

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Marion County
5155 Silverton St. NE

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 24, 2021
Time: 5:30pm -7:30pm
Logistics: Attendance 'in person' or via Zoom

PRESENT: **Members:** Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Brian Sund, Julie Jackson, Bonnie Sullivan, Ryan Zink, Kevin Hines, Judy Skinner, Tim Rice, Kurt Tackman, Joe Fowler, Keith Bondaug-Winn, Kyle Elwood
Staff: Brian May, Tom Kissinger, Rachel VanWoert, Dakota Tangredi, Pattie Phillips
Guests: Carroll Johnston, K.J. Lewis (Republic Services) signed in during the meeting at some point.

Commissioner Willis signed on during the meeting.

ABSENT: Will Posegate, Matt Marler

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Bonnie Sullivan called meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Member and Staff Introductions: Done

Approval of July 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Ryan Zink moved to approve minutes; Julie seconded. A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Input: None

Agenda Review: None

INFORMATIONS/DISCUSSION

Vice-chair Nominations

Kaleigh let the council know that she will be stepping down as vice-chair due to time and mental health reasons. She said that she would stay on for the next couple of months until a new vice-chair gets voted in. Brian thanked her for her service and asked the council to think about future nominations for vice-chair for the next meeting.

Nomination Subcommittee Items

Brian reminded the Council of the four topics that the Nomination Subcommittee had brought before the Council with the intent of gaining new and energetic council members. The four topics:

- 1) convert a position from a Chamber position to a Citizen-at-Large,
- 2) impose term limits,
- 3) reduce the number of meetings, and
- 4) have members who fill industry positions be present as advisors rather than voting members.

At the June 22, 2021 meeting, the council had discussed converting the vacant Chamber position to a Citizen-at-Large position with a preference for a Chamber position.

At the July 27, 2021, the council discussed term limits and limiting the number of meetings per year.

The final topic was to have the members of the council who are in industry positions be present as advisors rather than as voting members. Council members focused on whether industry members should be able to vote with the discussion transitioning to whether industry people should not vote because of a possible bias or conflict of interest. Kaileigh remembered that the previous conversation regarded having industry members be non-voting members had less to do with conflict of interest and more to opening up the seats to the general public who have energy and enthusiasm. Brian agreed but with the addition that the industry members would be present in an advisory role. Joe Fowler agreed.

In general, the council agreed that industry members should be able to vote as long as there was not a conflict of interest. Brian suggested that the council might need to adjust some of the bylaws.

The council discussed the possibility of providing a seat to a younger person, like a student. Historically, the number of council members had been as high as 21 members with one of them being a high school student. Having the high school student did not work well as the student did not attend many meetings.

Rachel suggested reaching out to Willamette University about hosting a networking luncheon where SWMAC could be promoted to professional people who might find that they would be interested in the Council or becoming a member of SWMAC.

Brian wrapped up the discussion with council consensus being:

- 1) change Chamber position to Citizen-at-Large, with a preference of a Chamber position,
- 2) term limits would hurt membership,
- 3) the frequency of SWMAC meetings is good but can be adapted as necessary,
- 4) that Council valued its industry members and what they bring to the table.

Brian liked the idea of having student involvement and Rachel's suggestion about potential networking opportunities.

Brian said that the Nomination Subcommittee needs to meet to finalize the Chamber-of-Commerce position and the Bylaws Subcommittee needs to meet to adjust the bylaws.

The Bylaws Subcommittee currently consists of Bonnie, Keith, Will, Julie, Ryan, and Kyle. Brian called for any new members or members who wanted to leave the subcommittee with no response. The Bylaws Subcommittee will meet in the next month.

Covanta Contract

Bonnie commented on the number of articles in the Statesman Journal and that she thought that they were negative and misleading.

Brian went over the contract the previous month. He mentioned that the relationship went from a deeper relationship with Covanta, to one that was more of a merchant style service agreement with clearer boundaries. The contract is a three-year agreement with two five-year extensions with off ramps to take advantage of new technologies that are currently being developed.

There are requirements for reporting to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The only requirement that the county has is that Covanta has to follow all state and county rules.

Rates have not risen in a long time and the goal was not increase rates in the next ten years. Marion County wants to get the highest value for its waste. The intent is to attain 100% of waste into Covanta so that we can get the highest, best use of metal recovery and electricity generation.

Brian clarified what would happen if Marion County did not provide enough waste, or Covanta did not process the minimum of 125 tons. Each partner has a penalty if 125-ton number is not reached.

Brian said that the Budget Subcommittee goes over the numbers on how much supplemental waste is being used by Covanta at least twice a year to be able to see the trends.

Kyle had sent a list of questions to staff and to the fellow members on the council. Brian let him know that he needs to send his documents through the county and not directly to his SWMAC peers because of the public information aspect.

Bylaws – Discussion Update

Bonnie shared that the Bylaws Subcommittee had previously put together a PowerPoint presentation to show what changes were being made (or not being changed). This is probably

what the Bylaw Subcommittee will discuss. Bonnie said that council members should have a binder that has information in it that council members should have and use as a guide. Brian told the council that most of what is in the binder is at mcswmac.net. Kyle and Ryan probably have not received their binders. Pattie will take care of it.

Iron Man Event Case Study

Brian Sund shared that the Iron Man event came to Salem at River Front about a month before, with over 2,000 entries. Brian was part of the event and tried to divert much of the waste appropriately. He proposed that SWMAC get involved in Iron Man for the following year.

Brian May said that this reminds him of when Ryan Zink initially brought up the Unsheltered project. Brian said that, like the Unsheltered, Iron Man would need many groups that would be involved related to solid waste. There would be waste reduction coordinators, business coordinators, master recyclers, and people like Judy at Garten who has been dealing with large events. He thought that a large group of people would really engage in a project like this.

Judy expressed concern about the participating in a project like this but wondered about the public information aspect (as a SWMAC member). Brian May said there is no issue as long as SWMAC members volunteer as individuals.

Kaileigh suggested that Brian Sund should think bigger and make sure that when any group applies for a permit with the city, they need to have a solid waste management plan in place before being granted a permit.

Ryan Zink spoke as a member of the City of Salem. He said that he was peripherally aware of the EOC for Iron Man, and that an effective solid waste management plan was missing. He said that he knows that volunteers are important and appreciated, and he will share what he has heard from this meeting to the City of Salem.

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

Announcements and Upcoming Events: None

Membership/Attendance/New Member applications: None

Staff Updates: Rachel said members on the Unsheltered Subcommittee would receive a rough draft of the playbook by Friday.

Bonnie asked Dakota if he knew how much of a response he has received from his survey. He has had only about sixteen people had responded at the time. He is looking for responses from Master Recyclers regarding what was effective in the program that they went through and will take that information when planning the Master Recyclers.

Member Updates

Judy said that the Unsheltered Waste Subcommittee has a meeting on Thursday, September 2. She was not sure what that would mean for the meeting on Tuesday. Brian told her that she should receive the playbook draft by this Friday.

Meeting Review: None

Motion to adjourn meeting: Joe moved to adjourn meeting; Ryan seconded the motion. Voice vote – motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Next meeting: TBD