



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Council

June 26, 2019 Approved Minutes 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

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Members Present: Jay Simpkins (Benton County unincorporated area), Jeff Freeman (City of Corvallis); Lauri Richer (City of Corvallis); Larry Sleeman (Chair, City of Philomath)

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Broc Kienholz (Republic Services, Inc.); Julie Jackson (Republic Services); Ian Macnab (Republic Services); Eric Tuppan (Tuppan Consultants for Republic Services); Thomas Brinker (citizen); Pam Vaughan (City of Corvallis); Debi Gile (citizen); Debra Higbee-Sudyka (You CAN; Youth Climate Action Now); John Deuel (Oregon State University).

Staff Present: Xan Augerot (Commissioner); Bill Emminger (Division Supervisor, Benton County Environmental Health), Rob Turkisher (Environmental Health); Paula Felipe, Program Assistant, Public Health (recorder).

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- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Chair Larry Sleeman.
- II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.** Debra Higbee-Sudyka, who is on the Environmental Issues Advisory Council) asked about disposal of animal waste and if there was a way to recycle bedding materials? PRC is not set up to take this type of resource. Water quality issues could be involved at Dairy sites. Septic tanks and holding tanks heavily regulated by DEQ on certain land sites—might want to check with DEQ on treatment of waste before going to landfill.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes.** **MOTION** was made by Jeff Freeman to approve the May 2019 SWAC minutes, seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** passed.
- IV. **Coffin Butte Landfill & Pacific Region Compost – Annual 2018 Report - Republic Services – Ian Macnab** Highlights of his presentation included:
  - Landfill Capacity: Last year about a million tons of solid waste were added to the landfill. Using an average disposal rate of about 650,000 tons per year, there are about 25.14 years of landfill space available. If using a three year density average of 0.96 tons/cy, the site life extends to 30.27 years.
  - Cell 5C Construction of the liner system – will be about 5.5 acres.
  - Burn Dump Relocation; completed phase 1; moved 100,000 yards of materials. Will be completed in 2020-21.
  - Landfill Gas Infrastructure – Installation of ten horizontal and six vertical wells.
  - Vegetative Screen – Continued maintenance of trees planted in 2016 along the eastern perimeter of the landfill – the trees help screen the site from Highway 99.
  - Leachate: probably about 5 to 15 acres will be deployed to better shed storm water.
  - Air Quality monitoring – no significant changes in water quality were measured in 2018. Air emissions generated at the landfill were summarized in a report on DEQ forms prepared by Velley Landfills.

- Vehicles – tonnage of private vehicles (227,329.58) and commercial vehicles (over 756,000.00).
- Status of Environmental Trust Fund on 12/31/2018 was \$10,622,923.
- Customer Complaints. Total of 12 verbal complaints at landfill—mostly occurring in spring/May.
- Permit renewal dates—slow process due to staffing levels.
- PRC: Compost Sales are up (72,775.00 cubic yards). Not looking for more at this time, but looking for clean quality and no plastic. Received 14 odor notices but much quieter since the new upgraded system was installed in 2012.
- Eric Tuppan of Tuppan Consultants for Republic Services gave a presentation on ground water studies of various wells at Coffin Butte Landfill. He shared the findings of sample testing and water quality results. DEQ also took samples for analysis to compare with Tuppan’s findings, which is called a Split Sampling event in April 2019. DEQ results have not been received yet.

**MOTION** was made by Jay Simpkins to accept the Republic Services 2018 annual report and recommend it to the Board of Commissioners; Seconded by Lauri Richer; **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**V. Member Recruitment.** The Board of Commissioners have completed interviews and are close to making their recommendations. One issue is the geographic representation and desire to promote diversity. John Deuel would be representing OSU, which has some property in the unincorporated areas and he lives outside of the city limits, so he could represent the County area. Question was raised whether the same members need to be on both the DSAC and SWAC committees. Xan said she will look into that question.

**VI. Waste Reduction – Lauri Richer** Some tips for how an individual can make a difference in waste reduction: Lauri shared the following:

- Buy in bulk like oats, and use your own containers or empty jars. Do not use plastic bags. Re-use the containers.
- Do not use paper towels and napkins. Use cloth instead and wash them.
- Compost food: No food left behind.
- Learn how to store food to eliminate food waste.
- When dining at restaurants, bring your own to-go containers and re-use them.
- Buy sturdy clothing that will last longer; buy used clothes—check the Arc; Good Will; second hand stores and garage sales.
- Use old towels and sheets as rags
- For sustainable meetings, use environmentally-friendly businesses like Green Girl which has utensils, plates, and cups for 400 people. You can borrow them for an event and wash and return. She also has 100 pint glasses. No charge. Or, borrow items you need from friends instead of using paper plates and plastic cups and utensils.

- Shop at thrift and second-hand stores like Habitat for Humanity, Arc, and Good Will first to see if they have the items you need. You will be surprised at what you can find for a bargain price.
- For transportation, use the ‘earth gym’ by walking or riding a bike instead of driving.
- Use Wax-covered bags instead of plastic.
- Bring your own coffee cup and drinking glass.
- Use glass or metal straws that are re-usable.
- Dry clothes on a rack instead of using the dryer.
- Learn how to make your own products like cleaning sprays, detergent, toothpaste, and laundry soap, etc.

**Discussion took place:** John Deuel stated that OSU is exploring the use of reusable cups as a campus program in cafeteria dining areas—creates a model for the rest of the city. Larry asked how can we get these messages out to the public? Could have radio spots. Start advertising and promoting “zero waste events” and include ‘bring your own mug or glass or other containers.’ Could include sustainability messages in mailings or other communications to the public—like tax statements. Benton County has a monthly newsletter and inserts into the local newspaper. Also, Debi said sustainability fliers help get the message out. Repetition is good. Republic Services also has targeted Facebook Ads to promote simple message like empty, clean, and dry to promote clean recycling. The public can also sign up for the Benton County newsletter online at this link: <https://www.co.benton.or.us/boc/page/subscribe-receive-county-publications>

**VII. Update on Proposed Ordinance for Recycled Food Waste** – Debra Higbee-Sudyka Debra is seeking feedback and endorsement from SWAC for the proposed City ordinance for businesses to compost food waste. Julie Jackson of Republic Services said she studied the emissions issue during the cap and trade legislation, and while she is not opposed to the proposed Corvallis City ordinance to recycle food waste from businesses, she somewhat objects to the suggestion that emissions coming off of the Coffin Butte landfill have a major impact. Debra said she would revisit the language on that part of the proposal dealing with methane and consider re-writing it to be as accurate as possible. Committee members also discussed the real value of composting and ways products can impact the environment more during composting. Some members also were not sure if SWAC, being a County advisory committee, should be recommending a proposed City ordinance since it is out of jurisdiction. Debra said Portland already passed a food waste composting ordinance and Metro is considering it too. She said five States have also passed a food waste ordinance. Chair Sleeman asked members to consider the proposal and come back at the next meeting ready to give their positions and feedback.

**VIII. Review Yearly Schedule and Discuss Field Trips** For the yearly calendar: the Collection Franchise annual report will be in May 2020; the Coffin Butte report will be distributed in May 2020 and presented in June 2020. Schedule Field trips with Master Recycling class in the Fall. Tour of the landfill could take place on September 25, 2019. Also, interest in touring the

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and glass facility in Portland. Contact Rachel Snyder to schedule tours.

**IX. Member Comments on Items for Upcoming Agendas** The agenda items for the August 28, 2019 meeting include: 1) Republic Services Annual report; 2) Proposed Ordinance for City of Corvallis businesses to recycle food waste; 3) Recruitment of new members; 4) DSAC meeting.

- Republic Services announced their roll out of collecting No. 5 plastic tubs will start in July 2019.
- Republic Services handled about 230 secure loads and 518 customers at the landfill during the National Secure Your Load event in June. Next, they want to promote “Cover Your Load” which is even better than simply “securing your load.” They plan to step up ads on Facebook and get the word out.
- ***Note: Bill Emminger announced that Community Development will be handling the Solid Waste projects effective July 1, 2019 and their staff will be attending the future DSAC and SWAC meetings. So, this is the last meeting attended by Bill Emminger, Rob Turkisher, and Paula Felipe. Chair Larry Sleeman thanked them for their service. The next meeting might be held at Avery Complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room—to be announced later.***
- ***There will be no DSAC or SWAC meeting in July 2019. The next DSAC/SWAC meeting will be Wednesday, August 28, 2019. To submit agenda items, contact Larry Sleeman at [lsleeman@peak.org](mailto:lsleeman@peak.org)***

**X. Adjourn.** **MOTION** was made to adjourn meeting, seconded, **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.