



Benton County

Solid Waste Advisory Council

January 23, 2019 Approved Minutes 7 pm to 8:30 pm

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

Members Excused: Jean Gritter (North Albany),

Guests Present: Broc Kienholz (Republic Services, Inc.), Ian Macnab (Republic Services, Inc.), Julie Jackson (Republic Services); Debbie Gile (citizen); Rachel Snyder (Republic Services); Lisa Scherf (citizen); Phil Sollins (MR Watershed Council, citizen); Debra Higbee-Sudyka (citizen).

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

- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Jeff Freeman.
- II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.** None.
- III. **Approval of the Minutes.** **MOTION** by Linda Brewer was made to approve the November 2018 minutes, seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** passed.

- IV. **National Secure your Load Day is June 6th – Gordon Brown** This national campaign was started by Robin Able, a Washington mother whose daughter was severely injured from a load that was not secured. Statistics from AAA show between 2011-2014 road debris was a factor in more than 200,000 police-reported crashes and resulted in 39,000 injuries and 500 deaths. In the U.S. we spend about \$11.5 billion dollars on litter cleanup and about 20-40% of litter is from unsecured loads. For more information, see AAA website: www.aaa.com/preventroaddebris
Discussion: Republic Services can charge fees for uncovered loads. Sollins proposed the County contribute to the costs of dumping fees to help subsidize them. Regarding the terms 'covered' and 'secured,' Gordon prefers secured. A Tarp will not help secure a washing machine, for example. County codes address covering your load. If litter falls on Highway 99, Republic Services cleans it up and spends about \$10,000 a quarter on Highway 99 from Coffin Butte landfill towards Monmouth to Allister and Independence. Republic Services also works with County work crews. If people have to pay more for an unsecured load, it could have an impact. Like with the plastic bags, people will go to their car to retrieve a plastic bag instead of paying a nickel. Republic Services wants to focus on public education on this issue. Gordon suggests offering a reward for a secure load while keeping messages positive and study the impact. Larry suggested visuals could help: Take photos of what you want and don't want and show the difference so people can better understand. Another issue discussed was 'unlawful dumping' but we do not know how big of a problem it is because of lack of adequate reporting and tracking system. We are looking at Clackamas County's system. Unlawful dumping seems to occur even in County's with no disposal fees or when the fees are high. Also, discussed the firewise community development programs.

- V. Gordon's Retirement and County plans for transition.** Gordon is retiring and the program in Environmental Health is being reviewed and some changes will take place. Jen Brown is the County's sustainability coordinator. This week's deadline for department to get budgets in, so in a period of negotiation. The County solid waste program updates will be on-going SWAC agenda items.
- VI. Self-Hauling, Rural areas, and Fees.** Some people still want self-hauling as an option. Right now it is not working for rural residents. Public roads that rural neighbors maintain were not designed to handle large Republic services trucks and many rural residents do not have a garbage pick-up service. If neighbors wants monthly service for collection, then should get together and talk about how they want to do this. Republic does not charge for self-haul for recycling now. There are a lot of issues involved. Maybe SWAC should create a subcommittee to focus on this issue. Republic Services continues to educate the public on what services they provide, such as picking up mattresses. The SWAC recommends collection rates to the BOC but not the landfill rates. When comparing fees and prices with other States, remember Oregon has far more services available than other States, such as making compost. We need to focus on what works best locally. Most members agreed that Republic Services is doing a good job and we need to work together and learn more about these issues.
- VII. Waste Reduction Issues & Environmental Sustainability – Lauri Richer** Discussion took place on single use plastics. Since the 1960s, we have seen a rise in 'throw-away' culture/habits which is impacting the ocean, landfill, environment and can last for hundreds of years. While society, manufacturers, and consumers have accepted these practices, it is not sustainable. Lauri has talked with local coffee shops who are afraid to make changes such as banning single use plastic like straws because they could lose business. Lauri wants to promote a "level playing field for small businesses" to continue and proposes a County ordinance. (She distribute a cartoon visual to illustrate the point). Oregon has been at forefront of recycling efforts but we can do better to reduce waste and recycle. And, we need to support the policies that already exist. Chair Jeff Freeman shared the news from the Philippines where shampoo containers were a huge waste problem contaminating marine environment. There is an increasing awareness of this problem. Some big companies, airlines, and Bay Area are making some progress. Jen Brown shared Benton County did a pilot project in Avery building where cleaning company just emptied trash cans in a common area instead of emptying every single trash can at workstations. It resulted in a 94 percent reduction of plastic garbage liners. Discussion took place on efficiency in work place. Lauri wants to focus on reducing single use plastics. How to change cultural practices? The hauler, city, and county can work together and help provide advantages to businesses who choose environmentally friendly options. One citizen suggested we focus more on 'stick' rather than 'carrot' strategies. Members could also look further into the science, best management practices and recycling rates and what other jurisdictions are doing. Some other jurisdictions have much higher fees. Options to look at include preventing waste in the first place. Also, people who throw less trash into garbage and throw more into recycling sometimes put the wrong things in the recycling cart, which leads to other problems. We need to look at quality issues in recycling. Amount of waste has increased at the landfill as the economy improves and construction and packaging waste increases. At the end of discussion, Larry congratulated Republic Services on the nice job with their recent informational newsletter, which is simple and easy to understand. Lane County did a roundup for plastic for a recycler in Portland. Julie said if I can take a yogurt cart to a roundup, gives the impression they are acceptable to recycle, so

could be giving a wrong message to the public. Discussion will continue on how to reduce waste and promote recycling.

- VIII. Laws, Policies, and Ordinances.** SWAC could help make recommendations on policies and ordinances to the BOC, but first need to research product analysis and stewardship and best practices and how is this related to the Franchise renewal negotiations? How can we achieve our goals for the watershed and what can we do at a policy level? How much more education do we need to inform the BOC on these issues? Discussion on how SWAC should best advise the BOC on these issues. Do we want to write a detailed ordinance on ways to eliminate single use plastics and propose case studies that have worked? Lauri suggests focusing SWAC on single use plastics. What is city of Corvallis is doing? A County ban/ordinance would not apply to the cities. The topic of plastics will continue as an agenda item.
- IX.** The Chair announced our member Jean Gritter from Albany has resigned due to other commitments. After attending the Marion County meeting, one member suggested having a 'citizen-at-large' which might be a way to get more people involved.
- X. Upcoming Agenda Items.** 1) Review Bylaws and make recommendations such as length of service; Geographic areas considered including City of Corvallis to be represented at meetings; Residents' needs and expectations; Waste reduction, prevention, and recycling and what other jurisdictions, such as Marion County, are working on; Single-use plastics; Master Recycling class; Ethics training; Update on Environmental Health programs; and Interns in Environmental Health who may be available to take on solid waste project.
- XI. Next Meeting:** The next SWAC meeting is February 27, 2019.
- XII. Adjourn: MOTION** made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, all in favor, MOTION passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.