

MARION COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SWMAC MEETING

April 28, 2020  
5:30-7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting  
Via Webex

**PRESENT:** **Members:** Judy Skinner, Keith Bondaug-Winn, Will Posegate, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Bonnie Sullivan, Matt Marler, Brian Sund, Kurt Tackman, Julie Jackson, Tim Rice  
**Staff:** Brian May, Stephanie Rosentrater, Commissioner Sam Brentano  
**Public:** Carroll Johnston, Ryan Zink, Kyle Elwood, Susann Kaltwasser

**ABSENT:** Joe Fowler, Kevin Hines

**CONSENT**

**MOTION:** Bonnie moved to approve the February 25, 2020 minutes.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Action):**

**PUBLIC INPUT:** None.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** None.

**Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations**

Judy motioned to elect Keith as Chair for one more term. Will seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Keith Bondaug-Winn will be recommended to the Board of Commissioners to serve as Chair for one more term.

Julie motioned to elect Kaileigh as Vice-Chair for one more term. Matt seconded the motion. A voice vote was unanimous. Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis will be recommended to the Board of Commissioners to serve as Vice-Chair for one more term.

**Environmental Services Updates**

Brian May wanted to give an update on Environmental Services (ES) happenings, since the Council had been unable to meet the month before. The County-wide Solid Waste System Feasibility Study and System Analysis will be brought in front of the Board of Commissioners for a final ratification soon. COVID-19 has slowed things down and shifted priorities. There have not been any major changes to it since the last time SWMAC saw it.

The legislation for Covanta's renewable energy credits did not move forward during the short session. ES is trying to have discussions with Covanta about a short-term extension to the current contract, which ends in September 2020.

Since the stay-at-home order regarding COVID-19 was put in place, transfer station volume has increased quite a bit. Republic has put some space in between drop off locations at SKRTS for social distancing reasons. Brian wanted to specifically thank transfer station staff and the site supervisor, Andrew Johnson, for being quick to come up with solutions while facing COVID-19 and social distancing efforts. This includes encouraging credit cards over cash, putting up clear plastic barriers to protect

employees, and acquiring necessary PPE. Republic has agreed to start opening a half hour early to help get traffic through more quickly.

Earth Day had to be done virtually this year, due to COVID-19. Jessica Ramey put together a nine-hour live stream event. Segments ranged from kid-friendly activities to live music. Will Posegate did a video walk-through of Garten and Greg Ditman of Valley Garbage & Recycling gave a hauler's perspective at the curb. The EarthWISE program is trying to provide assistance and resources to businesses in need during the stay-at-home order. Alan has been networking with different jurisdictions to see how they're running their Master Recycler programs and how COVID has affected them.

The 2009 Solid Waste Master Plan was only supposed to be a five-year plan. ES and SWMAC have had discussions about how it's time to update that. There have been so many changes in facilities, recycling, etc. ES is getting ready to starting the master planning effort, though this time it will be more focused on materials management than just purely solid waste. Tonight, ES want to get Council's input on how they write the scope of work for the request for proposals, so that they can get the right consultant hired. ES is hoping to see a lot of involvement from SWMAC in the entire process.

Commissioner Brentano wanted to know how ES will plan for the future without knowing the fate of the EfW facility. Brian explained that this planning effort goes beyond disposal facilities. While disposal facilities are necessary and play a part in the overall system, ES feels the planning effort can begin without knowing what will happen with that specific facility.

Keith asked Brian to give staff a big "thank-you" from the SWMAC. SWMAC recognizes the importance of the work that they do and appreciate them working hard through these strange times.

#### **Materials Management Plan RFP**

Last summer, staff came up with a framework for the Materials Management plan, based on research of some other jurisdictions' similar plans. Stephanie sent that plan along with some questions for Council to answer/think about out before the meeting.

Keith asked Stephanie how this framework was formed. Stephanie reported that staff looked at other jurisdictions that had gone through similar processes and designed this off of their experiences. The intent was always to have a lot of community participation and engagement.

Phase 1 – Council wanted to ensure the following are included as key community stakeholders: Mayors of all the Marion County cities, nonprofit organizations involved with garbage/recycling, state agencies, school districts, chambers of commerce, businesses that specifically deal with waste in one way or another, cities in the Santiam Canyon, the general public/customers, multifamily unit owners and multifamily residents, environmental groups (specifically those that have been historically critical of Marion County's waste process), industry contributors to the waste stream (restaurants, construction, retail, etc.)

Council also wanted to make sure that equity and diversity is kept in mind when planning community meetings (how, where, etc.) and that specific outreach to specific community groups (modeled after 'Our Salem') is performed.

Phase 2 – Staff wants to make sure that they and the consultant understand the best ways to communicate with a large and diverse community. Council encouraged staff to look for a consultant that has experience with a County/organization of similar size and level of diversity. Brian wanted to know what the consultant missed during the last master planning effort. Bonnie recalled that there was no community involvement, except for at public hearings. Outreach at the time was not significant to the

process. It was also advised that the consultant have a way to make sure that one group/voice is speaking louder than others and therefore skewing results. The goal is to find what works best for the entire county.

Phase 3 – GBB’s facility report gave us an idea of where we are with our facilities and capacity and provided some things to consider when planning for the future. ES is hoping to get input from industry stakeholders and the task force on what the plan should be moving forward, taking into consideration findings of the GBB report.

Phase 4 – It was requested that the task force be a subcommittee of SWMAC. The task force would review deliverables of each phase, and then SWMAC would review, then finally the Commissioners. It was suggested that Marion County’s effort try to stay in-tune with state-wide steering committee that is looking to do something similar for the whole state. It was also suggested that SWMAC get a panel of people from the state-wide steering commit to come in to inform SWMAC on what’s going on with that group and give SWMAC a chance to ask questions. Keith wanted to let the Council know that if they’re planning on being on the task force, know that it will be more of a commitment than what they are currently signed up for. Kaileigh proposed the idea of having the consultant draft multiple options of plans to present to the public at the end and having them choose what is best for the community.

Phase 5 – Solid waste affects every single person and so it would be good for everybody to be on the same page. Cities in the County would be encouraged, but not required to adopt a similar plan. The County adopting their final plan would not being contingent at all on what the cities decide to do.

Implementation & Reporting – Staff want to ensure that in the end, this is a document that doesn’t just sit on a shelf. The County lives by it, ensures they are living up to it, amends it when necessary, reports on their progress, etc.

Kaileigh, Keith, and Brian wanted to make sure Council knows that if they have any comments or other ideas to please share them. Council will review the RFP and provide feedback on it once it’s written, but before it goes out for solicitation.

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

##### **Subcommittees:**

There is a need for a couple of subcommittees to get together. There are two applicants that need to be interviewed by the Nomination Subcommittee and the Budget Subcommittee needs to get together for its semiannual meeting. Staff wanted to know if Council would prefer to meet in a in person and practice social-distancing or meeting virtually. There was a mixed report, so staff will come up with a solution and inform the subcommittee members. Kaileigh wanted to be added to the Nomination Subcommittee.

##### **Announcements and Upcoming Events:**

Julie wanted to inform the Council that at SKRTS they’re seeing between 35% and 50% higher residential volume than normal right now. There’s a decrease in commercial, but not as much of a decrease as there is in the increase in residential.

Will gave an update on Garten. The GEARS store is closed except by appointment only, but products are available for purchase through Ebay. Social distancing is in place throughout the company. They’ve rebuilt their old baler and it’s working well.

**Meeting Review:**

Everyone was satisfied with the virtual meeting. They were happy with the option to start at 5:00 and make sure that they could get connected.

**Staff Updates:**

Brian announced that Stephanie had received a promotion and would no longer be SWMAC staff once her position has been replaced.

**Motion to close the meeting:** Will motioned to adjourn the meeting. Julie seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.