Membership/Attendance:

The updates planned here will be moved to the next meeting.

Meeting Review:

None.

Motion to close the meeting:

Will motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.