

**MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF SWMAC MEETING

Date: June 23, 2020
Time: 5:30-7:30 PM
Logistics: WebEx meeting with limited “in person” attendance due to COVID-19

PRESENT: **Members:** Judy Skinner, Will Posegate, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Bonnie Sullivan, Brian Sund, Kurt Tackman, Julie Jackson, Kevin Hines
Staff: Brian May, Stephanie Rosentrater, Elizabeth Parker, Brian Nicholas
Guests: Kelly Bell, Lane County and Laura Kutner, Trash for Peace

ABSENT: Tim Rice

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Bonnie moved to approve the May 26, 2020 minutes.

DISCUSSION: None

RESULTS: Will seconds the motion. Judy voted “no” ~ all others voted “yes” - minutes approved.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
(Information/Action)**

PUBLIC INPUT: None

AGENDA REVIEW: None

LANE COUNTY RECYCLING

Guest speaker: Kelly Bell

Kelly Bell, from Lane County Recycling, presented overview of their program. With focus on their Master Recycler Class, Kelly discussed key points about the program, logistics, areas for improvement, and successes.

Their program started in 2000 and to date, 1100 people have taken the class. They have a newsletter received by over seven hundred people. Demographically, they see students, a progressively younger generation, and people who have been sent by their employers (usually on green teams). **QUESTION FROM KEITH:** How many high school attendees do they typically have? **ANSWER:** This year, 20 students (out of 28) attended; the largest class so far.

Attention-spans to speakers and subject matter vary; they try to meet people where they are. They promote a “learn and share” mentality, starting with simply asking someone “can this be recycled?” Master Recyclers can continue the conversation with more details, introducing the following ideas and processes: reduce and prevent solid waste, disposal of hazardous waste, compost, etc.

Master Recyclers can staff booths, present recycling material to people, conduct recycling demonstrations, and bring recycling ethic into communities. Rural Community involvement has been increasing. Florence is a great example- this community is very active and civic-minded and is led by volunteers. They are bringing awareness to waste reduction by doing demonstrations at events like Relay for Life. They wash dishes so people can see there is no need for paper plates. They have their own kits; consisting of full place settings- plate, bowl, and small plate. They can serve more than 100 people and their service is greatly appreciated. The community has asked to donate

dishes, but this group is not growing inventory as they want to keep demonstrations smaller. However, they direct people to donate items to church and schools.

Some of their **independent projects** include EcoGeneration.com and “Ask a Master Recycler.” The “Ask a Master Recycler” program was founded by a man from Eugene (who has been in the restaurant industry) and is an online question and answer tool. **Educational campaigns** include racially diverse events such as Juneteenth, using the slogan “Environmental Justice Equals Social Justice.” She’s had success developing this module and will submit to the education chair at AOR as a recycling module. She’s considering tours at MRF to see new A.I. (artificial intelligence) recycling equipment. These tours would take place on Saturdays.

What’s next? Kelly is in the process of framing out the next couple of years; the agenda for this has been accelerated. She is focusing on building one-segment classes (taped or recorded) with quizzes to be available to the public through Zoom, etc. Also considering video formatted tours.

Spring AND Fall 2020 programs have been cancelled.

TRASH FOR PEACE

Guest speaker: Laura Kutner

Laura Kutner gave a brief (due to time constraints) overview on Trash for Peace, a not-for-profit organization based out of Portland, Oregon.

Their focus is on Construction Recycling, Sustainability Education, Family Housing Sites, Ground Score Association, and The People’s Depot; they partner with Metro, City of Portland, City of Gresham, and Home Forward. Trash for Peace helped Metro form their Master Recycler Program.

The OLCC stopped enforcing the bottle bill due to COVID, so they inherited three pop up bottle collection centers. This has been an emergent need for staffing and logistics, but has been going well. Their Master Recycler Class is Community Based, consisting of four (4) three-hour evening sessions and one (1) three-hour weekend field trip.

There are barriers that could inhibit participation. **Language**; English and Spanish are primary for speaking and reading. There are more Spanish speaking/reading participants than English, so their organization creates opportunities for translation for instruction, learning, and direction. **Transportation/Childcare**; their participants often have restrictions on transportation, so they provide taxi’s, transportation gift cards (Uber), and public transportation vouchers to assist in attendance. Childcare is also provided to assist participants in being able to attend classes, tours, etc. Metro pays for transportation and childcare for participants who need these services at an annual cost of \$30k.

OVERVIEW & DISCUSSION

- Kurt inquired as to what has proven to be successful with diversity/demographics relative to recycling; he will submit formal question to Kaileigh.
- Keith has heightened interest in the Lane County high-school program; considers this an opportunity to explore.
- Bonnie previously had tried to address multi-family issues, so she did a presentation on mini master-recycler program for multi-family/kids. Her goal was to be focused in a science class type of environment because kids are the best advocates. Unfortunately, she was never able to meet with decision making people in the education system and could not get teachers to allow three-minute presentation to class. Bonnie affirms that education venues should be looked at.
- Brian agrees with Bonnie’s comments; there was a Marion County subsidized employee for recycling and waste management who would reach out to elementary and middle schools to introduce them to the concept of recycling. The education moved to high schools. As support fell, the program wasn’t sustained. Look into after-school programs.

- Kaileigh was interested in high school programs – Lane County has great entry point. This would be challenging if not conducted during the day. Content advisement is to add Environmental Justice pertaining to displaced waste – add this component to Marion County.
- Keith: The infrastructure of learning is different - kids have been doing online school due to COVID and now they have no educational outlets with school being out for the summer. This may be a good opportunity to provide online content such as MCRcycles.net. You'll see online recorded instruction videos, radio shows, etc.
- Keith/Bonnie; The carousel is closed, Gilbert House is closed, no strawberry fields – this leaves too much downtime for children during the summer. What would recycling education options be for kids?
- Rachel clarified the carousel is opening with restricted numbers due to COVID. Also states growing interest in the numerous possibilities with high school program and rural community participation.
- Elizabeth and Stephanie were tasked to come up with system and deadline for questions.
- Keith: requested members to email questions to Kaileigh, not Elizabeth and Stephanie. Keith requested for Committee to also email discussion topics to Kaileigh. Stephanie will send out email to the group for clarification.

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

Subcommittees:

The nomination Sub-Committee is now in phase-two and has a couple of options for meeting dates. Ryan and Kyle have been nominated; watch for information regarding this meeting.

Announcements and Upcoming Events: None

Meeting Review:

Brian brought up classes with MC Recyclers.net and may have some involvement with SWMAC. Brian advised he will also work with Keith and Kaileigh on getting "thank you" gifts/notes to guest presenters. Judy asked that we please provide meeting minutes at least 24 hours before meetings in order to have time for review.

Staff Updates:

Rachel will be part of staff for SWMAC – will see more of her in future. Rachel introduced summer intern Taylor Monroe from OSU; getting Masters in Public Health and led charge for recyclable coffee cup program at OSU. Taylor is experienced with consumer restaurant myths and is hoping to get good messaging out for restaurants. Perceptions are being pushed by the plastic industries saying plastic is safer; this is not necessarily true.

Bonnie and others shared gratitude to Stephanie for her hard work and commitment to SWMAC. Elizabeth Parker was introduced as the new ES Office Specialist.

Motion to adjourn meeting:

Joe moved; Bonnie seconded

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm