

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Marion County**

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 27, 2024
Time: 5:30pm -7:30pm
Logistics: Marion County Board of Commissioners Room: Attendance in-person

PRESENT:

Members: Keith Bondaug-Winn, Judy Skinner, Bonnie Sullivan, Brad Barker, Will Posegate, Julie Jackson, Joe Fowler and Kevin Hines

Staff: Cory Swartwout, Rachel VanWoert, Erin Burt, and Commissioner Cameron

Guests: None

ABSENT: Bill Riecke and Ryan Zink

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Bonnie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Member and Staff Introductions: Done.

Agenda Changes: Solid Waste Update will follow the New Communications Coordinator.

Approval of July 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Julie moved to approve minutes; Will seconded.

Discussion: Brad noted grammatical changes.

Results: A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes with changes.

Public Input: None.

New Communications Coordinator

Cory Swartwout introduced Erin Burt as the new Communications Coordinator for Marion County. Erin provided an overview of her background in marketing communications, including

experience in public relations, social media, and sustainability messaging from her previous role at Stahlbush Island Farms.

Solid Waste Update

Commissioner Cameron provided a solid waste update in Brian May's absence. He shared ongoing discussions with Reworld (formerly Covanta) about options for continuing the facility's operation, noting that Reworld's contract would end on December 31, 2024, after which the plant could be mothballed if no decisions are made. There have also been additional conversations with the Marion Resource Recovery Facility (MRRF), exploring options there. The County has also hired JR Miller and Associates to consult on the future of solid waste in Marion County.

Commissioner Cameron also discussed the broader challenges facing Marion County and the region in solid waste management and the importance of a regional approach, including potential collaborations with Benton County, Lane County and others surrounding counties.

Garten Tour

Will provided an update on the planned tour of the Garten Facility, noting that the facility has seen a significant reduction in the volume of commingled materials due to a buyout by Waste Connections of Pioneer. As a result, the facility is considering reducing operations to three days per week.

The group discussed potential dates for the tour, with Jackson suggesting that October might be the best time for members to visit, given the current schedule demands. The tour will include a focus on fire mitigation apparatus and other operational improvements.

A scheduling poll will be sent out to coordinate tour dates.

Republic Services Update

Julie provided updates on the Coffin Butte landfill and the progress of Republic Services' Conditional Use Permit application. Benton County determined the application was incomplete and Republic Services is currently amending it.

Julie also addressed the media's focus on methane gas collection and public concerns, noting that the landfill had previously addressed EPA findings from 2022 regarding methane exceedances and had implemented corrective measures.

SWANA Zero Waste Training

Kevin provided a review on Chapter 4 of the SWANA Zero Waste Training. Kevin summarized the historical development of garbage collection systems, with an emphasis on automated technology, safety standards, and the role of waste collection in achieving zero waste goals.

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 she is starting to plan the holiday party with tentative dates of December 3, 10, or 17. She will be contacting La Margarita to discuss options.

Kevin shared that the Marion Resource Recovery Facility is now called Re:Source. The new website will go live in November. Kevin shared a short video introducing Re:Source.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Next meeting: *Tuesday, September 24, 2024, from 5:30-7:30pm*