



BENTON COUNTY

Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)

April 29, 2020 Minutes 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

Members Present: John Deuel (Unincorporated Area of Benton County), Larry Sleeman (Chair, City of Philomath), Debi Gile (City of Corvallis), Dennis Jordan (North Albany), Jeff Freeman (City of Corvallis) Jay Simpkins (Benton County unincorporated area), Lauri Richer (City of Corvallis)

Absent: Xan Augerot (Board of Commissioners)

Guests Present: Broc Kienholz (Republic Services), Ian Macnab (Republic Services), Julie Jackson (Republic Services), Tino Barreras (Republic Services)

Staff Present: Greg Verret (Benton County Community Development), Jen Brown (Benton County Sustainability Coordinator); Linda Ray, Administrative Specialist (Community Development), Daniel Redick (Community Development)

- I. **Call to Order.** Chair Larry Sleeman called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. *Due to the current health crisis with Covid-19, the committee met via a virtual meeting online.*
 - II. **Approval of the Minutes.** A **MOTION** was made by Dennis Jordan to approve the March 25, 2020 minutes with two corrections; Laurie Richer's attendance needs to be reflected in the minutes. Another change in the minutes was on the agenda item "V. Introduction of New members". Dennis Jordan's name needs to be spelled correctly. Seconded by John Deuel, all in favor **MOTION** passed and minutes were approved pending these changes.
 - III. **Citizen Comments/Member Requests.** None.
 - IV. **Recruitment of New Members** - None.
 - V. **Republic Services Annual Report.** Julie Jackson shared the 2019 Annual Report for Republic Services. As she covered highlights on the report, Julie also shared that the franchise is striving to encourage and engage with their employees; especially their drivers during the Covid-19 pandemic. Drivers have been receiving a free lunch and dinner (to share with their family) each shift. The company is purposeful in using local small businesses to provide these meals and to support the local economy. In the last four weeks, \$10,000 was spent at local businesses to provide food for their employees. Another incentive implemented recently by Republic Services is that each employee has been given a \$100 gift card to use at local businesses. \$20,000 has been spent on these gift cards across the county. Republic Services is attempting to find new hires for driving the routes and have experienced a challenge in that area. Julie also shared an update on customer service calls to Republic Services. All in-state customer service calls will be directed to an Oregon representative.
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Tino Berraras gave a brief summary of his background and current work with the community/schools on behalf of Republic Services. He has also been working with Daniel on a micro-site specifically for Corvallis on Republic Services website. The address for this site is: <https://www.republicservices.com/municipality/corvallis-or>

Jeff Freeman made a **MOTION** to approve the 2019 Republic Services Annual Report. Lauri seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** was approved and the next step will be to send the annual report on to the Board of Commissioners for review and approval.

Tino ended the discussion with an update on Republic Service’s communication with the community. The franchise has opted to move towards using email more as a method of communication rather than mailings. Republic Service will still send out a mailing once a year to the community that contains updates and information. In 2019, 21,000 Benton County residents received mailings. This is a strategic move on the part of Republic S to join the efforts of reducing waste.

- VI. **Solid Waste Program Overview Goals.** John Deuel began the discussion with an update on the Materials Management Sub-Committee that is working on many initiatives that would help guide the goals for the program. Daniel led the portion of this meeting by working through a “SWOT” analysis with the SWAC members. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. This analysis will help Daniel establish a baseline in the efforts towards the Solid Waste Program goals.

Daniel transitioned the discussion into the goals for the Solid Waste Program. He asked for feedback on how our program goals relate to the state of Oregon’s long-term goals regarding waste reduction and how to achieve those goals. Oregon’s goal is waste reduction of 55% by 2025. Benton County’s goal for waste reduction is 44% by 2025 (this measurement was listed in the “Opportunity to Recycle” state statute for Benton County). Daniel encouraged members to think about how we can work hand in hand with initiatives we are planning. This topic will be continued at the next SWAC meeting in align with the Materials Management Subcommittee report.

- VII. **SWAC Bylaw Review.** Daniel reported that the amendments to the SWAC bylaws (that have been discussed in the last few meetings) had gone to the county DA, Vance Croney for review. Vance gave good feedback and helped guide the changes needed in the language surrounding SWAC membership details. Once Vance approves the changes, the SWAC will review one last time before sending on to the BOX for review and approval.
 - VIII. **Coffin Butte Covered Load Enforcement.** Currently, community members are required to cover loads when bringing waste to Coffin Butte. The council discussed options to encourage or enforce this requirement. Julie stated that currently there is no fine at Coffin Butte for lack of load covering. She also stated that Republic Services and Benton County both spend thousands of dollars a year to
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clean up the roadside. Jennifer Brown encouraged the incentive of a possible discount if visitors have their loads covered. Julie responded that the county commissioners would have to decide on that discount rate. Currently Republic Services cannot give discounts with the system they use at the landfill. A member asked about the county code clarification on fines involved with loads that are not covered. Greg responded that the code has language that identifies potential penalty from the franchisee. The council discussed the need to create a campaign around this idea. Commissioner Xan expressed an interest in a public educational campaign that may result in a differential rate, if it were instituted gradually over time it may not face much opposition. Daniel will investigate if there are any other county contracts that have language that can be used. He'd also like to get some data on the frequency of uncovered loads. Julie stated that Broc did have those stats and can bring them to the next meeting.

- IX. **Material Management Sub Group Report.** John Deuel briefly summarized the committee's recommendation for materials management priorities and goals and presented notes from the subcommittee's recent meeting. The main goal of this subcommittee is to recommend strategy on waste reduction and material management to the SWAC. The sub committee's recommendation is not to move forward with creating new initiatives at this time, but to take inventory and categorize current waste prevention programs, campaigns or other initiatives that have been documented or acknowledged in the past 10 years. Tino Barreras will join the sub-committee. Larry encouraged SWAC members to review the notes presented from the subcommittee meeting and come back in May ready to discuss this further.

- X. **Agenda Items.** These are items to add to the May 25th meeting agenda; members review and prepare to discuss the Materials Management Sub-Committee recommendations, Coffin Butte Capacity Operational Report (Ian and Broc from Republic Services will bring this report to the May meeting for review and bring it back for discussion at the June SWAC meeting), Coffin Butte covered load enforcement.

Lauri Richer suggested an audit for each member as "homework" for the next meeting. Daniel will create a document tracking this audit and will send it out to SWAC members to bring back in May for discussion.

- XI. **The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.**
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