

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Marion County**

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 24, 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, Joe Fowler, Bill Riecke, and Ryan Zink

Staff: Cory Swartwout, Rachel VanWoert, Brian May, and Commissioner Cameron

Guests: None

ABSENT: Keith Bondaug-Winn, Julie Jackson, and Kevin Hines

QUORUM: Yes

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

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

Attendees were reminded to adhere to the mission statement, bylaws, Robert’s Rules of Order, and public meeting laws.

Member and Staff Introductions: Done.

Agenda Changes: None.

Approval of August 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Will moved to approve minutes; Ryan seconded.

Discussion: Brad requested when a County is mentioned the minutes specify which County.

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

Public Input: None.

SWANA Zero Waste Training

Judy presented a summary of Chapter 5 of the SWANA Zero Waste Training. The chapter covered processing technology options, including physical and biological processing, waste-to-energy, and regulations regarding permits for waste facilities.

Key discussion points included the balance between supply and demand for recycling materials and the environmental impact of different waste-processing technologies. Judy emphasized that despite technological advancements, there is still no clear path to achieving zero waste, and education will be key in improving waste separation and reducing contamination.

Franchise Violations

Brian discussed ongoing issues with unauthorized waste collection services within Marion County. Many small businesses have been providing waste collection services without a franchise, often advertising without proper licenses.

Efforts are being made to address these violations through coordinated actions between Marion County, City of Salem, and legal counsel. A letter of warning is sent before moving to more severe penalties.

Republic Services Update

Brian provided an update on Republic Services, focusing on Coffin Butte landfill. The landfill has approximately 12.9 years of airspace remaining. The Conditional Use Permit application has been deemed incomplete and is under review. The next step involves transitioning into a new cell for future operations.

Solid Waste Update

Brian gave an update regarding the closure of Reworld (formerly Covanta), scheduled for December 31, 2024. The discussion centered on how this closure will impact Marion County's waste disposal, including medical waste and other problematic waste streams. There was concern about finding alternatives for processing local waste in the short term.

Options for transfer stations and long-term solid waste infrastructure planning are being considered, with discussions ongoing with JR Miller and Associates.

Tours

The council discussed plans for upcoming tours of waste management facilities. Cory will send a reminder poll to finalize dates, with potential visits to the MRRF and Garten in late October, early November.

Staff Updates/Other Business

Rachel announced the rebranding of Earthwise to the Marion Sustainable Business Network, which will be officially launched during the Sustainable Business Summit on September 27.

Rachel announced that she has accepted a position with DEQ as the Natural Resource Specialist for Eastern Oregon. Her final day with Marion County is Monday, September 30.

Bonnie shared updates on the holiday dinner plans, with December 3 being the likely date. Bill shared that he is willing to give \$500 for the council to have a holiday dinner at Geppetto's Italian Restaurant. Bonnie and Bill will work together to secure the location. An invite will be sent out to the Council with more information.

Kevin confirmed that the Re:Source website will go live in November.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, from 5:30-7:30pm