

MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SWMAC MEETING

February 25, 2020
5:30-7:30 PM

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

PRESENT: **Members:** Judy Skinner, Keith Bondaug-Winn, Will Posegate, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Bonnie Sullivan, Matt Marler, Joe Fowler, Brian Sund, Kurt Tackman, Julie Jackson, Kevin Hines
 Staff: Brian May, Stephanie Rosentrater, Brian Nicholas
 Public: Carroll Johnston, Ryan Zink

ABSENT: Tim Rice

CONSENT

MOTION: Will moved to approve the January 28, 2020 minutes.

DISCUSSION: None.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Action):

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

AGENDA REVIEW: None.

Legislative Updates

Brian updated the Council on the status of HB 4049. A packet of information was provided to the Council that had been used the day before at a meeting with Representative Power, the Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee. This information is a rebuttal to a Statesman Journal article posted on February 10, which contained some misinformation. Specifically, they wanted to address the perception of misappropriated funds by Marion County. Solid Waste funding (including power purchase agreement money) was used by the Commissioners to make emergency repairs to the Marion County Courthouse and structural repairs to Courthouse Square several years prior.

The packet also addresses misinformation on the amount of full time employees that Environmental Services has and the implication that there was a time when the Division was almost one million dollars negative in funding.

The packet includes information on the renewable energy portfolio standard. There are many landfills on the list because they have a process to create energy from the gasses coming off of the landfill. Marion County is asking that Covanta be on a level playing field with landfills as a waste-to-energy processor.

Brian explained that there is a "-3 Amendment" that has been proposed that will allocate the renewable energy credits that would be granted to Covanta (approx. 50% - based on biogenic portion) to Marion County.

Unfortunately, the Republicans in both the House and Senate have walked out, meaning nothing will likely get passed during this session.

Time was allowed for questions and answers.

Strategic Plan Follow Up & Work Session

Kaileigh explained in the previous meeting's brainstorming session, most people reported back that what they enjoyed most about SWMAC was that it is a diverse group of people coming together to solve issues. They also reported that in the future, they hoped they could help to tackle issues that came up and really make a difference. Tonight, Kaileigh thought it would be a good idea to take a deep dive into the County's Waste Reduction program to really understand what they're doing and provide feedback on what the SWMAC would like to see change.

Waste Reduction's programs are EarthWISE, Master Recycler, Advertising, Reuse events, etc. There are also a few other smaller events and programs. Kaileigh asked the Council if they wanted to try to discuss all of these or just pick one to focus on tonight. The Council decided to focus on just one, and the Master Recycler program was selected.

Kaileigh had a list prepared for her questions about the Master Recycler (MR) Program. She wanted to know:

- How many courses per year?
- Typical audience demographics
- Content and curriculum
- What types of activities count for payback hours?
- How many volunteers does the County have through this program?

Kaileigh asked if there was anything else that the Council wanted to know more about regarding MR.

Julie added that most of the MR classes in the state use the same information and that information desperately needs to be updated. This includes Recycling 101, which is an online MR class through OSU.

Brian clarified that the County uses Recycling 101, but they add a Marion County-specific module. Recycling 101, though out of date, is a good alternative to people that are not able to attend a seven week class.

The content and structure of the Marion County MR class need to be updated and refocused on waste reduction and reuse. The County was holding up to three courses per year, but has intentionally not scheduled any this year to give themselves time to reevaluate.

At this point, the fire alarm started to go off. After about 20 minutes of the fire alarm going off, the Council decided to end the meeting early.

Motion to close the meeting:

Kevin motioned to adjourn the meeting early due to the fire alarm. Joe seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.