



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Council

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

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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.

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- 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 6<sup>th</sup> – 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](http://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.



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Council

March 13, 2019 Approved Minutes 6 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.); Rachel Snyder (Republic Services); John Deuel (Oregon State University Materials Management).

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

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- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:37 pm by Chair Larry Sleeman.
- II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.** *Introduced new member of Environmental Health: Lars Gjovik. From 6 pm to 6:30 pm there was a reception with refreshments in honor of Gordon Brown, who is retiring after 30 years of service.)*
- III. **Approval of the Minutes.** **MOTION** was made to approve the January 23, 2019 SWAC minutes, seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** passed. **(There was no meeting in February due to snow).**
- IV. **Update Benton County Solid Waste Issues– Gordon Brown**  
*(Gordon's powerpoint will be emailed out to all members with these minutes).* Gordon discussed the responsibility for Solid Waste services. DEQ is authorized by the EPA under the RCRA (1976) to regulate solid waste in Oregon. Local governments (under state law) are responsible for providing solid waste management services. Examples of Franchise and Permit systems include Benton, Linn, Lincoln, Polk, and many others. (See attached powerpoint slide show for more information). The Coffin Butte Regional Landfill is the primary disposal site for Benton, Linn, Lincoln, and Polk Counties (historical region), and provides partial disposal for about 20 other counties. There was a large spike in tons disposed (over 900,000 tons) at the landfill in 2017. A large contributing factor is construction debris, which could have more materials recovered and recycled. MRF is among discussion topics during Franchise talks. The Coffin Butte remaining capacity is 33 to 38 years at 500,000 tons/year and it is 25 to 30 years at 950,000 tons/year. Among upcoming challenges include population growth; 30-year Metro agreement with Waste Management expires in December 2019; Expected closure of Riverbend Regional Landfill in Yamhill County in March 2020; DEQ Permit for Coffin Butte Landfill expires in July 31, 2020; Current Franchise agreement with Coffin Butte Landfill and PRC expires in December 31, 2020; and Current Franchise agreement with Republic Services for waste collection/hauling expires in September 20, 2021. Key points to consider for Coffin Butte and next Franchise agreement: 20-year agreement term; Disposal fees have been kept artificially low for 20 years; Coffin Butte will be the only remaining regional landfill in NW Oregon at some point during the term of the next agreement; Increase in tonnages from Metro; Columbia Gorge corridor is vulnerable to disruptions; Disaster events can consume years of landfill capacity; Remaining capacity at end of

next agreement 13-18 years; and New landfill sites in Western Oregon is highly unlikely. Currently evaluating ties that solid waste have with climate change, sustainability, storm water management, and code enforcement. Benton County Revenue from Solid Waste Services: Host Surcharge 2017-19 Budget: \$2,717,000 (about \$2.45/ton); Host Surcharge Metro 2017-19 Budget: \$1,125,280; and Franchise Fees 2018: \$380,000.

- V. Member Recruitment.** Member and past Chair Linda Brewer has resigned so SWAC now has four members. Need to recruitment new members. Announcement made at the Master Recyclers and some took brochures. The Bylaws are being reviewed. Hope to have more widespread representation and not just geographic but also in classifications/positions. Want to have 9 members. Difficult to recruit members from Monroe and Adair due to travel time. Chair suggested OSU as a member of committee—John Deuel will check with his supervisor. Gordon said DSAC has state requirements for membership and there will be a lot of attention on landfill over next two years. Other groups mentioned as possible members to SWAC: Restaurants? Habitat for humanity? Construction/builders? School districts? Realtors? Commercial Contractors? City Council member, such as sustainability coordinator? If anyone knows a possible candidate for SWAC encourage them to contact Teresa Farley and visit the Benton County website—the following link has online applications for the advisory committees: <https://www.co.benton.or.us/boc/page/committee-vacancies>
- VI. Annual Planning Calendar.** –Larry Sleeman Gordon shared a planner document as an aid to creating the agenda. Gordon stopped this practice several years ago, but is helps to envision the year ahead on the calendar. Items and Issues align with month and year on chart.
- VII. Secure Loads, Dump Stoppers, Firewise Update** Gordon talked with Republic Services staff about three programs. June 6 is national secure load day (AAA promotes this and raises awareness about hazards of unstable loads). Discussed having a 3 day period (June 6, 7, 8,) to contact people and distribute info on securing loads (not just covered). Also, may want to talk about this in Franchise agreement. Dump stoppers provide landowners and timber owners; discount ability to take loads to the dump. Firewise: Republic provides a large container designated for disposal of material to PRC and limit to firewise communities. This designation is thru agreement and involves forestry wildland interface shared responsibility (not part of franchise). It is a side project to help those communities manage vegetation to protect homes against fire. This programs can be future agenda items.
- VIII. Update on C & D Materials Recovery Facility .** (Gordon covered this issue in his talk—see powerpoint attached).
- IX. Upcoming Agendas:**
- Republic Services briefing on firewise program; yard debris; and scrap metal disposal.
  - Plan for Republic Newsletter to include SWAC's recruitment for new members.
  - Rob Turkisher will be putting the agenda together for next month.
  - Food waste and restaurants—would FSAC be interested in a combined meeting? FSAC meets quarterly on food safety and fees.
  - Republic Services (Julie Jackson) brief SWAC on legislative agendas and proposals, such as greenhouse gas bills and impacts (Rachel will ask her).
  - Policies about reduction and how does policy affect decisions/businesses/institutions; encourage or require more focus on reduction of waste.

- OSU looking at policies and what could be changed.
- Invite guest speakers, such as from ORRA or the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR).
- Xan and Chair congratulated Gordon on his retirement and thanked Paula for coordinating a sustainable meeting with refreshments.

**X. Adjourn moved and seconded 7:47 PM.**



# 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.



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Council

September 25, 2019 Approved Minutes 6:30 pm to 8 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); John Deuel (Oregon State University Materials Management); and Debi Gile (City of Corvallis).

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Broc Kienholz, Ian Macnab, and Julie Jackson (Republic Services, Inc.)

Staff Present: Xan Augerot (Commissioner); Greg Verret (Benton County Community Development), Bill Emminger (Division Supervisor, Benton County Environmental Health), Rob Turkisher (Environmental Health); Jen Brown (Benton County Sustainability Coordinator); Linda Ray, Admin Assistant (Community Development); Paula Felipe, Recorder (Public Health).

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- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Chair Larry Sleeman.
  
- II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.** Chair Larry Sleeman introduced Greg Verret of Benton County Community Development, who is the new liaison with DSAC/SWAC for the County. Linda Ray is the new administrative assistant working with Greg. He also thanked Republic Services for hosting this meeting in the Coffin Butte Landfill Office Building and for providing refreshments. Welcome to two new members: John Deuel of OSU and Debi Giles of City of Corvallis.
  
- III. **Approval of the Minutes. MOTION** was made to approve the June 26, 2019 SWAC Minutes. Discussion: John Deuel commented that on Item VI under Waste Reduction, it should read: "OSU is exploring the use of reusable cups as a campus program." **MOTION** was made to approve the June SWAC Minutes as amended; seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** passed.
  
- IV. **Transition in the Solid Waste Program – Greg Verret** After Gordon Brown's retirement, the County reviewed how the solid waste program was structured and conducted a multiple departmental evaluation. After consideration, the County ultimately recommended the solid waste program be housed in the Community Development department. Greg is a 'willing and open partner' who has been working closely with Bill Emminger to effect the transition. One member asked when this new transition was decided because his impression was that it happened suddenly without much notice. Greg explained discussion began in the Fall of 2018 and continued over winter and into the Spring of 2019. Gordon Brown had input into those discussions. It became clear where the program would be housed by the end of the budget process and a new job description for a full-time position in solid waste was proposed. Greg worked with Bill and Environmental Health staff on developing the job description. It was a significant reorganizational and budget process and a new admin assistance position was filled to support the solid waste program. The new positions had to be classified with HR and processed. Bill Emminger also communicated with national environmental health and solid waste associations to announce the job description to recruit a pool of candidates. John Deuel is interested in seeing what are the key deliverables of the position, and Greg will forward the job description to the committee. Gordon Brown is still a consultant to the County with respect to

the on-going Franchise agreement discussions. The goal is to have the Franchise agreement done by December 2020 but the County would like to get it done as soon as possible. Chair Sleeman asked members to write down any questions they have and bring them to the next meeting.

- V. Republic Services Rate Adjustment Request - Julie Jackson** She discussed the methodology and target refuse index, which is tailored a little bit more toward their industry. Republic Services prefers to propose a gradual percentage rate change (like 2-3 percent) rather than 8-10 percent change. Discussion took place on the rate change: Republic Services proposes a 3 percent rate increase that would take effect on January 1, 2020. Reviewed the difference of the two rate indexes for 2018 and 2019. China Sword was mentioned: Two years ago, Republic Services was paid \$40 a ton and today Republic Services is charged \$100 a ton. So, not much material going to China today, and there is a huge competition for finding markets. Oregon is a leader across the country and working with communities to share costs of recycling. SWAC can make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on whether to accept or reject the rate increase.

**MOTION** was made to recommend the proposed Republic Services 3 percent rate adjustment; all in favor; **MOTION** passed unanimously.

- VI. Hauling Company Annual Report. – Julie Jackson** Reviewed the 2018 Republic Services annual report for Benton County. The cover has photos of staff members to promote getting to know the people of Republic Services. There are 6,631 residential, commercial and industrial customers in Benton County. Republic Services also serves more than 14 million customers nationwide in 240 markets and believes in the preservation of our “Blue Planet”—“a cleaner, safer and healthier world where people thrive—not just for today, but for generations to come.” The report offers information on global recycling markets, recycling locally, financial updates, and news on operations in Benton County. Highlights of the report include:

- Working with customers to create a more sustainable recycling model.
- Republic Services recognized as one of Baron’s 100 most Sustainable Companies and ranked among the top by CDF Global Climate Management.
- Republic Services charitable foundation awarded \$135,000 to the Living Southtown Corvallis Housing project.
- Offer a range of products to assist community with recycling or disposal of multiple waste streams including electronics, universal waste, and household hazardous waste.
- Reliability: 99.9 percent pickup reliability rate and drivers are the safest in the industry;
- Globally recognized as a leader in sustainability. Curbside recycling, yard debris and food scrap collection programs in Oregon, along with running a fleet of 24 Compressed Natural Gas powered trucks, and a landfill gas-to-energy plant.
- Reduced fleet emissions by 3 percent from direct operational impacts.
- Code of Business Ethics and Conduct exemplifies Republic Services values.
- Commitment to giving back to communities: last year, Republic Services gave about \$7.1 million to communities across the nation and over \$22,000 was donated to the local area through the Community Grant program.

- Local Customer Service Representatives began taking calls in Corvallis and Woodburn at the end of November 2018.
- Recycling education and Outreach: Rachel Snyder, Recycling Coordinator, Email: [rsnyder2@republicservices.com](mailto:rsnyder2@republicservices.com) She provides school and community presentations and co-facilitates the master recycler program and compost workshops. She also produces quarterly newsletters.
- Recycling is changing to meet markets and technologies around the world. In 2017 China announced efforts to clean up the country including dramatic changes in criteria of imported recyclables (reduction in contamination levels from ~3% to 0.5%).
- The Cost of Recycling = Collection Fee + Processing Fee + Disposal of Residual – Commodity Sales
- Recycling Numbers: Yard waste is up from last year by almost 2000 tons. There is an increase in Food Waste. Overall, total landfill tons went up from 38,461 in 2017 to 43,285 in 2018.
- Republic offers a variety of services such as on-call cart pick up. They like efficiency in their routes too. Some suggest a once a month pick up option for those who have little trash or maybe have an every other week option for pick up—something to consider. Downside is trash that sits for a month could have odors and neighbor complaints.
- Franchise fees/Financial Management: Itemized monthly list of 2018 and 2017 Receipts and Fees paid.
- Republic Services revenue is up from 2,878,237 in 2017 to 3,010,072 in 2018. Cost of Operations increased 5.6 percent. Franchise fees paid to Benton County totaled \$153K in 2018, up \$17K from 2017.
- Fleet Safety: “Safety is at the forefront of our operations every hour of every day.”
- Question: Are there resources to find out about best practices for recycling that provide a benefit and cost analysis? This could be good project for County Sustainability coalition to research.

**VII. Update on Proposed Ordinance for Recycled Food Waste** *This agenda item was postponed and the Chair will continue to put it on the agenda in future.*

**VIII. Review Yearly Schedule and Discuss Field Trips** The Schedule was revised as follows:

- Coffin Butte Operational and Capacity Reports: stays in May/June.
- Collection Franchisees Annual Reports: Move to March.
- Secure loads annual campaign: Move to May/June.
- Dump Stoppers: (program with Sheriff’s Department which is all year long).
- Benton County Solid Waste Overview Presentation: Paula Felipe will send the powerpoint by Gordon Brown to Linda Ray/Community Development.
- Landfill tour: landfill tour—stays in September.
- C&D MRF update: part of landfill discussion; leave it in February.
- Field trips/master recyclers: Move to Oct/Nov. \*Note: Julie Jackson will send out notices on field trips to committee member.
- Rate adjustment: stays in September.

- John Deuel offered to provide a 1-hour tour of OSU sorting operations and warehouse—for Spring 2020.

**IX. Agenda items for next meeting:** Items to include: recruiting members; transition; rate adjustment/hauling reports; Proposed Ordinance for Recycling Food Waste; landfill and PRC field trips (Julie will get info out about fieldtrips). Other announcements:

- Julie Jackson complimented the staff of Benton County: “Bill, Rob, and Paula have been super to work with and did a great job,” she said.
- The Chair also thanked Benton County staff and thanked Republic Services for refreshments.
- Linda Ray asked for members’ preference on communication: One calendar invite sent out with recurring dates to get on members’ outlook calendar and then agendas and minutes can be sent out via email a week before the meeting is fine.
- The next SWAC meeting is October 23 at 6 pm in the Avery Facility, 360 SW Avery Avenue in Corvallis. The next DSAC/SWAC meeting is December 11, 2019 at 6 pm at the Avery Facility and the DSAC meeting will start first.
- Will need new name plates made for John Deuel, Debi Gile, and Jen Brown since she visits regularly.
- Julie will invite Bailey, the sustainability coordinator for the school district who has 17 years of experience to a SWAC meeting.

**X. Adjourn.** **MOTION** was made to Adjourn at 8:05 pm; seconded and passed unanimously.



## BENTON COUNTY

### Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)

October 23, 2019 APPROVED Minutes 6:00 pm to 7:30 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), Debi Gile (City of Corvallis)

Members Excused:

Guests Present: Broc Kienholz, Ian Macnab, Debra Higbee-Sudyka

Staff Present: Greg Verret (Benton County Community Development), Jen Brown (Benton County Sustainability Coordinator); Linda Ray, Admin Assistant (Community Development)

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- I. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair, Larry Sleeman
  
  - II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.** After introductions from the group, Debi Giles (a new committee member of SWAC) asked for clarification on her role. Larry referred to the SWAC member binder that contains bylaws and other information that would be helpful for Debi in her new role on the Committee. Linda Ray will follow up with supplying Debi the contents of the member binder. Larry gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of a SWAC member. A committee member asked what the procedure was for community members to bring requests to the Committee. Larry emphasized that the meetings were flexible and after discussion, the committee decided to move "Citizen Comments" to the end of future agendas to leave room for this type of discussion. This will allow the committee time to get through items on the agenda and provide guests an opportunity to express concerns, ask questions, and make comments.
  
  - III. **Approval of the Minutes.** **MOTION** was made to approve the September 25, 2019 SWAC/DSAC minutes. A committee member asked for clarification on the cost involvement with China Sword that was mentioned in the last meeting. The minutes will be amended to state that Republic Services was paid \$40/ton, not charged \$40/ton by China Sword. **MOTION** was made to approve the September SWAC Minutes as amended; seconded, all in favor, **MOTION** passed.
  
  - IV. **Update on Solid Waste Coordinator recruitment.** Prior to the meeting, Greg sent out the job description and job posting link for the Solid Waste Coordinator position to committee members for review. The closing date for applications is November 16<sup>th</sup>. If there are enough applications that have come in, the first review will be October 30<sup>th</sup>. One member asked who would be reviewing applicants. Greg stated that after he and Bill Emminger review the initial applicants, they will ask other staff or committee members to help with the screening of top candidates. A committee member noted that it would be good to have Gordon Brown on the interview panel stating that Gordon knows what the job entails and has knowledge on the franchise approval process.
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V. **Recruiting New Committee Members.** The requirements for the SWAC involves 10 committee members and representation from Monroe, Adair, North Albany, 3 unincorporated and Corvallis. Larry asked committee members to let him know if they have any suggestions on community members that would be interested in being on the Solid Waste Advisory Council. Further discussion on new members will take place at the December 11th SWAC meeting.

VI. **Required Food Waste Composting presentation by Debra Higbee-Sudyka.** Debra works with Youth Climate Action Now Corvallis (YouCAN Corvallis) and returned to the committee with an update on their efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. YouCAN has recently focused their efforts on working with local businesses to reduce food waste. The group is preparing an ordinance asking for a food waste ban in the City of Corvallis. Debra sought feedback from the committee on what should be included in the ordinance. There are twenty four cities and three counties in Oregon that have passed a food waste ordinance. Debra referred to Portland's successful efforts in this area. Julie Jackson pointed out that the ordinance would necessitate additional staffing for Republic Services, which would need to be funded via rate increases and/or the franchise agreement

VII. **Review Yearly Schedule and Discuss Field Trips**

The SWAC meeting dates have been updated for 2020 on the yearly calendar. OSU may host a field trip in the Spring of 2020. If a Solid Waste Coordinator is in place by January, Julie Jackson and Jennifer Brown would like to work with the new staff member in making a presentation discussing the current state of recycling and the Department of Environmental Quality's change of focus from management and not just recycling.

VIII. **Agenda items for next meeting**

- Add "Member Requests" to Agenda items
- Update on Solid Waste Coordinator position
- Recruiting new members
- Republic report: Update on an informative document being sent at the end of the year to community on how/what is allowed in regards to composting and recycling.
- Discussion on Benton County website information available to the public (what needs added and/or updated).

IX. **Adjourn. MOTION** was made to Adjourn at 7:36 pm; seconded and passed unanimously.

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# BENTON COUNTY

## Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)

December 11, 2019 Approved Minutes 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

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**Members Present:** John Deuel (Unincorporated Area of Benton County), Jeff Freeman (City of Corvallis), Larry Sleeman (Chair, City of Philomath), Debi Gile (City of Corvallis)

**Members Excused:** Lauri Richer, Jay Simpkins

**Guests Present:** Broc Kienholz, Ian Macnab, Jacob Whitledge, John Sarna

**Staff Present:** Xan Augerot, (Commissioner), Greg Verret (Benton County Community Development), Jennifer Brown (Benton County Sustainability Coordinator); Linda Ray, Administrative Specialist (Benton County Community Development)

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- I. **Call to Order.** Chair Larry Sleeman called the meeting to order at 6:18 pm.
- II. **Introductions and Citizen Comments.**
  - I. **Approval of the Minutes.** **MOTION** was made by John Deuel to accept the October 23, 2019 minutes, seconded by Jeff Freeman, all in favor, **MOTION** passed.
  - II. **Update on Solid Waste Coordinator recruitment.** Greg informed SWAC members that after a 4-week recruitment process, the position has been filled. Daniel Redick has been offered the position. Daniel previously worked with USC with their waste diversion program. He has a lot of energy, knowledge and experience. Daniel will start work on January 2nd and will be attending the January 22nd SWAC/DSAC meetings.
- III. **Recruiting New Committee Members.** Commissioner Augerot stated that she knows of one person that lives in North Albany that may be interested in serving on the council. Chair Sleeman reminded the council of the need to review the bylaws when discussing geographical districts in the interest of recruiting members from communities. There was discussion about opening up the applications for new recruits to those not solely from the geographic districts specified. Chair Sleeman stated that the “geographical specificity” is applied for the DSAC committee but does not apply to SWAC. John Sarna, a guest, commented that it would be good to have input from hospital, restaurants (waste source), contractors, hospitality, HP, hotels, school district, manufacturers on the committee. John Deuel provided a list of ideas for SWAC Recruitment as follows; Good Samaritan Hospital Operation, Sky High/Block 15/American Dream/Tommy’s/McMenamins/Old World Deli/Squirrels/Downward Dog/Shari’s/Buffalo Wild Wings/Old Spaghetti Factory, Hospitality, HP, School District, Manufacturer, Contractors and Food Safety Advisory Committee for Benton County. There was discussion about potentially having some of these representatives as ex officio or non-voting members. It was agreed this topic would be revisited in January.

- IV. **Report from Republic Services.** This item is being moved to the January agenda. Julie Jackson is working on an 8-page flyer that will inform the community on the benefits of composting and materials that are accepted. This topic will also be discussed in January.
- V. **Discussion on County Website pages for SWAC/DSAC.** Commissioner Augerot pointed out that edits need to be made to reflect that the program resides in Community Development now and not Environmental Health as stated on the Solid Waste Program page. The council was asked to review the SWAC/DSAC/Solid Waste Program pages (from the perspective of a committee member and consumer) and give feedback on edits at the January meeting.
- VI. **2020 Calendar Review DEQ report.** A request was made to add a line item on the December 2020 calendar to include the DEQ report.
- VII. **Citizen Comments/Member Requests.** Debi brought to the committee's attention that there is misinformation that the public is receiving. An article in "Our Town" (2019 publication) stated that plastics (including jars and tubs) are still recyclable. Debi pointed out that it is conflicting information and can confuse the public. The magazine comes out in the Gazette Times each Fall.
- VIII. **DEQ Report.** Greg read an email he received from DEQ and displayed the data for the committee to review visually at the meeting. The committee had a brief discussion of the data. When Greg receives the final draft, he will email it out to SWAC members.
- IX. **Agenda items for next meeting.** DEQ report, Report from Republic Services.
- X. **Adjourn. MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.