

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Marion County**

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 23, 2024
Time: 5:30pm -7:30pm
Logistics: Marion County Board of Commissioners Room: Attendance in-person

PRESENT:

Members: Judy Skinner, Bonnie Sullivan, Brad Barker, Will Posegate, Julie Jackson, Bill Riecke, and Ryan Zink

Staff: Cory Swartwout, Rachel VanWoert and Brian May

Guests: None

ABSENT: Keith Bondaug-Winn, Kevin Hines, Joe Fowler, and Commissioner Cameron

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Bonnie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Member and Staff Introductions: Done.

Approval of April 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Will moved to approve minutes; Ryan seconded.

Discussion: None.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Approval of May 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Ryan moved to approve minutes; Will seconded.

Discussion: None.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Public Input: None.

Mentor Assignments

Bonnie shared that that Joe will mentor Brad and Will will mentor Bill. Bonnie suggested the new Council members read through the handbook if they haven't already done so.

Cory shared that news articles are posted in the Teams files for members to review as well.

RMA Updates

Rachel shared a slideshow, including the US EPA / Oregon DEQ Hierarchy and the Recycling Modernization Act Implementation Timeline. There was a highlight on the July 1, 2025, date where producers join a PRO, PRO's begin implementation, Commingled Recycling Processing Facilities obtain permit or certification, and Local programs begin collecting statewide list and contamination reductions programs. The other highlight was that they are identifying a list of practices and setting of local goals. July 1, 2025, is when local programs will begin implementation. On the next slide additional dates were highlighted. On September 15, 2024, the first equity study is due and the first multi family needs assessment study is due. On May 15, 2024, the procurement assessment was due. July 1, 2026, the multitenant recycling requirement is effective. September 15, 2026, the litter and marine debris needs assessment is due. Finally, on December 31, 2026, compostability study is due.

SWANA Zero Waste Training

Will provided a review on Chapter 3 of the SWANA Zero Waste Training.

Republic Services Update

Julie provided an update on the status of Coffin Butte and their landfill expansion request. Republic Services has been working with Benton County. There have been multiple town hall meetings to discuss the potential expansion. Republic Services received a good idea of the public's response to the expansion. The concerns that were heard were concerns about transparency regarding the June 2022 EPA inspection, wet climates are not good for landfills, questions about liner tears, modeling and monitoring, questions regarding methane levels and carbon mapper, and the efficiency of the gas collection system. Julie shared that the Coffin Butte gas collection and control system has 57 new vertical gas collection wells, and 22,700 feet of horizontal gas collection piping installed since 2019. The system captures enough methane gas to generate electricity for 4,000 area homes via a partnership with PNGC Power. The system meets or exceeds the tightened requirements set under the Administration's U.S. Methan's Emissions Reduction Plan. The Pacific Region Compost Facility processes more than

140,000 tons of organic material each year from Benton and surrounding counties. Republic Services also heard that there were questions about waste origination and whether Benton County can limit out-of-county waste, concerns about Covanta MSW incinerator ash as daily cover, including safety and efficacy, odor complaints, and concerns of worker safety. Finally, Julie discussed the 2024 Expansion Proposal.

Solid Waste Update

Brian shared that the Statesman Journal reported a nearly double rate increase with Covanta, but the Commissioners did not want to increase the rates for the County residents and the rates stayed the same, after discounts.

Brian also shared that Reworld, previously known as Covanta, is potentially losing their medical waste revenue and that could mean an end to the incinerator.

Brian shared that the Commissioners would like recycling education and outreach to be back in the schools.

Brian shared that JR Miller and Associates has been hired to evaluate the solid waste system and work with the Commissioners to discover what Marion County's needs are.

Potential Council Member

The nominations subcommittee reported that after interviewing Jake Hush, the subcommittee determined he was not a good fit for the council. Concerns were raised about his commitments to other boards, school, and an internship. Jake requested a shortened term and gave tentative availability for meetings. The subcommittee also expressed a lack of experience.

Recommendation for Appointment

Motion: Julie moved to not forward Jake Hush to the Board of Commissioners for recommendation; Ryan seconded.

Discussion: Brad inquired about how Jake learned about the Council; Brian shared that Jake found it through a Google search.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

Staff Updates/Other Business

Rachel shared that the Sustainable Business Summit will be held at the Keizer Civic Center on Friday, September 27th from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Bonnie shared that Scott Gagner had submitted his resignation from the Council because of the position at his new job. Bonnie shared that it really saddened her as she thought he was giving the council some really good information.

Julie congratulated Will on his promotion to CEO of Garten.

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Next meeting: *Tuesday, August 27, 2024, from 5:30-7:30pm*