



**Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Meeting**

AGENDA

October 25, 2023

6:00pm-8:00pm

Register in advance for this meeting (this may take a few minutes):

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqfuCrqjlpH9RYkvib5idqH0I_lwn9g57x

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

- I. 6:00 p.m., 5 Minutes – Call to Order..... Chair
- II. 6:05 p.m., 5 Minutes – Introduce Christopher Jacobs - EDO..... Staff
- III. 6:10 p.m., 20 Minutes – Review/Approval of the Minutes Chair
 - July 11, 2022
 - July 27, 2022
 - August 24, 2022
 - October 26, 2022
 - November 16, 2022
 - December 7, 2022
 - January 18, 2023
 - February 8, 2023
 - March 15, 2023

[Previous Meeting Recordings \(7/2022 - 3/2023\)](#) : Password: Benton2023!

- IV. 6:30 p.m., 30 Minutes – Community Member CommentsChair
- V. 7:00 p.m., 55 Minutes – Community Member Concerns Annual Report 2021 Chair
- VI. 7:55 p.m., 5 Minutes – Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn..... Chair



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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BENTON COUNTY

Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)

Special Meeting

July 11, 2022 Minutes **DRAFT**

Members Present: Ken Eklund, John McEvoy, Deborah Gile, Mark Yeager

Republic Services: Absent

Staff Present: Daniel Redick (Benton County Solid Waste and Water Quality Coordinator)

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 3:13 pm.

DSAC Bylaws: Discuss / Decide on Options for Wording Changes

- Ken shared Mark's comment that the use of "permittee" is odd in article 2, and that the landfill operator is not a "permittee" of the County, but rather a "permittee" of the State. Mark recommended clarifying that the operator is issued a permit by DEQ. The group suggested the language "franchisee", "Oregon DEQ permittee", or "operator", and chose to use "Oregon DEQ permittee" in this instance.
- Ken shared Mark's comment in article 3 that it would be helpful to clarify "a person holding a permit" to match the language in Chapter 23. That language was removed because the last sentence satisfies the purpose.
- Debi said article 3, section 2 references "Solid Waste Advisory Council", and Daniel explained that this is where the DSAC and SWAC bylaws intentionally reference one-another.
- The group recommended striking the phrase in article 4: "However, in the event the Chair's vote shall create a tie vote, the Chair shall refrain from voting".
- Article 5, Ken included reworded language for the last sentence, explaining quorum rules for public meeting laws.
- Article 7, section 2: the group changed the 24 hours notification to three days. The group decided to remove the language refraining the chair from voting in section 4.
- Article 7, section 7: the group changed the three day notice to seven days notice.
- Article 7, section 8: the group wants to include language about maintaining recordings.
- Article 10: Ken asked if conflict of interest can be explained better. Mark recommended finding and including the statutory rule due to the complexity. Daniel will work on finding that reference and sending it to Ken to include on the final draft. The group agreed that Ken will work on the final draft, and Daniel will send it out to the group at least seven days prior to the next meeting.

Other items

Daniel said the County received the 2021 landfill annual report, and it is available on the website.

Mark made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 pm, seconded by Debi the MOTION passed unanimously.



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BENTON COUNTY
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
July 27, 2022 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, John McEvoy, Deborah Gile, Joel Geier, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, and Mark Yeager

Republic Services Present: Broc Keinholz, Ian McNab, Julie Jackson, Eric Tuppan (Tuppan Consultants)

Staff Present: Daniel Redick (Benton County Solid Waste and Water Quality Coordinator)

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

John made a **MOTION** to approve the April 27th, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Mark, the **MOTION** was approved 7-0.

Community Member Comments

- Joel reported that a community comment came into him personally about the Heron Rookery (colony) near the landfill. The colony had many nests active through May 14th but was apparently abandoned two weeks later, which raises concern. He asked if the landfill monitored the bird population this year and if so have the results been reported to ODFW. He also noted that neighbors noticed equipment operating just west of the rookery, to haul fill dirt from a stockpile. He asked if the company kept any log of these or other activities in the heron buffer zone that was recommended by ODFW. Ian McNab (Republic Services) responded that these are normal operations and there has been no other change in that area for quite some time. A biologist has been monitoring the eastern and western rookeries starting this year. Results will not be reported by the biologist until the end of a three-year period and no data is available at this time. Joel made a **MOTION** to request that Republic Services provide any information they have regarding the monitoring of the heron colonies this past spring and present it at the next DSAC meeting. Seconded by Marge, the **MOTION** was approved 6-1, 1 abstained (John)
- Kevin Kenaga attended the recent BOC meeting and learned about the budget for the facilitated work group that is being formed. He requested that DSAC request that some of that funding for the work group process goes towards environmental impacts.
- Mark requested that DSAC/SWAC meetings be combined and confirmed it would be allowable based on Oregon law. Members asked Daniel to explore reasons why DSAC and SWAC were separate meetings in the past and what options there are for

combining groups into one in the future. This topic will be discussed at the August SWAC meeting.

Work Group

Joel and Marge both expressed interest in joining the Solid Waste Process work group that has been implemented by the Board of Commissioners per the Oregon Consensus Assessment. The BOC requested that two representatives from the council join the work group. Mark made a **MOTION** to nominate both Joel and Marge to the facilitated work group. Seconded by Debi, the **MOTION** passed 7-0. Joel suggested an alternate member and Chuck expressed his interest in joining the work group if needed.

Group Priorities & Intentions

Ken asked SWAC members to send him an email on their suggestions for agenda items and the order of priority and intention.

DSAC BYLAWS

Mark made a **MOTION** to approve the proposed edits to the DSAC Bylaws that were discussed at the July 11, 2022 work session and to send them on to the Board of Commissioners for review. Seconded by Joel, the **MOTION** was approved 6-1, Chuck voted no.

Annual Report

Ian shared Republic Services Annual Report. This information can be found in **Exhibit A** (attached). Extensive discussion took place. Mark mentioned a significant discrepancy in reported numbers, and that the report references the Health Department instead of Community Development. Ian said the report is developed from a template, which may contribute to discrepancies. Joel asked about hydrologic monitoring including high arsenic levels and monitoring surface water runoff at the PRC, and the topics were discussed with Republic Services staff and Eric Tuppan.

Agenda Items

Mark raised concern that the independent audit of intake at the landfill (which he previously requested) is on the DSAC agenda that meets quarterly. He emphasized that this information needs to be available sooner than the next DSAC meeting. Ken suggested an additional meeting be scheduled for DSAC that would be dedicated to cover items such as this and other topics that have not been discussed at regular DSAC meetings. The committee decided to schedule a regular DSAC meeting (not a work session) for August 24th along with SWAC.

Mark made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Debi, the **MOTION** was approved and meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

BENTON COUNTY
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
August 24, 2022 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Joel Geier, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, and Mark Yeager

Republic Services Present: absent

Staff Present: Daniel Redick (Benton County Solid Waste and Water Quality Coordinator), Linda Ray (Community Development Administrative Specialist)

Public present: John Deuel, Ed Pitera, Nancy Whitcombe, Jay Simpkins, Debbie Palmer, Paul Nietfeld

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Edits to the July 27, 2022 minutes are as follows;

- Change Ken Eklund's title to Chair instead of Vice Chair in the "call to order"
- In the sentence referring to the discussion on heron's, needs clarification that biologists have just started the project so there is no report. Request to strike through "3-year process and reporting to ODFW". There is no data at this time.
- DSAC bylaws needs changes in the wording from SWAC to DSAC
- Republic Services Annual Report – the committee would like more discussion captured on that topic and members will send suggested edits to Linda Ray.

Committee members decided to wait on approving the minutes until these edits are made.

Community Member Comments

- Paul Nietfeld reported his findings on the topic of methane gas and an assessment performed at the landfill. He urged the committee to request an independent assessment made by the county on this matter.

Heron Rookery Inquiry

Members asked that the minutes reflect that Republic Service representatives were not in attendance at this meeting and they would like more information on this year's observations of the Heron Rookery. Daniel asked Republic Services for that information following the group's request, and the email exchange is included as attachment A.

Landfill/Recycling Center Annual Report 2021

Chair Eklund requested that the minutes reflect his perspective that there is a serious discrepancy in the reported capacity of the landfill, and that the volume reported in the

annual report is dependent on removal of quarry rock, so that airspace is not currently available. He also noted that the annual tonnage estimates used in landfill capacity calculations (750,000 tons/year), is lower than the tonnage accepted since 2016. Chuck discussed the 2021 Site Development Plan document available to the group on the County's website document library.

Community Member Presentation – Nancy Whitcombe

Nancy presented the Annual Report by Republic Services and requested that they add two new columns and additional data to the report:

- Classify commercial vehicles to capture the class of vehicles frequenting the landfill.
- Classification for private vehicles and the contents of their loads
- Number of trucks carrying leachate, volume
- Number of gravel trucks, weight
- Number of Covanta Ash trucks, weight
- Number of vehicles carrying compost to and from the landfill, weight
- Vehicle weight (as used in current scale data)
- Vehicle data for those travelling to and from the PRC

After discussion from the committee on requesting more data from Republic Services on their annual report, Daniel will take the comments from DSAC members and present them at the BOC meeting scheduled for October 18th. Mark made a **MOTION** that DSAC would not approve the 2021 Republic Services Annual Report as submitted due to discrepancies. The MOTION also requests that the BOC add data in the 2022 report that includes capacity details and consistency in numbers. The MOTION was seconded by Marge. Chuck amended the MOTION to include an exhibit compiled by staff and the Chair, agreed to by Mark and Marge. The **MOTION** was unanimously approved.

Chuck made a **MOTION** that DSAC look at the class of vehicles and type of lading transported in and out of Coffin Butte to be reflected in the landfill annual report. The MOTION was seconded by Mark. Daniel recommended that the MOTION be amended to replace “look at” with “recommends to the Board of Commissioners”. Chuck amended the MOTION, Mark approved. Joel amended the MOTION to include a request that Republic Services include data on vehicles traveling from PRC and include leachate hauling. Supported by Chuck and Mark, the amended **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Joel suggested adding issues with report in their individual public comments regarding the minutes not capturing enough of the discussion.

Independent Landfill Data Verification

After discussion on the amount of methane emissions and methane capture from the landfill, Joel made a **MOTION** to recommend that the BOC seek to obtain aerial or satellite measurements of total methane emissions from the landfill independent of ground-based measurements as part of their goal of investigating methane as a community priority. Seconded by Marge, the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Independent Audit into Landfill Waste

Mark requested that an independent audit of the waste going into the landfill by hiring a third party consultant to inspect loads as they arrive at the landfill. Chuck recommended that recyclables be included in the audit.

Mark made a **MOTION** to ask the BOC to fund this long-term random third-party independent audit of the materials being brought to the landfill, including recyclables, in order to characterize the materials. Seconded by Joel. The **MOTION** passed unanimously. The audit would take place over 12-18 months (2-3 times a month) in order to understand the potential variability of waste.

Member Requests

Debi requested information from Republic Services on composting food from outdoor community events. Daniel will follow up with Ian on this request.

Ken requested that the DSAC meetings be moved to use the “Zoom” platform.

Agenda Items

Mark requested that DSAC/SWAC be combined into one instead of having two separate meetings. Daniel will prepare a memo for the DSAC on this request.

Joel requested more information on the County of origin of waste materials, and that an item regarding committee requests from Republic Services (Annual Report additions and information on the Heron Rookeries.

Joel made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm, seconded by Mark the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Attachment A: Heron Rookery Inquiry Email Exchange

From: [REDICK Daniel](#)
To: [CRONEY Vance M](#); "Jackson, Julie"
Subject: RE: SWAC/DSAC
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 9:35:32 AM

Thank you, Julie.

Yes, I let Chair Eklund know that you and Ian would not be providing more information about wildlife at the upcoming meeting. I will let them know that you and Ian will not be able to attend the meeting as well.

Best,

Daniel

From: CRONEY Vance M <Vance.M.CRONEY@Co.Benton.OR.US>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:40 PM
To: 'Jackson, Julie' <JJackson6@republicservices.com>; REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@Co.Benton.OR.US>
Subject: RE: SWAC/DSAC

Thanks Julie. Vance.

From: Jackson, Julie <JJackson6@republicservices.com>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:18 PM
To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@Co.Benton.OR.US>
Cc: CRONEY Vance M <Vance.M.CRONEY@Co.Benton.OR.US>
Subject: SWAC/DSAC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Daniel,

I just wanted to let you know that neither Ian or I are able to attend the SWAC or DSAC meetings this week. I know they have us on the agenda for a rookery report, but as I let you know earlier, we do not have anything to report.

Thanks,

Julie

Julie Jackson
Municipal Manager

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BENTON COUNTY

Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) & Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)

Joint Work Session

October 26, 2022 **Draft Minutes**

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Joel Geier, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Absent
Staff Present: Daniel Redick
Public Present: Debbie Palmer
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Accepting written comments from the public. Chair Eklund provided an overview of the comments received since August. Written comments available in the public comment packet.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

The group discussed the priorities for the liaison discussion, and the process for providing feedback between the SWAC/DSAC members involved in BCTT and the rest of the SWAC/DSAC membership. The group then discussed the various BCTT subcommittees and the topics addressed, the scope of the BCTT work, concerns and opportunities for improvement in the process, valuable aspects of the process, general thoughts about the process so far.

The topic of complaint-driven enforcement was discussed, along with concerns about that process. The group also discussed SWAC/DSAC's role in addressing complaints, while the SWAC/DSAC meetings are limited to BCTT liaison opportunities at the BOC's direction. The group then discussed concerns about the BOC's direction limiting SWAC/DSAC meetings to BCTT liaison opportunities. Chair Eklund asked if the group would like to appeal the BOC's direction limiting SWAC/DSAC meetings to BCTT liaison opportunities, and the discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Eklund decided that scheduling the next meeting would take place through an online poll. Chair Eklund adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.



BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) &
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Joint Work Session
November 16, 2022 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Brent Pawlowski, and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Absent
Staff Present: Daniel Redick
Public Present: Debbie Palmer, Kevin Kenaga
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Accepting written comments from the public. Verbal public comment is currently unavailable. Chair Eklund mentioned who had provided some of the comments received since August. Written comments available in the public comment packet. Marge was concerned that the bookmarks were not available to navigate the comment packet.

Chair Eklund asked new member Brent Pawlowski to introduce themselves, and Brent provided some background information and their interest in SWAC/DSAC. Chair Eklund communicated that SWAC and DSAC are currently in a challenging time, driven by the Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup, and the BOC's direction limiting SWAC/DSAC meetings to BCTT liaison opportunities. Chair Eklund then explained the top priorities for SWAC/DSAC, and Daniel clarified that DSAC does not have a role in handling or responding to community member complaints, and that DSAC meetings are a forum for community member comments.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Chair Eklund discussed their concerns about Oregon public meeting laws as it relates to limiting DSAC member's participation (in quorum numbers) in BCTT workgroup subcommittees. Marge discussed these concerns related to their own participation in the BCTT workgroup subcommittees, and explained concerns in the BCTT process. Chair Eklund explained that they were concerned about the fairness of Oregon public meeting law requirements in the process and the County's interpretation of the laws. Because quorum numbers of DSAC members may not participate in BCTT subcommittees at one time, Chair Eklund proposed the DSAC chose members at random that should not participate in the

BCTT subcommittees, and that Marge volunteering to not participate in BCTT subcommittee work to meet public meeting law requirements is an unacceptable process. Marge believes the policy is wrong, and the use of the law is an attempt to control and constrain the public involvement process. Chuck was not sure why Marge was not able to participate in a BCTT subcommittee as member of the public if there was a quorum of DSAC members present. Daniel recommended that members with concerns or questions about this speak with County Counsel, and that it is not acceptable to knowingly violate public meeting laws regardless of enforcement expectations. Mark asked if the group can attend, listen, or participate in BCTT meetings in quorum numbers, and Daniel recommended that they ask County Counsel. Mark recommended that the group have a special meeting with County Counsel, and Daniel offered to reach out to County Counsel to ask about how to proceed.

The group then discussed concerns with the BCTT process, including the process of subcommittee work, BCTT webpage communications, the number of subcommittee meetings. Debi requested that the group discuss the BCTT subcommittee work in progress, and the group discussed the subcommittee work in progress as well as the work to be done moving forward. Daniel will send out links to all subcommittee webpages to the group.

Chair Eklund called for a December meeting to work on the DSAC Community Concerns Annual Report. Daniel explained that the BOC's direction limiting SWAC/DSAC meetings to BCTT liaison opportunities will prevent the group from working on other topics, and that the DSAC Community Concerns Annual Report does not have a specific due date to Oregon DEQ. Chair Eklund asked for the County Counsel to explain any limitations to DSAC's work.

Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn

Mark made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marge, the **MOTION** was unanimously approved, and meeting adjourned at 7:03pm.



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BENTON COUNTY Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) & Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Joint Work Session December 7, 2022 **Draft Minutes**

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Joel Geier, Chuck Gilbert, Marge Popp, Brent Pawlowski, John McEvoy, and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Absent
Staff Present: Daniel Redick
Public Present: Debbie Palmer
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Chair Eklund mentioned who had provided some of the comments received in the meeting packet.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Marge discussed the Subcommittee E progress, regarding the County's effectiveness communicating with the community through various methods, including newspaper, mail, and email. Various subcommittee E members are addressing different aspects of the subcommittee report. Joel and Marge discussed including Polk County perspectives in BCTT. Joel and Marge also discussed the communications relating to the timing of future landfill CUP applications.

Chair Eklund said the Landfill Size, Capacity, and Longevity is moving along and following a report outline. He discussed the "quarry problem" where airspace is occupied by un-quarried rock. He said that he is working on factors that can potentially influence the landfill outside of physical parameters (legislation, activism, etc). Knife River and Republic Services are reportedly discussing the rate of quarry excavation, and the plans have not been shared with the subcommittee. Chuck shared that the subcommittee detailed landfill acreage and is working on maps for context.

Mark discussed a letter he had shared in November, explaining that Republic Services' contracts for incoming waste are largely not with Benton County, and the agreements are with other parties, and asked what rational options outside of landfilling are available. Chuck discussed the costs and benefits related to a regional planning approach.

Joel reported on the Sustainable Materials Management Plan subcommittee, and the group is drafting a plan outline, which will address many topics, including alternatives to

landfilling. There is a December 9th deadline for subcommittee to provide ideas for topics. Marge explained the 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative core values, and their potential role in a future request for proposals and sustainable materials management plan. Chair Eklund mentioned the subcommittee compiled topics from other management plans in Oregon.

Mark discussed the land use compliance subcommittee, which is meeting regularly and working on a document that lists landfill land use actions and associated conditions of approval.

Chair Eklund said that the Sustainable Materials Management Plan consultants would be able to use the kind of information addressed with the landfill size, capacity, longevity work. He expressed concern that the plan and consultant will not be relevant enough to the County and environmental challenges. Debi said that a plan using templates from previous plans will help prevent recreating the wheel.

Debi asked if the BOC has provided any direction regarding the status of meetings, and Daniel shared that the BOC has not provided any additional direction to SWAC.

Brent asked about the RFP timeline, and the group expressed that there is not a timeline that has been communicated, and that the plan will long term guidance beyond just the landfill details, and the County will determine the time scope.

Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Eklund adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.



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BENTON COUNTY

Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) & Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)

Joint Work Session

January 18, 2023 **Draft Minutes**

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier, Brent Pawlowski, and Mark Yeager

Republic Services: Ian Macnab Absent

Members Excused:

Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret

Public Present: Sam Imperati (ICM Resolutions), Rebecca Geier

Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Written feedback from the public has been received, and it will be reviewed further when SWAC and DSAC address regular business.

Acknowledge service on John McEvoy

Chair Eklund acknowledged John McEvoy's service, as his term has ended.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Marge said that the upcoming BCTT meeting will have the group review the most recent draft material from each subcommittee, and proposed SWAC and DSAC subcommittees to work on the material from BCTT subcommittees. Sam confirmed his intention is for SWAC and DSAC will review current draft material from each subcommittee in the upcoming SWAC/DSAC Joint Work Session (February 8th). Joel Geier asks for his December 6th comment to the Board to be included in the SWAC/DSAC packet, and Daniel confirmed that it was included in the packet. Chair Eklund said that he had not received a notification for this meeting, and Daniel confirmed that Chair Eklund was included in the meeting notice, and other members confirmed receipt of that notification. Marge said she had a hard time finding meeting information on the webpage. Marge expressed concern that the meeting packet includes comments going back to August 2022, and that Subcommittee E is working on public communications issues with processes like those regarding SWAC/DSAC communications. Mark asked if County staff, when receiving written comments from the public for SWAC/DSAC, inform commentor that SWAC/DSAC is not typically discussing written public comments during current meetings. Daniel said that Staff do not typically

communicate details about current limitations to SWAC/DSAC meeting agendas, but that it is something that staff can communicate in the future. Mark recommended that staff provide the public with more detail about SWAC/DSAC's current BCTT focus. Chair Eklund asked for SWAC/DSAC members to forward him written comments on the draft BCTT report ahead of the next SWAC/DSAC meeting on February 8th, which will be a two hour meeting from 6pm-8pm.

The group then discussed subcommittee work. Marge provided an overview of Subcommittee E's charge, which revolves around history and communication patterns. She said they researched newspaper archives, and found readily accessible information regarding SWAC meetings in the past. She also noted that she is not able to see public comments for BCTT, and that the webpage should be updated. Sam shared that SWAC and DSAC will have access to a word document and PDF version of the BCTT report draft #3 for comments, and Daniel confirmed that they would be available via links.

Mark Discussed the Land Use Subcommittee work and described the group's charge. They worked their way through many conditions of approval, and are developing key findings, and Republic Services staff are working on providing feedback on the subcommittee draft.

Chair Eklund discussed the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Subcommittee work and described focus areas and the work process so far. The group is preparing a table of contents and a list of questions to cover important topics they would like to have included in the SMMP, including circular economy concepts.

Chair Eklund discussed the A1 subcommittee (Landfill Size, Capacity and Longevity) charge, and complexities associated with determining landfill size and longevity. Chair Eklund reported that Republic Services is in discussion with Knife River about the quarry timeline for Cell 6, which impacts landfill operations. He also mentioned that Republic Services accepted more waste than expected starting in 2017, and the expansion of the landfill was not approved, leading to challenges with landfill size, capacity, and longevity. Chuck discussed the engineering design of the landfill.

Daniel informed the group that the next BCTT report draft will be released on 1/25/23, and that he will reach out to the group with guidance on how to provide comments.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.

BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) &
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Joint Work Session
February 8, 2023 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier, Brent Pawlowski and Mark Yeager

Republic Services: Ginger Richardson, Ian Macnab Absent

Members Excused: Deborah Gile

Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret, Darren Nichols

Public Present:

Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

BCTT Work Group: Draft Report Review

The group discussed the draft of the BCTT report. Joel and Ken discussed that the document is not a mature document, and that it is in process. The draft version includes notes, comments, and proposed edits. Ken requested that the group send him feedback on the report after the meeting, so that he can send the Work Group feedback. Marge requested that Ken read Debi Gile's comments that Debi shared ahead of the meeting, and Ken said that comments will not identify the contributing member, and that he would not share Debi's comments. He then provided a higher-level overview about the type of comments that Debi provided.

The group then discussed the following sections of the report, which can be found here - [PDF Format](#); [History Document](#):

- a) A3-B1 Subcommittee (Legal): pp. 40-47; pp. 393-456.
 - a. Topics discussed include rights and obligations associated with future expansion applications, SWAC's roles, the 2002 MOU interpretation about prior conditions of approval, clarifying the scope of sustainable materials management vs. solid waste management, wetland regulation and inventories/significance determination.
- b) C1 Subcommittee (SMMP): pp. 60-66; pp. 193-235
 - a. Topics discussed include the improved version of this subcommittee report, expression of sustainability and environmental core values, circular economy and full lifecycle approach, the priority level of SMMP work related to the rest of the report, subcommittee report development process, the scope and detail

of the draft report, fidelity of the report compared to subcommittee conversations, concerns with the SMMP subcommittee process and overall BCTT process, existing resources and alternatives, best practices (in Oregon, nationally, and internationally), standards of public outreach, regional management perspectives.

- c) E1 Subcommittee (Community Education): pp. 67–73; pp. 457–474
 - a. Topics discussed include the cooperation between the group members and staff, SWAC and community influence over solid waste processes, advertisements for community feedback, value of the history component, communications/notification radii.
- d) A2 Subcommittee (Past Land Use): pp. 48–55; pp. 236–392
 - a. Topics discussed include the volume of work completed and in progress, status of introductory paragraph, resolution for determining compliance status of various conditions of approval, 2002 MOU implications on compliance status, determination of cell/landfill closure, monitoring and enforcement of conditions of approval, use of franchise fees, compliant process, view and screening of landfills, applicability and context of previous conditions.
- e) A1 Subcommittee (Landfill Size/Life): pp. 56–60; pp. 105–192
 - a. Topics discussed include the complexities of longevity estimation, complexities of size and capacity, closure and “capped” terminology, future factors that have landfill longevity implications, waste recovery technologies, the A1 section’s relationship with the SMMP section, variability on waste inflow as it relates to landfill business contracts and airspace budget, and how various perspectives are included. Chuck mentioned the importance of drawing on subject matter expertise when lacking knowledge on a topic, while Chair Eklund disagreed and said he instead relies on imagination.
- f) History section
 - a. Topics discussed include the timeline of landfill site history, inaccuracies, site compliance, emphasis on Soap Creek Valley and the variety of communities near the landfill, the time constraints of addressing concerns in this section, concerns about the accuracy of neighborhood tour minutes, missing leachate incidents, inclusion of a decommissioned well, and updates not included in this version and the evolving nature of the document.

Comments from SWAC/DSAC are due in written form to the Workgroup by February 10, 2023. Chair Eklund said that both general and specific comments are valuable and encouraged referencing page numbers. Director Nichols reminded SWAC that emails regarding SWAC decision-making must be publicly available, and Chair Eklund said that emails will come directly to him from members, and members should include staff of that email as well.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

360 SW Avery Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333-1192
(541) 766-6819

BENTON COUNTY Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) & Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Joint Work Session March 15, 2023 **Draft Minutes**

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Absent
Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret
Public Present:
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Chair Eklund acknowledged that SWAC/DSAC has received written comments from the public. Verbal public comment is currently unavailable, as the Board of Commissioners directed the group to focus on Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) during liaison opportunities, which are limited to one hour.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Chair Eklund asked for comments about the BCTT draft report and process. The group then reported on their work with the various BCTT subcommittees, and shared information about the workgroup process. Chair Eklund said the A.1. subcommittee process was a horrific process, that they received significant pushback, that they did not feel listened to, that the process was not inclusive, and that there were abuses of the process. Marge said that they were happy with the outcome, and Chuck agreed that the process resulted in clarity. The group discussed SWAC and DSAC role in the Sustainable Materials Management planning process. Debi asked if there were links available to the most recent draft reports, and Daniel confirmed that they will send it out to the group. The group then discussed the upcoming polling process, and the workgroup representatives (Marge and Chuck) asked for SWAC/DSAC members to reach out to them with any questions. The group then discussed the next steps for the report, and possible outcomes, including a discussion of the process for a future conditional use permit (CUP) application from Coffin Butte Landfill, and a potential timeline and scope for a Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP). The group then discussed if Republic Services would wait until an SMMP is completed before filing a CUP application. Chair Eklund expressed concerns about the BCTT process generally, regarding difficulty of information coming forward.

Discussion about the packet/backlog

Chair Eklund asked if Daniel has requested that the BOC direct SWAC/DSAC to resume regular meetings. Daniel explained that the BOC is aware of the request, and will direct SWAC/DSAC when they are to resume regular meetings. Chair Eklund said that he would send in a request to the BOC to resume regular SWAC/DSAC meetings.

The group then discussed Republic Services and Knife River's excavation of the quarry area of the landfill. Chuck will look into it further.

Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.



2021 Coffin Butte Landfill Community Member Concerns Annual Staff Report

DRAFT

Prepared By: Daniel Redick, Benton County Community Development Department, Solid Waste Program

Preparation Date: July 20, 2022

The duties of Benton County's Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) are outlined in Oregon state law—specifically in ORS 459.325, which includes the requirement that “the committee shall prepare an annual written report summarizing the local citizens’ concerns and the manner in which the owner or operator is addressing those concerns”, which will be considered by the Department of Environmental Quality as part of issuing and renewing a solid waste permit. Note that DEQ has not requested these reports from Benton County staff this year or in previous years.

Benton County staff has prepared the following staff report summarizing community member concerns regarding Coffin Butte Landfill in 2021, which may be used by DSAC to meet the requirements of ORS 459.325. Concerns listed in this report have been compiled using information from the Coffin Butte Landfill & Pacific Region Compost Annual Report 2021, complaints received by Benton County staff, and any concerns presented during Benton County Disposal Site Advisory Committee and Solid Waste Advisory Council meetings (see Appendices A and B for 2021 meeting minutes).

In 2021, a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to expand the landfill site was denied by the Benton County Planning Commission, and many community member concerns about the landfill and the proposed expansion were received throughout that process. This report does not detail each of the community member concerns received throughout that public hearing process, however, the topics of concern include: acceptance of out-of-county waste, groundwater quality, air quality, odor, greenhouse gas emissions, roadside litter and debris, wildlife, vehicle traffic, and other impacts to nearby properties. These various concerns are generally acknowledged in Table 1 below. Several of the concerns received during Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) and DSAC meetings in 2021 were also related to the CUP application to expand the landfill and are detailed in Table 1.

There were thirty-two community member concerns reported during 2021, as detailed in Table 1, which include three reported odor notices, and sixteen complaints sent directly to Oregon DEQ. The most prevalent topic among the landfill concerns was the acceptance of out-of-county waste, which was a reoccurring concern relating to the landfill's CUP application.

Coffin Butte Landfill Concern Log 2021 (Benton County)				
#	Date	Category	Received By	Response
1	Apr-21	Price	Coffin Butte Landfill	None
2	Apr-21	Roadside Litter and debris - Hwy 99	Benton County	Notified Republic Services, requested further investigation
3	Jul-21	"Other"	Coffin Butte Landfill	None
4	Aug-21	GHG emissions, acceptance and prices for out-of-county waste	SWAC	None
5	Sep-21	Public Tipping Area	Coffin Butte Landfill	None
6	Sep-21	Odor	Coffin Butte Landfill / DEQ	Landfill responded, documented, and reported
7	Oct-21	Noise, Traffic	DSAC	None
8	Oct-21	Water quality, acceptance of out-of-county waste	SWAC	None
9	Oct-21	Noise	SWAC	None
10	Oct-21	Traffic, roadside debris	SWAC	None
11	Oct-21	Safety, water quality, wildlife	SWAC	None
12	Nov-21	Odor	Coffin Butte Landfill / DEQ	Landfill responded, documented, and reported
13	Dec-21	Odor	Coffin Butte Landfill / DEQ	Landfill responded, documented, and reported
14	Dec-21	Acceptance of out-of-county waste	SWAC	None
15	Dec-21	Acceptance of out-of-county waste	SWAC	None
16	Dec-21	Property and farming impacts	SWAC	None
	Nov- Dec - 21	16 Complaints sent directly to DEQ (No detailed Information Provided by DEQ)	DEQ	None
	Various	Various concerns during the LU-21-047 public hearing process	Benton County Planning Commission	None

Table 1: Coffin Butte Landfill Concern Log, summarizing concerns reported to Benton County staff, Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC), Benton County Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC), Benton County Planning Commission, Coffin Butte Landfill, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Coffin Butte Landfill Concern Log 2021 (DSAC & SWAC)		
Month	Concerns Received	Description
Jan	0	
Feb	0	
Mar	0	
Apr	0	
May	0	
Jun	0	
Jul	0	
Aug	1	GHG emissions, acceptance and prices for out-of-county waste
Sep	0	
Oct	5	- Noise, Traffic - Water quality, acceptance of out-of-county waste - Noise - Traffic, roadside debris - Safety, water quality, wildlife
Nov	0	
Dec	3	- Acceptance of out-of-county waste - Acceptance of out-of-county waste - Property and farming impacts
Totals	9	

Table 2: Concerns received by Benton County Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) and Benton County Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC).

Valley Landfills, Inc. 2021 Complaint Log					
Month	Price	Public Tipping Area	Other	Pacific Region Compost	Monthly Total
Jan	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0	0
Mar	0	0	0	0	0
Apr	1	0	0	0	1
May	0	0	0	0	0
Jun	0	0	0	0	0
Jul	0	0	1	0	1
Aug	0	0	0	0	0
Sep	0	1	0	0	1
Oct	0	0	0	0	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0
Dec	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	1	1	0	3

Table 3: Concerns received by Coffin Butte Landfill (table sourced from Coffin Butte Landfill and Pacific Region Compost Annual Report 2021).

The landfill received, responded to, documented, and reported 1 odor notifications to DEQ. The landfill was informed of, responded to and documented 2 odor notifications from DEQ for reports they received.

Coffin Butte Landfill Odor Notices								
Month	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Jan	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Mar	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Apr	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aug	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sep	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	5	2	2	0	0	1	4	3

* In February 2022, DEQ provided 16 complaints from the November to December 2021 time period. DEQ did not include information regarding the nature of the complaints.

Table 4: Concerns received by Coffin Butte Landfill (content and table sourced from Coffin Butte Landfill and Pacific Region Compost Annual Report 2021).

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [Sam Imperati](#); [Benton County Talks Trash](#)
Cc: [VERRET Greg J](#); [REDICK Daniel](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#); [Ken Eklund](#)
Subject: Re: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2023 4:59:43 PM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

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Sam and all,

If that last emergency meeting hasn't already happened for subcommittee E (or whichever subcommittee is dealing with the "history" section)

Could you please also ask them to consider adding a mention of the transferral of responsibility for SWAC/DSAC from the county Health Department to the Development Department?

That happened quite recently, I believe with Gordon Brown's retirement as Environmental Health specialist in 2018, and it seems to mark a significant turn in how SWAC/DSAC are managed.

I asked the Board of Commissioners why that happened, during my onboarding interview for SWAC. As I recall, Commissioner Augerot explained that it was viewed as a half-time position that needed to be split between departments, for funding reasons. More or less by happenstance, they decided to shift that half-time responsibility to CDD instead of Environmental Health.

In retrospect, this seems to have been a very important milestone leading to a breakdown in what had previously been fairly positive community communications, with a commitment to the environmental health aspects of the landfill, and shifting more toward treating the landfill as simply a development code issue with minimal community involvement.

I know you don't want to try to cram all of that into the report at the last minute, but it would be meaningful to at least note when this responsibility was shifted between departments.

Thanks,
Joel

From: "Ken Eklund" <writerguy@writerguy.com>
To: "VERRET" <Greg.J.Verret@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>, "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Sam Imperati" <samimperati@icmresolutions.com>, "Benton County Talks Trash" <bentoncountytalkstrash@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 4:29:41 PM

Subject: Re: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

I echo what Joel has said here... this meeting could still happen.

I am formally requesting that in the future, CDD is prepared to have other county resources step in if they are unable to support SWAC for whatever reason. I had thought that this contingency was already covered, because all this already happened before, in September of last year, when CDD cancelled the regular SWAC/DSAC meeting and cited lack of staffing as the reason. Darren and I had a conversation then, and I brought up how the bylaws indicate that the County is responsible for support (not just CDD) and we talked about which other departments might be able to fill in, and Darren reinstated the meeting.

I don't want to have this conversation a third time, so if CDD could build in a little resilience in advance that would be a big help. It would also help dispel the notion that staffing is not an actual issue at all, but an excuse that's used to prevent SWAC meetings from happening.

All best,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy
writerguy.com

Creator of
World Without Oil
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and other storymaking games

408-623-8372

On Mar 30, 2023, at 4:18 PM, Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org> wrote:

Greg,

This is very disappointing. The Development Division has pulled out all the stops to facilitate extra work sessions of BCTT, and some of us recall how you did the same thing to expedite SWAC's handling of Republic's previous CUP application (LU-21-047).

Ever since this process started last August, SWAC has been sidelined from its normal activities -- in effect, suspended -- and limited to just two "ambassadors" who now are not even being given a chance to talk to group that they're supposed to be representing.

One of my public comments will certainly be to urge that responsibility for SWAC and DSAC should go back to the Health Department (which I believe is still stated in some documents). I've learned that, during the years when the Health Department was responsible, there was a widespread perception including in other counties, that Benton County's SWAC was really exemplary.

Perhaps you could still ask the Health Department, while we have another 25 hours before the proposed work session.. I've been curious why they've been almost completely left out of the BCTT process, considering their past importance in this role.

Joel

From: "VERRET" <Greg.J.Verret@bentoncountyor.gov>
To: "Ken Eklund" <writerguy@writerguy.com>
Cc: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>, "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Marge Popp" <marge@jyo.com>, "crgilbert" <crgilbert@comcast.net>, "Brent Pawlowski" <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>, "Mark Yeager" <mayeager@gmail.com>, "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>, "Deborah Gile" <deborah.gile@gmail.com>, "Sam Imperati" <samimperati@icmresolutions.com>, "Benton County Talks Trash" <bentoncountytalkstrash@bentoncountyor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 3:15:46 PM
Subject: RE: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

Ken,

Community Development will not be shifting responsibility for staffing a SWAC meeting to another department on such short notice and without the capacity to coordinate with that department.

SWAC members have provided significant support to the BCTT process. There will also

be an extensive public comment period to the Board of Commissioners once the final BCTT Workgroup Report is submitted.

-Greg

Greg Verret

Deputy Director for Policy & Program Development

Benton County Community Development Dept

4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

541-766-6819 | www.co.benton.or.us/cd

My schedule: Tue 8:30-4 | Wed 8:30-4 | Thur 8:30-3 (out Mon & Fri)

Community Development Department has relocated. We're now located at the Kalapuya Building, [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor.](#)

From: Ken Eklund <writerguy@writerguy.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:26 PM

To: VERRET Greg J <Greg.J.Verret@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>; NICHOLS Darren

<darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>; Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>;

crgilbert@comcast.net; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Mark Yeager

<mayeager@gmail.com>; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Deborah Gile

<deborah.gile@gmail.com>; Sam Imperati <samimperati@icmresolutions.com>;

Benton County Talks Trash <bentoncountytalkstrash@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Re: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

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Thanks, Greg, but this does not address the heart of my query, which is: when you say "Benton County is unable" aren't you really saying "CDD is unable"?

The bylaws state that "the County shall provide staff" for a duly called SWAC meeting, which this is. The bylaws do not limit which department that staff can come from.

The Council is also are trying to respond to changing circumstances with the BCTT Workgroup, in the ways which the Board of Commissioners has urged us to use, so I am asking again for CDD to support us in this.

All best,

Ken

<image001.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy
writerguy.com

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408-623-8372

On Mar 30, 2023, at 11:43 AM, VERRET Greg J
<Greg.J.Verret@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Ken,

Darren, Daniel and I conferred on this. Benton County does not have capacity to support an additional SWAC meeting this week. Staff are fully engaged in supporting the BCTT workgroup as it finalizes its extensive work and we believe this focus is consistent with the direction from the Board of County Commissioners, confirmed at the March 21 Board meeting.

We were glad to be able to support a productive SWAC discussion of the BCTT draft report on March 15. An additional meeting on such short notice and at this time in the BCTT process is not possible.

Thanks to you and other SWAC members who have contributed in significant ways to the BCTT process.

-Greg

Greg Verret

Deputy Director for Policy & Program Development
Benton County Community Development Dept

4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

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From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:22 AM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

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Hi Daniel,

I'd like to request more detail about Benton County not being able to support a meeting this Friday. Who all was asked?

The relevant bit of SWAC bylaws is this:

1. **Staffing: Staff for recording the proceedings of the Council shall be provided by the County.**

I've had a conversation with Darren about this previously: if CDD staff is not available, then staff from other departments should be queried to serve. Other departments have staff that record public meetings.

The bylaws are pretty clear that staff "shall be provided by the County" for meetings called by the Council.

Thanks,

Ken

<image001.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
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and other storymaking games

On Mar 29, 2023, at 5:11 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Greetings Chair Eklund and SWAC/DSAC members,

Benton County is not able to support a meeting this Friday, so there will not be a SWAC/DSAC work session before the last BCTT meeting on Monday.

Best,

<image002.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*

Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development

Phone: 541-766-6819

Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us

www.co.benton.or.us

**Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building
at [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).
Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!**

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: "Mark Yeager" <mayeager@gmail.com>, "Brent Pawlowski" <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>, "Deborah Gile" <deborah.gile@gmail.com>, "Marge Popp" <marge@jyo.com>,

"Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net)"
<crgilbert@comcast.net>, "NICHOLS Darren"
<darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Ken Eklund"
<futureeverything@writerguy.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:52:25 PM

Subject: Re: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

Having internet problems here, but can we consider an in-person meeting if county staff aren't able to facilitate a digital meeting?

This seems really important, especially as our "ambassadors" to BCTT are asking for our input before they vote.

From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:36 PM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>

Cc: Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Let's have a SWAC work session this Friday, ahead of the BCTT last meeting

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Hello Daniel and SWAC members,

I talked with Chuck and Marge, our Ambassadors to the Trash Talk Workgroup, and we'd like to have a SWAC work session before the last BCTT meeting on Monday, so that we can hear their thoughts about the remaining issues with the Work Group report and the other SWAC members can give them their guidance.

The proposed time is this Friday 31 March from 5 – 6 pm. Daniel, I'm requesting a meeting at that time – what does the County say? Are we on? Perhaps Maren or someone can host if you're not available?

All best,

Ken

<image001.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
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and other storymaking games

From: [VERRET Greg J](#)
To: [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert](#); deborah.gile@gmail.com; ["IMacnab@republicservices.com"](mailto:IMacnab@republicservices.com); [Joel Geier](#); [Ken Eklund](#); [marge popp](#); ["Mark Yeager"](#)
Cc: [REDICK Daniel](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Subject: Retirement
Date: Thursday, May 11, 2023 9:55:56 AM

SWAC/DSAC Members,

I'm writing to let you know that I will be retiring from Benton County on June 1st. Darren, Daniel and I are coordinating closely regarding this transition, including oversight of the solid waste program. Daniel will continue to be your point of contact with the department.

Thank you for your continuing service to the community. I wish you the best in the endeavors ahead.

-Greg

Greg Verret

Deputy Director for Policy & Program Development

Benton County Community Development Dept

4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

541-766-6819 | www.co.benton.or.us/cd

My schedule: Tue 8:30-4 | Wed 8:30-4 | Thur 8:30-3 (out Mon & Fri)

Community Development Department has relocated. We're now located at the Kalapuya Building, [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).

From: [REDICK Daniel](#)
To: [Ken Eklund](#)
Cc: [Marge Popp](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](#); [Macnab, Ian](#); [Deborah Gile](#)
Subject: RE: I'm proposing a "regular" DSAC/SWAC meeting on Weds May 31
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 5:07:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Ken,

The Board of Commissioners has directed staff, the Planning Commission, and SWAC/DSAC, not to engage in solid waste discussions until the Board instructs each group to do so. The Board of Commissioners has not directed SWAC or DSAC to have meetings, so there will not be a meeting on May 31. There will not be any SWAC or DSAC meetings until the Board of Commissioners directs SWAC or DSAC to meet.

I will not respond to further emails about scheduling SWAC or DSAC meetings until the Board of Commissioners directs SWAC or DSAC to have meetings. Staff will communicate with SWAC and DSAC members about any directives from the Board of Commissioners.

Best,



Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 4:43 PM
To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; Macnab, Ian <IMacnab@republicservices.com>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>
Subject: I'm proposing a "regular" DSAC/SWAC meeting on Weds May 31

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Hi Daniel, and everyone,

As I understand it, the BCTT process concludes this Friday May 26 – so I’m proposing that we initiate a return to normal meetings by having our May meeting on Weds May 31, at 6 pm as usual – see attached agenda.

I understand from Darren that things that involve the BoC are still delayed, but our meetings don’t involve the BoC, so I’m hoping they can move forward.

Let me (and everyone) know if this can happen, or what the situation is?

All best,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

From: [NICHOLS Darren](#)
To: [Ken Eklund](#)
Cc: [REDICK Daniel](#); [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [Charles Gilbert](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Macnab, Ian](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [HOFFMAN Suzanne](#); [MALONE Patrick](#); [AUGEROT Xanthippe](#); [WYSE Nancy](#)
Subject: RE: Formal call for SWAC/DSAC to resume regularly scheduled meetings, beginning next Thursday, June 29
Date: Thursday, June 22, 2023 8:27:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[DSACSWAC Agenda June 2023.pdf](#)
[DSAC Agenda June 2023.pdf](#)

Good morning Ken,

Thank you for your message – I am passing this along to the Board of Commissioners for their information as well.

SWAC and DSAC serve at the pleasure of the County Board, which has substantial deference and express flexibility in how the Board chooses to meet its statutory requirements under ORS 459.320(2). The Board has chosen to focus County solid waste discussions at BCTT and with the Board itself following the delivery of the BCTT report.

The Board of Commissioners will provide additional direction to the SWAC and DSAC when it is ready to do so. Until then, neither SWAC members nor staff are authorized to resume SWAC or DSAC meetings.

Thanks again,
Darren

From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 11:29 AM
To: NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>; Charles Gilbert <crgilbert@outlook.com>; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Macnab, Ian <IMacnab@republicservices.com>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>
Subject: Formal call for SWAC/DSAC to resume regularly scheduled meetings, beginning next Thursday, June 29

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Darren, and everyone,

As Chair of SWAC and DSAC, I am calling for those groups to resume regularly scheduled meetings, beginning next Thursday, June 29. To that end I have attached an agenda for that meeting.

I am aware the Board of Commissioners responded to my call for meeting last month, in brief saying to wait for them to finish their deliberations on the BCTT report (“Don’t call us, we’ll call you”). I believe Nancy Wyse said that will take “some little time.” SWAC and DSAC, however, are legally

responsible to uphold the law as pertains to those organizations, and I especially so as Chair. The lengthy suspension of our normal meetings has had a severe impact on our ability to uphold the responsibilities given to us by that law, and further suspension just increases that impairment. In particular, the prolonged suspension of normal meetings has severely compromised our ability to engage with the public – a core mission of SWAC and DSAC. To uphold our responsibilities, therefore, on behalf of the groups I am impelled to call again to resume regular meetings, and trust you will take this request to the BoC and seek their timely approval.

Failing that, as Chair of DSAC, I am calling for that Committee to resume its regularly scheduled meetings, beginning next Thursday, June 29. To that end I have attached an agenda for that meeting.

As you are aware, DSAC's operations are mandated by state law, and that law requires the County to assist DSAC to meet.

In upcoming meetings, SWAC and DSAC will want to see the community comments and complaints received by the County and by Republic Services about the landfill for the years 2021 and 2022, so this is a request to staff to compile those and provide to the members for preview before the meeting. I'll just note here that SWAC and DSAC have a sizable backlog, and staff help is going to be necessary to get us through it.

Respectfully,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Cc: [Erin Bradley](#)
Subject: Re: Industrial/drilling activity on Coffin Butte landfill forest buffer lands?
Date: Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:38:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daniel and Darren,

A follow-up is that we are not hearing those noises today. So the activity causing the noise must have stopped shortly after I brought it to the attention first of DEQ, then you and the Board of Commissioners.

I see that Erin sent you a note giving more specifics regarding the impacts on her clients and volunteers.

Please include my complaint and Erin's in the materials for DSAC, whenever the county's suspension of SWAC and DSAC comes to an end, and DSAC is allowed to resume work on its mandatory annual reporting to DEQ.

Thanks,
Joel

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Erin Bradley" <bitbybithorsetherapy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:59:35 PM
Subject: Re: Industrial/drilling activity on Coffin Butte landfill forest buffer lands?

Hi Daniel,

Thanks for your quick reply.

This activity is not visible from the public roads (I tried driving around along Hwy 99W and Coffin Butte Road to see if I could spot the source), so I cannot provide any photos.

We and our neighbors the Bradleys have been hearing it every day this week (so 7/24, 7/25, and 7/26), usually in the morning hours starting around 8 am, and continuing intermittently until early afternoon. The banging usually lasts for a few seconds, with up to half a dozen "clangs," then it goes quiet again for periods of 15 or more minutes. The irregular and intermittent occurrence is part of the problem, since it starts abruptly without any warning.

Erin Bradley (copied here) might be able to add more details, as it's closer to where she works with horses and clients daily.

By triangulation on the direction of the sound, it seems to be coming from about 200 to 250 m back in the forest behind the Bradleys' barn, roughly in the area where Republic had proposed to locate at least one borehole (BH-13 on the attached map) in their "Development Area Hydrogeologic and Geotechnical Characterization Workplan" that their consultant (Tuppan) submitted to DEQ in July of 2021.

From past explorations (back when Brian May was the landfill site manager and I got permission from him to go in there and spray some of the scotch broom and other invasives that were spreading toward our properties on what was then Allied Waste land) I know that there is an old access road in that area. My impression is that the noise is coming from or near to that old road.

I'm glad to hear that you've started to monitor the landfill operation on a routine basis.

While out there, you might want to check on the permit status of the road that they bulldozed through native oak savanna habitat on the hillside just south of the landfill office (the northwesternmost peak of Tampico Ridge, historically known as Schulmerich Hill), also zoned as Forest Conservation, back in 2021 when they jumped the gun on development for their CUP application.

Thanks,
Joel

From: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
To: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
Cc: "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:49:10 PM
Subject: RE: Industrial/drilling activity on Coffin Butte landfill forest buffer lands?

Hi Joel,

County staff have not received a new application from Republic Services and have not been in discussion with Republic Services about a new landfill expansion application.

We are scheduling a routine site investigation. Do you have any additional information that might help us investigate this complaint, including photos, time and dates of the noise occurrences, or approximate location?

Thank you,

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development



Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us

www.co.benton.or.us

Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>

Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 1:03 PM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: MALONE Patrick <Pat.Malone@bentoncountyor.gov>; AUGEROT Xanthippe <Xanthippe.Augerot@bentoncountyor.gov>; WYSE Nancy <nancy.wyse@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Industrial/drilling activity on Coffin Butte landfill forest buffer lands?

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Daniel and Darren:

We and our neighbors are hearing what sounds like drilling activities in the Forest Conservation (FC) zoned buffer lands south of Coffin Butte Landfill, similar to what we heard in July-August of 2021, when Republic Services started work in preparation for the landfill expansion that was eventually rejected by the Planning Commission.

You can read my description below, in my note to Hugh Gao at Oregon DEQ.

I just got a call back from Hugh and he told me that there is no new permit application on file with DEQ that would authorize this activity. However he said that the landfill operators at Coffin Butte had told him that they were in discussions with Benton County about a permit application for a landfill expansion, already about a month ago.

So here are a couple of questions:

1) Have there been any discussions within the past month between Republic Services (or their agents) and County staff, regarding a pending permit application for landfill expansion?

2) Has Republic Services filed with the County for any conditional use permit that would allow them to conduct drilling on FC zoned land?

If no such permit has been issued, then please consider this as a complaint from adjacent landowners who are being impacted by what may be unpermitted activities on FC zoned land. Our neighbor, Erin Bradley, notes that these noises coming from the forest are causing stress for clients riding at the Bit By Bit horse therapy non-profit. As you may recall, this facility serves clients with a variety of special needs, some of whom are highly sensitive to abrupt loud noises.

Since that forest is also a very dense "dog-hair" stand with many dead branches, and this is fire season, the possibility that mechanized activities in the forest could spark a wildfire is also a very real concern to us and our neighbors.

I will appreciate your prompt attention to this problem.

Sincerely,
Joel Geier

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "Hugh Gao" <Hugh.GAO@deq.oregon.gov>
Cc: "Erin Bradley" <bitbybithorsetherapy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 10:45:48 AM
Subject: Industrial/drilling activity on Coffin Butte landfill forest buffer lands?

Dear Mr. Gao:

As residents living near Coffin Butte Landfill in Benton County, recently my neighbors and I have been hearing very loud metallic banging noises up in a forested area that is supposed to be a buffer between industrial operations on the landfill site, and nearby residential areas.

The noises are intermittent and sometimes loud enough to be disturbing to us as human residents, as well as livestock and pets.

Are you aware of any DEQ permitted activity on those lands that would be making such noises? Such as perhaps soil penetration tests using an autohammer, or percussion drilling?

The last time we heard noises like this up in the forested areas, we later learned that the landfill operators were drilling boreholes according to a "Development Area Hydrogeologic and Geotechnical Characterization Workplan" that was filed with DEQ in July of 2021, in connection with a plan for expanding the landfill southward into the buffer lands.

Have you or your department received any new work plans from the landfill operators or their agents for such activities in that area? If so, I would appreciate if you could share a copy of those plans and the schedule for these operations.

I'm cc:ing our neighbor Erin Bradley who has also noticed these noises, and has previously expressed concern about how these noises may impact equine therapy clients on the adjacent property.

Thank you,

Joel Geier

--

Joel Geier, Ph.D.
Hydrogeologist
Clearwater Hardrock Consulting
38566 Hwy 99W
Corvallis, Oregon 97330-9320 USA
tel +1 541 745-5821
clearwater@peak.org

From: [Ken Eklund](#)
To: [Marge Popp](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Chuck Gilbert](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [Brent Pawlowski](#)
Cc: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: Re: Benton County staff to recommend dissolution of SWAC tomorrow morn to BoC
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 9:53:56 PM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello again all,

Update on the update:

Link to the BoC packet is here:

https://www.co.benton.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/board_of_commissioners_office/meeting/8438/230815_tu_packet.pdf

As I said below, the relevant information begins on page 72 of 107.

All best,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Aug 14, 2023, at 9:44 PM, Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com> wrote:

Hello all,

Info update:

I see I forgot to include the appropriate link to the BoC packet:

https://www.co.benton.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/board_of_commissioners_office/meeting/8438/230815a_tu.pdf

This agenda PDF also contains the Zoom link.

And I am mistaken about the start time: it's **11 am**, not 9 am tomorrow.

All best,

Ken

<writerguy-cube2.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Aug 14, 2023, at 4:42 PM, Ken Eklund
<futureeverything@writerguy.com> wrote:

Hello fellow SWACians and DSACians,

This is to let you know that at the Board of Commissioners meeting tomorrow morning, Darren Nichols and Daniel Redick plan to recommend to the BoC that SWAC be dissolved, effective immediately. The dissolution would last through the SMMP process, whereupon SWAC might be reconstituted again in some form.

Here's the relevant snippet:

Recommended Action 3:

Recognizing that the Board will benefit from a specialized committee to advise on the creation of a first-ever Sustainable Materials Management Plan and recognizing the limited capacity of the Board and staff to support multiple committees, staff recommends that the Board leave in place its statutorily defined disposal site advisory committee and dissolve its

existing solid waste advisory committee for the duration of the sustainable materials management planning process.

Staff further recommends that the Board assign any duties of the previous solid waste advisory council to the newly formed ad hoc committee and direct staff to develop a formal charge for the ad hoc committee that is consistent with the roles of the solid waste advisory committee and the disposal site advisory committee. Finally, staff recommends that, at its September 5, 2023, meeting, the Board provide specific direction to the disposal site advisory committee for resuming and fulfilling its role.

Proposed Motion 3:

“I move to dissolve the Benton County solid waste advisory committee effective immediately and direct staff to develop a committee charge consistent with the roles of the solid waste advisory council and the disposal site advisory committee.”

The BoC packet can be found here; the material begins on page 72 of 107, the snippet comes from page 73.

You’ll see there is a public comment period on the agenda for tomorrow’s BoC meeting, early on at 9 am, if you wanted to speak about this recommendation from staff. The item itself is near the end of the agenda. I don’t see any provision for any public comment on this action, and as you know, staff did not inform us (I found this out through my own channels).

For reference I’m attaching a PDF of Benton County Code, chapter 23; the sections relevant to SWAC begin at 23.010.

This is an announcement and FYI only, please do not reply-all.

All best,

Ken

<5_chap_23_solid_waste_mgmt_031621.pdf>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega

FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

From: [REDICK Daniel](#)
To: deborah.gile@gmail.com; [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](mailto:Chuck.Gilbert@comcast.net); [Ken Eklund](#); [marge popp](#); ["Joel Geier"](#); ["Mark Yeager"](#)
Cc: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [MCGUIRE Sean](#); [HOFFMAN Suzanne](#); [WYSE Nancy](#); [MALONE Patrick](#); [AUGEROT Xanthippe](#)
Subject: BOC changes to SWAC structure and function during SMMP
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 2023 3:15:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Greetings,

As the Benton County Board of Commissioners looks ahead to the unique needs of a long range sustainable materials management planning project, the Board is taking several steps to learn and grow into the new regional role(s) that will expand Benton County's capacity to collaboratively engage Oregon counties and state agencies in a future-looking plan for sustainable materials.

Yesterday, the Board took the first of those steps:

- The Board accepted a revised draft request for proposal, with special thanks to the work of a temporary committee;
- The Board dissolved the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) in its current form and authorized the creation of a new ad hoc sustainable materials management advisory group. The newly authorized ad hoc committee will be structured specifically to advise the consulting team, staff and the Board for the duration of the sustainable materials management planning process;
- The Board directed staff to develop a charge for the ad hoc committee that is consistent with the County code and existing charges for SWAC and DSAC, and meets the needs of the sustainable materials management planning project; and
- The Board asked staff to develop a proposal for a "listening session" for community feedback into the sustainable materials management planning process (to be held in September or October 2023).

These changes will help address the County's need for a specialized advisory committee for sustainable materials management planning, and recognizes staff's limited capacity to support multiple committees. The Board will develop a formal charge and consider appointing members to the ad hoc committee in the coming weeks – current SWAC members and BCTT members will be included in consideration for participation on the newly authorized ad hoc sustainable materials management planning committee. We will send you all more information once the board establishes a selection process for committee members.

Please note that the statutorily mandated Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) will remain in place, and the Board is expected to provide more specific direction to DSAC during its upcoming meetings, including at its next meeting on September 5, 2023.

We appreciate you all for volunteering with SWAC/DSAC and we look forward to working with you at future DSAC meetings.

Thank you,

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us



www.co.benton.or.us

Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor.](#)

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Cc: [Erin Bradley](#)
Subject: Landfill noise complaint: followup and request for corrective action
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 9:18:19 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Daniel:

Based on my own independent investigation and information from third parties, I eventually figured out the source of the disturbingly loud industrial noises that caused disturbance for us, our neighbors, and their clients, as I reported to you back in July.

The source of the noise turns out to have been a drilling rig that was operating intermittently during that time period, very high up on the east part of the landfill, to drill more methane capture wells. This action was apparently being carried out in response to excessive methane emissions that were detected in the same part of the landfill, during a US Environmental Protection Agency inspection in June of 2022.

Since the top of the landfill has now reached an elevation close to 500 feet (with the mast of the drilling rig adding another 20 feet to that) there is now a direct path for noise to travel from that part of the landfill the nearby residential yards (elevation around 310 ft). There is only a small hilltop (elevation around 380 feet) in between, which is partly forested but (according to Google Earth images from 2022) with large gaps including in a topographic saddle where the sound funnels through.

The attached satellite image from shows the situation, with the direct line of noise propagation indicated as a white line from the SE corner of the top lift of the landfill, through the mostly unforested topographic saddle, right through our neighbors' barn, and on through our back yard and those of our neighbors to the south.

In other words, the problem appears to be inadequate screening to protect neighboring residences from excessive noise caused by landfill operations, counter to the conditions of approval for past Conditional Use Permits.

Please register this as a complaint about an apparent violation of county conditions of approval for this landfill operation. I am asking you to bring this promptly to the attention of the county's code compliance officer to investigate, and to enforce past conditions of approval as appropriate.

Please also share this complaint with the state-mandated Disposal Site Advisory Committee so that it can be addressed by the company's representative at the next DSAC meeting, and included in DSAC's annual report for 2023.

Finding a remedy to this situation is the responsibility of the landfill operator. One immediate remedy would be for the operators to cease all operations on the east half

of the uppermost lift of the landfill, until effective sound barriers can be put in place. Planting trees in the gaps that are visible on the satellite image could be a solution in the long term, but will require many years to be effective.

If particular emergency situations arise (such as the hazardous levels of methane found by the US EPA inspector last summer), at the very least the landfill operators should be notifying neighbors in advance of the potential service.

We regularly receive notifications from Knife River Corp. ahead of their blasting operations, and appreciate their efforts to be a good neighbor. Valley Landfills could be doing the same, if there are emergency situations where they cannot avoid causing similar disturbance.

Yours sincerely,
Joel Geier

38566 Hwy 99W
Corvallis OR 97330

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Cc: [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [Ian Macnab](#); [Ken Eklund](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 11/16/23
Date: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:40:19 PM

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P.S. At this late date, you could consider running a Doodle poll to check on our availability, rather than just flat-out proposing these irregular dates for Nov and Dec.

Thanks,
Joel

----- Original Message -----

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: "Brent Pawlowski" <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>, "Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net)" <crgilbert@comcast.net>, "Deborah Gile" <deborah.gile@gmail.com>, "Ian Macnab" <imacnab@republicservices.com>, "Ken Eklund" <futureeverything@writerguy.com>, "Marge Popp" <marge@jyo.com>, "Mark Yeager" <mayeager@gmail.com>, "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 5:23:33 PM
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 11/16/23

Daniel,

I'm glad to see that the Board of Commissioners are now interested, at last, in having DSAC "catch up" on our statutory duties, after basically flouting state law for over a year. I brought this violation of state law to their attention last December.

It is not our responsibility to make up the gap that has been created by the county.

I have been keeping "the 4th Wednesday of each month" reserved nearly every month since last August, despite the nearly complete lack of communication from the county.

Your proposed schedule for October fits with that schedule. Your proposed dates for November and December do not.

Please propose some other dates for November and December.

Thanks,
Joel

----- Original Message -----

From: "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
To: "Brent Pawlowski" <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>, "Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net)" <crgilbert@comcast.net>, "Deborah Gile" <deborah.gile@gmail.com>, "Ian Macnab" <imacnab@republicservices.com>, "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>, "Ken Eklund" <futureeverything@writerguy.com>, "Marge Popp" <marge@jyo.com>, "Mark Yeager" <mayeager@gmail.com>
Cc: "NICHOLS Darren" <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:54:07 PM

Subject: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 11/16/23

Greetings, Disposal Site Advisory Committee members.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities, in October, November, and December 2023. Please see the information for this meeting below:

When: Nov 16, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpfuCpqj8sHtCukGW_r_kAcM97RPqcHQe8 | https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpfuCpqj8sHtCukGW_r_kAcM97RPqcHQe8]

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please visit the following webpage, which will be updated prior to the meeting with more details, including the agenda and supporting materials: [<https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-111623> | <https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-111623>] .

Thank you,

Daniel Redick he/him

Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator

Community Development

Phone : 541-766-6819

Email : [<mailto:daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us> | daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us]

[https://analytics.co.benton.or.us/PoliteMail/default.aspx?page=-0lExqAyKk-rW9q25YSidQ&ref_id=x-29mdK0xkOdYq3mP63Kng | www.co.benton.or.us]

Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at [<https://goo.gl/maps/PwRcjfhEdqOr4mD9> | 4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor] .

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: [Ken Eklund](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Cc: [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [imacnab@republicservices.com](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23
Date: Friday, September 15, 2023 4:14:07 PM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daniel,

Thanks for this, but you haven't answered my request for information. Allow me to state it more formally:

I'm looking for any and all guidance you've received, or any discussion you were part of, with the Board of Commissioners or others regarding the hiatus of DSAC meetings and/or the restarting of DSAC meetings, from the beginning of 2023 to the present moment, in whatever form it might be in.

I can't speak for all of DSAC (and please no members reply to this email) but I would like to have a better idea about how the framing of the committee's restart came about.

Thanks,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Sep 15, 2023, at 2:48 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Hi Ken,

During the [Board of Commissioners meeting on September 5, 2023](#), the Board

approved the following motion:

“MOTION 3: Wyse moved to accept the ad hoc sustainable materials management committee charge and direct staff to draft for Board approval revised DSAC bylaws consistent with the ad hoc sustainable materials management committee charge and Oregon Revised Statute 459.325. **Wyse further moved to direct staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County’s statutory responsibilities in October, November, and December 2023.** Augerot seconded the motion, which carried, 3-0.” ([September 5, 2023 Board Meeting summary](#), pages 3-4)

Please hold the following dates and times on your calendars for the upcoming DSAC meetings:

- [October 25, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [November 16, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [December 13, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)

Thank you,

<image002.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

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Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:03 PM
To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Chuck Gilbert (<crgilbert@comcast.net> <crgilbert@comcast.net>); Deborah Gile (<deborah.gile@gmail.com>); imacnab@republicservices.com; Joel Geier (<clearwater@peak.org>); Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Mark Yeager (<mayeager@gmail.com>); NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Daniel,

Re:

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas

Could you forward the Committee members the email that contains this direction?

Thanks,

Ken

<image001.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Sep 14, 2023, at 4:53 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Greetings, Disposal Site Advisory Committee members.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities, in October, November, and December 2023. Please see the information for this meeting below:

When: Oct 25, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqfuCrqjlpH9RYkvib5idqH0I_lwn9g57x

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing

information about joining the meeting.

Please visit the following webpage, which will be updated prior to the meeting with more details, including the agenda and supporting materials:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-102523>.

Thank you,

<image001.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*

Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development

Phone: 541-766-6819

Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us

www.co.benton.or.us

**Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at
[4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor.](#)**

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

<Mail Attachment.ics>

From: [Ken Me Eklund](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Cc: [Ken Eklund](#); [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [imacnab@republicservices.com](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:57:47 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daniel,

From what information you've provided us so far, I see that the Board of Commissioners is allowing us to meet again, and they wish for us to have meetings in October, November and December. We're all on the same page about that.

The Board of Commissioners has not directed when those meetings will occur – they left that for staff to coordinate. There has been pushback with the dates you propose, so let's look for some different dates. It's important to everyone that we don't run into any quorum issues.

It's also important, given the state-mandated mission of the committee, that we give consideration to public involvement. Since regular meetings have not occurred for over a year, I would say that it's up to us to rebuild the public expectation of regularity for these meetings in the best way possible, as a priority.

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I'm saying "Wednesdays" here because we have traditionally met on Wednesdays, but after a year I think that has also lost value as a public expectation. So we can look for another day of the week if Wednesdays prove problematic to the Committee.

If that seems OK to you, you can set up a Doodle poll or equivalent so that we can make sure we've got buy-in for these dates, or I can do that when I get back in my office this Friday. Whichever way is fine.

Thanks,

Ken

Sent from a wifi desert

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Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:03 PM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Chuck Gilbert (<crgilbert@comcast.net>) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; Deborah Gile (<deborah.gile@gmail.com>; imacnab@republicservices.com); Joel Geier (<clearwater@peak.org>; Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Mark Yeager (<mayeager@gmail.com>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23

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<Mail Attachment.ics>

From: [Joel Geier](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: Re: Coffin Butte landfill: EPA report on leaks in methane capture system, need to consider in SMMP
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 10:11:01 AM
Attachments: [Coffin Butte 6.23.22.EPA_InspRep_Corrected.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning Daniel,

As a followup, I suggest that the EPA inspector's report should be added to the "Document Library" for materials management in Benton County.

Also, please share the EPA inspector's report with DSAC ahead of the October meeting. I've attached it again here, for your convenience.

Did you receive a copy of this directly either from EPA or from DEQ? I note that DEQ had an air quality inspector who participated in both the on-site inspection and the follow-up teleconference.

Thanks,
Joel

From: "Joel Geier" <clearwater@peak.org>
To: "pat malone" <pat.malone@co.benton.or.us>, "xanthippe augerot" <xanthippe.augerot@co.benton.or.us>, "nancy wyse" <nancy.wyse@co.benton.or.us>
Cc: "Catherine Biscoe" <catherine.biscoe@philomathoregon.gov>, "christopher mcmorran" <christopher.mcmorran@gmail.com>, "john deuel" <john.deuel@oregonstate.edu>, "MCGUIRE Sean" <Sean.McGuire@bentoncountyor.gov>, "Ed Pitera" <ewpitera25@gmail.com>, "louisa" <louisa@peak.org>, "maryparmigiani534" <maryparmigiani534@gmail.com>, "Kathryn Duvall" <kathryn.duvall@corvallisoregon.gov>, "REDICK Daniel" <daniel.redick@Co.Benton.OR.US>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 7:26:00 AM
Subject: Coffin Butte landfill: EPA report on leaks in methane capture system, need to consider in SMMP

Dear Commissioners:

Apparently there will be no DSAC meeting in September, despite the concerns and suggestions that I shared with you on September 15th. With DSAC still unavailable, I am bringing one of the most urgent issues directly to your attention.

A US EPA inspection on June 23, 2022 (report attached) found that the methane collection system at Coffin Butte Landfill is leaking in many places. In one area the

methane concentration was over 7%.

Methane is a very potent, fast-acting greenhouse gas, with more than 80 times the impact of carbon dioxide in terms of effects over a time span of 10 years, and roughly 30 times the impact over a time span of 100 years.

Landfills in other states have been found to be major sources of atmospheric carbon emissions, greatly in excess of what the landfill operators had estimated. This EPA report indicates that we likely have a similar situation in Benton County.

The measured concentrations of up to 7% are also in the potentially explosive range for methane. This poses a safety risk for landfill workers, for example, if a pocket of gas collects under equipment which then throws a spark. You may be aware that union mechanics at the landfill are currently on strike, and in news reports have mentioned hazardous workplace conditions as among their concerns.

Methane and other gases leaking from the landfill in such quantities also pose a health risk for nearby residents. I understand that the county has received numerous complaints about landfill odors over the past year, though DSAC has not had an opportunity to discuss how those complaints are being addressed by the landfill operators and/or the county.

The information from this EPA inspection was known to the landfill operators at the start of the Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) process but, so far as I know, was never shared with the BCTT workgroup. During the BCTT tour on September 24, 2022, landfill operators were given a chance to state their own claims about the effectiveness of the methane capture system. There was no acknowledgement that EPA inspectors had found contradictory evidence, just 3 months earlier.

Looking forward, Benton County will soon be evaluating bids on the RFP for a Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP). The stated ambition has been for the SMMP to account for climate impacts of the full material cycle, including disposal systems. That will only be possible if you have a good handle on how much methane is leaking out of Coffin Butte.

Aerial surveys, as demonstrated in California, are currently the best way to quantify methane emissions from landfills. Surveys over Coffin Butte will be essential information for any SMMP that includes continued operation of the landfill as an option.

Regrettably the RFP issued by the county does not specify any need for contractors to obtain this type of data (it didn't even mention methane, in the drafts I've seen). You may still have an opportunity to communicate such a need to the potential bidders, at the RFP meeting on September 27th, but otherwise it may need to be done separately.

Considering the information in this EPA inspector's report, I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity to communicate this need to potential bidders, or

alternatively, to prepare a separate RFP for the purpose of obtaining these key data that will be needed for an SMMP.

I am also sharing this with members of the ad hoc SMMP RFP committee so that they'll have this information for any further deliberations.

Yours sincerely,
Joel Geier, Ph.D.

From: [REDICK Daniel](#)
To: [Joel Geier](#)
Cc: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [GROGAN Cory](#)
Subject: RE: Who is writing the DSAC reports to be "presented" in the October/November meetings?
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 2:04:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Joel,

Thanks for your email. During the meetings, DSAC will create and finalize those Community Concerns Annual Reports, and there will not be a "presentation" of the reports. The agendas, including public comment opportunities, will be detailed on the DSAC meeting webpages. For additional information on these meetings and the agendas, please refer to the meeting webpages below, which will be updated ahead of each meeting:

- [October 25, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [November 16, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [December 13, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)

Best,



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From: Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 1:49 PM
To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>
Cc: NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>; GROGAN Cory <cory.grogan@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: Who is writing the DSAC reports to be "presented" in the October/November meetings?

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Hi Daniel,

In the county's odd reaction to the League of Women Voters' forum (as copied below, dated 9/22/2023 but sent out just yesterday), I noticed the following items:

October 25, 2023: DSAC Meeting: Presentation of the 2021 Community Concerns

Annual Report.

November 16, 2023: DSAC Meeting: Presentation of the 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report.

December 13, 2023: DSAC Meeting: Continuation of the 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report discussion.

Could you please clarify who is writing these reports?

The minutes of DSAC's last meeting (July 2022) and its continuation (August 2022) are still missing from the county website. However, my recollection is that DSAC chair Ken Eklund was planning to prepare a draft of the 2021 report for discussion at our meeting that was scheduled for October 26, 2022 meeting. DSAC members agreed to this plan.

Is that still the plan, or are county staff now producing your own reports to "present" to DSAC for approval at these meetings? That seems to be the implication from the wording.

State statute ORS 459.325(2) very clearly states:

"The committee shall prepare an annual written report summarizing the local citizens' concerns and the manner in which the owner or operator is addressing those concerns. "

(my emphasis added in bold)

Please include my message here, and any response from the county, in the packet for DSAC members ahead of the October 25th meeting.

Also, the County PIO should also clarify that DSAC will also be taking public comments on issues arising from the landfill operation at these upcoming meetings, as part of our statutory duties. That information was missing from the county's announcement. Presumably this was just an oversight, but it is important for the public to be informed of the availability of this forum as mandated by state law.

Thanks,
Joel Geier

From: "Benton County" <pioinfo@co.benton.or.us>
To: "clearwater" <clearwater@peak.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2023 12:02:54 PM
Subject: Benton County Solid Waste Schedule

Benton County Sanctioned Solid Waste Schedule



Sept. 22, 2022



Dear Community Members,

We have recently learned that a local community organization is hosting an event on September 28th centered around the Coffin Butte Landfill and the "Benton County Talks Trash" initiative. We appreciate the ongoing interest in solid waste issues within our community. However, it is important to clarify that this event is not officially sanctioned or organized by Benton County. We have not played a role in its planning or production.

The Board of Commissioners highly values the "Benton County Talks Trash" process and is actively engaged in advancing various next steps in response to the recommendations put forth by the work group. One of these steps involves initiating the development of a Sustainable Materials Management Plan.

To keep you informed and engaged, here is a schedule of upcoming events, significant dates, and opportunities for you to participate in Benton County's efforts toward a sustainable materials future:

Benton County Solid Waste Schedule: Fall 2023 → 2024 and Beyond
2023-2024 Schedule:

- **September 13, 2023:** Release of Sustainable Materials Management Plan Request For Proposal (RFP).
- **September 26, 2023:** Meeting between Benton County officials and Oregon Governor's Regional Solutions Teams to explore ways in which RST may contribute to a long-range sustainable materials management plan.
- **September 27, 2023:** RFP Pre-proposal Meeting.
- **October 10, 2023:** Board of Commissioners (BOC) Work Session: Discussion of DSAC outstanding items and next steps.
- **October 25, 2023:** DSAC Meeting: Presentation of the 2021 Community Concerns Annual Report.
- **November 8, 2023:** Due date for RFP Proposals.
- **November 13, 2023:** Board of Commissioners' Community Listening Session: A chance for the community to express concerns about the future of solid waste and offer suggestions for sustainable materials.
- **November 16, 2023:** DSAC Meeting: Presentation of the 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report.
- **November 15, 2023:** Review by the ad hoc evaluation committee.
- **November 17, 2023:** Second Board of Commissioners' Community Listening Session.
- **November 28, 2023:** RFP Q&A panel (Public, Recorded).
- **November 29, 2023:** RFP Interviews (Public, Recorded).
- **November 30, 2023:** Ad Hoc Subcommittee Review/Recommendations.
- **December 12, 2023:** BOC Work Session: Decision on the RFP.
- **December 13, 2023:** DSAC Meeting: Continuation of the 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report discussion.
- **December 2023:** Announcement of the 2024 DSAC meeting schedule by the Board of Commissioners.

January 2024 (and Continuing): Sustainable Materials Management Planning effort continues, with community engagement opportunities to be announced as part of the

revised scope of work.

Through 2024: Additional solid waste communications and governance efforts will be announced as they emerge through the Sustainable Materials Management Plan and other sustainable materials initiatives.

We look forward to your active involvement in these endeavors as we collectively strive for a more sustainable future in Benton County.

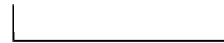
###

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Cory Grogan
Public Information
Benton County
541-745-4468
cory.grogan@co.benton.or.us



Benton County | 4500 SW Research Way, P.O. Box 3020, Corvallis, OR 97339

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Subject: RE: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2023 2:38:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Ken,

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At the December meeting we can discuss 2024 scheduling, following additional guidance from the Board of Commissioners.

These meeting dates are finalized and will not be changed, so please add them to your calendars. If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly (without copying other DSAC members), which will help prevent scheduling confusion for the rest of the group.

See you all (virtually) on October 25th!

Thank you,



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Cc: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: Doodle poll: to coordinate the monthly meeting times that are best for us
Date: Monday, October 2, 2023 6:14:43 AM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello DSAC members,

Here's the link to a Doodle poll where we can find a good time to resume regular monthly meetings:
<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/dym8M0gd>

Please fill this out by next Monday, October 9. I can announce the results shortly thereafter. It's important that we coordinate on this before we resume meetings, so that we can begin to inform the public what regular meeting time they can expect, as they had before.

Note: The Doodle shows only the month of January 2024, but you're using it to indicate your general availability for all of 2024. If you show Wednesday Jan 3 as "cannot attend," for example, we know that you foresee a standing commitment or other chronic difficulty for you on the first Wednesdays of each month. Meeting times are 6 pm.

The county seems to have committed us to irregular monthly meetings for this year, and I think it less confusing for the public at this point that we go along. The meeting days were imposed on us, so if you cannot attend, I understand.

All best,

Ken



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Creator of
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Ed Zed Omega
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and other storymaking games

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Hi Ken,

Thanks for your suggestions. After careful consideration we have decided to schedule the DSAC meetings for the dates we had shared originally:

- [October 25, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [November 16, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)
- [December 13, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)

At the December meeting we can discuss 2024 scheduling, following additional guidance from the Board of Commissioners.

These meeting dates are finalized and will not be changed, so please add them to your calendars. If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly (without copying other DSAC members), which will help prevent scheduling confusion for the rest of the group.

See you all (virtually) on October 25th!

Thank you,

<image001.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at [4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).

Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: Ken Me Eklund <keneklund@icloud.com>

Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:58 PM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>; Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>; imacnab@republicservices.com; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Daniel,

From what information you've provided us so far, I see that the Board of Commissioners is allowing us to meet again, and they wish for us to have meetings in October, November and December. We're all on the same page about that.

The Board of Commissioners has not directed when those meetings will occur – they left that

for staff to coordinate. There has been pushback with the dates you propose, so let's look for some different dates. It's important to everyone that we don't run into any quorum issues.

It's also important, given the state-mandated mission of the committee, that we give consideration to public involvement. Since regular meetings have not occurred for over a year, I would say that it's up to us to rebuild the public expectation of regularity for these meetings in the best way possible, as a priority.

So I'm putting forward that we begin having our regular meetings on the second Wednesday of every month, beginning in October, and then predictably so as DSAC moves forward. That way we avoid the conflicts with holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas. That would be Weds 11 October, Weds 8 Nov, and Weds 13 December.

I'm saying "Wednesdays" here because we have traditionally met on Wednesdays, but after a year I think that has also lost value as a public expectation. So we can look for another day of the week if Wednesdays prove problematic to the Committee.

If that seems OK to you, you can set up a Doodle poll or equivalent so that we can make sure we've got buy-in for these dates, or I can do that when I get back in my office this Friday. Whichever way is fine.

Thanks,

Ken

Sent from a wifi desert

On Sep 15, 2023, at 2:48 PM, REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Hi Ken,

During the [Board of Commissioners meeting on September 5, 2023](#), the Board approved the following motion:

"MOTION 3: Wyse moved to accept the ad hoc sustainable materials management committee charge and direct staff to draft for Board approval revised DSAC bylaws consistent with the ad hoc sustainable materials management committee charge and Oregon Revised Statute 459.325. **Wyse further moved to direct staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities in October, November, and December 2023.** Augerot seconded the motion, which carried, 3-0." ([September 5, 2023 Board Meeting summary](#), pages 3-4)

Please hold the following dates and times on your calendars for the upcoming DSAC meetings:

- [October 25, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)

November 16, 2023 – 6-8pm

- [December 13, 2023 – 6-8pm](#)

Thank you,

<image002.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

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Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

From: Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com>

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 6:03 PM

To: REDICK Daniel <daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov>

Cc: Brent Pawlowski <brentpawlowski@gmail.com>; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net) <crgilbert@comcast.net>; Deborah Gile <deborah.gile@gmail.com>; imacnab@republicservices.com; Joel Geier <clearwater@peak.org>; Marge Popp <marge@jyo.com>; Mark Yeager <mayeager@gmail.com>; NICHOLS Darren <darren.nichols@bentoncountyor.gov>

Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Daniel,

Re:

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas

Could you forward the Committee members the email that contains this direction?

Thanks,

Ken

<image001.png>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Sep 14, 2023, at 4:53 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Greetings, Disposal Site Advisory Committee members.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities, in October, November, and December 2023. Please see the information for this meeting below:

When: Oct 25, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqfuCrqjlpH9RYkvib5idqH0l_lwn9g57x

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please visit the following webpage, which will be updated prior to the meeting with more details, including the agenda and supporting materials:
<https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-102523>.

Thank you,

<image001.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development

Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us

www.co.benton.or.us

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<Mail Attachment.ics>

From: [Ken Eklund](#)
To: [Brent Pawlowski](#); [Chuck Gilbert](#); [Deborah Gile](#); [Mark Yeager](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Macnab, Ian](#)
Cc: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:35:02 PM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello fellow DSAC members,

On behalf of the Committee I am not accepting the 20230929 DSAC memo of September 29, for reasons best discussed in committee. You may disregard it.

Thanks,

Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Sep 29, 2023, at 5:12 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Greetings,

In preparation for the upcoming DSAC meeting on 10/25/23, please review the attached memo, which includes important information to help the group prepare for the meeting, as well as an overview of where we left off, outstanding items, and next steps.

Please reach out to me and Darren Nichols (cc'd) if you have any questions.

Thank you,

<image001.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

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Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!**

-----Original Appointment-----

From: REDICK Daniel

Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:54 PM

To: REDICK Daniel; Brent Pawlowski; Chuck Gilbert (crgilbert@comcast.net); deborah.gile@gmail.com; imacnab@republicservices.com; 'Joel Geier'; Ken Eklund; marge popp; 'Mark Yeager'

Cc: NICHOLS Darren; Charles Gilbert; RAY Linda; christopher.jacobs@corvallisoregon.gov

Subject: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23

When: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:00 PM-8:00 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Zoom

Greetings, Disposal Site Advisory Committee members.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities, in October, November, and December 2023. Please see the information for this meeting below:

When: Oct 25, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqfuCrqjlpH9RYkvib5idqH0l_lwn9g57x

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please visit the following webpage, which will be updated prior to the meeting with more details, including the agenda and supporting materials:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-102523>.

Thank you,

<image001.png>

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

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Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!

<20230929 DSAC Memo.pdf>

Disposal Site Advisory Committee AGENDA

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

6 p.m.

Register in advance for this Zoom meeting (may take a few minutes):

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqfuCrqjlpH9RYkvib5idqH0l_lwn9g57x

After registering, you will receive an email with information about joining the meeting.

- I. 6:00 p.m., 5 Min – Call to Order Chair
- II. 6:05 p.m., 20 Min – Re-ground the Committee..... Chair
DSAC has not met in full session for over a year, and is reconvening in an environment that is much different in terms of staff support. Let's go over recent events, such as the dissolving of SWAC, and what they signify for the Committee going forward.
- III. 6:25 p.m., 15 Min – Community Complaints, Testimony, Questions and other Input Chair
Anyone in the community can use this time to bring up news, information, questions to discuss with the Committee, and to bring forward complaints, concerns or other comment about Coffin Butte Landfill. DSAC is charged by the State of Oregon to collect complaints and comment about the landfill, discuss them with the public, and report them to the Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality. We're opening up this time to hear these complaints and comment directly from the public, and to read comments we've received in written form.
- IV. 6:40 p.m., 20 Min – Edit and Approve Website Language Chair
The DSAC subsite on the Benton County website is the primary way that the public learns about us and what we do as volunteers for the County. Let's spend some time to edit the language that appears there, to more accurately reflect our purpose and goals. Action: approved language.
- V. 7:00 p.m., 5 Min – Break ---
- VI. 7:05 p.m., 15 Min – Community Concerns Annual Report (CCAR) 2021 Chair
This Committee is responsible for seeing that a report compiling the community concerns, complaints and other comments about Coffin Butte Landfill received by the County, Republic Services, etc. in 2021 be submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This is a big job, as Republic's

application for expansion in 2021 generated a large amount of public comment. Let's get a status update on this effort. At the time of this writing, the process is in the hands of the DSAC Chair, who is awaiting County and Republic records. Action: support a report process.

- VII. 7:20 p.m., 10 Min – Establish a Regular Meeting Time Chair
We want to find a regular meeting time for DSAC, one that works better than the fourth Wednesday, which regularly conflicts with holidays in November and December. Let's use the Doodle poll hosted by the Chair to settle on a regular time for meetings going forward. Action: establish a regular meeting time.
- VIII. 7:30 p.m., 10 Min – Summarize Items to be included in the minutes..... Chair
Members: make notes of important points you want to be included in the minutes. We can recap them here to assist the county minutes-taking staff.
- IX. 7:40 p.m., 20 Min – Edit and Approve Meeting Minutes (July & August 2022) Chair
We have a backlog of over a year's worth of minutes. Let's whittle away at that backlog, starting with the minutes for our special meeting on July 11, and our last regular meetings in July and August, 2022. You can find their minutes in this meeting's packet, and their recordings [here](#) (use password: Benton2023!) We will take up further minutes of past meetings in subsequent meetings. Best to come prepared with specific language as we edit and add to these minutes. Action: edit and approve the meeting minutes for July 11, July 27 and August 24, 2022.
- X. 8:00 p.m., 15 Min – Member Requests Chair
Committee members use this time to make any requests of information from county staff, of the landfill via its Committee representative, and of each other.
- XI. 8:15 p.m., 5 Min – Request Agenda Items for next meeting..... Chair
- XII. 8:25 p.m., 5 Min – Wrap Up and Adjourn Chair

DSAC (next regular meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 6 pm; this date may change)

Future items:

- Community Concerns: Public Feedback, continued
Session focused entirely on receiving public concerns about the disposal site.
- Community Concerns Report 2021
Review and approval of a compendium of community concerns/complaints about the landfill in 2021, to be submitted to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before year end.
- Community Concerns Report 2022

Review and approval of a compendium of community concerns/complaints about the landfill in 2022, to be submitted to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before year end.

- Community Concerns Reports, 2023 and beyond

The current process for compiling community concerns/complaints about the landfill has been problematic – what process should DSAC implement to replace it, to streamline the collection process and reinstate timely submittals to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)?

From: [Patti Haggerty](#)
To: [Ken Eklund](#)
Cc: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: Fwd: [VNEQS/Landfill] Making sure your voice gets heard (2021 edition)
Date: Friday, October 13, 2023 8:52:33 AM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Ken,

Here is a comment I sent to the PC, with some back and forth with Inga in between. It was at a time when locating messages on the county's file system was difficult. My message mainly concerned road access and safety as well as concerns about the removal of the limits on yearly quantity brought to the landfill.

Astounding that the county has not kept track of all this after so much effort by the public to make their concerns known and offer input to the Planning Commission. It's so hard to get our voices heard with all the impediments that the County is throwing up. Their statements about transparency appear to be a smokescreen.
Patti Haggerty

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Eklund <writerguy@writerguy.com>
Date: October 12, 2023 at 9:07:43 PM PDT
To: VNEQS Group <vneqs@googlegroups.com>
Subject: [VNEQS/Landfill] Making sure your voice gets heard (2021 edition)

Hello VNEQS:

If you gave input to the county or to Republic Services about the landfill in the last three years, I'm asking you to respond.

I know a (significant) number of you have lodged comments and complaints about Coffin Butte Landfill with the county over the past three years – you've called, you've written emails, you've spoken up at meetings, etc. Well, it's time for the volunteers on the Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) to gather up those public concerns and submit them to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, to be entered into their permanent file about the landfill. This is an important step.

Right now DSAC is gathering up public comment made in 2021 – which is the year of Republic's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to expand the landfill. IMO this CUP application failed because of all the comments made and questions asked, so I think it's necessary that these become part of ODEQ's record about the landfill.

I have requested all this public comment from the county, but they seem to be dragging their feet on this request for public records. Meanwhile, I know it would be good to ask you all directly about the comments you made, because the county's records are not complete. I know this directly, because at least one complaint I sent to the county did not end up in their records.

To me at least, 2021 seems like an eternity ago, and I for one can remember that I made comments but can't remember much beyond that. But I was able to turn up evidence of my comments by searching my email. Maybe try these?

- Search for emails to/from Inga Williams Inga.Williams@Co.Benton.OR.US or Linda Ray Linda.Ray@Co.Benton.OR.US or Daniel Redick daniel.redick@Co.Benton.OR.US at the county in 2021.
- Search your email archives for “@Co.Benton.OR.US” to turn up emails to/from others at the County, such as the Board of Commissioners.
- Look back in your calendar for these dates in 2021: August 25, September 22, October 13, October 19 (SWAC meetings) and November 2 and November 16 (Planning Commission meetings). If you're like me, you may have a note there reminding you that you signed up to speak at the public meeting on that day.

OK to respond with very sketchy information.

DSAC is especially looking for the people who spoke before the Solid Waste Advisory Council on Wednesday September 22; the County seems to have deleted that video. Email us if that included you!

Here's the Public Notice of this request, which ran in the G-T today (Thursday 12 Oct), on page B9:

COMMUNITY CONCERNS ABOUT LANDFILL

The Benton County Community Development Department has asked the Chair of the Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) to move ahead with reports about community concerns with Coffin Butte Landfill, to be sent to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality as required by state law.

The DSAC Chair is asking for any community

member that brought concerns about Coffin Butte Landfill to the County's attention since January 1, 2021, to respond to this bulletin, by emailing us at the addresses below. Likewise, if you brought concerns to the attention of the landfill owner, Republic Services, since January 1, 2021, please tell us. Our intention is to make sure that all the concerns expressed by the community are included in the report.

Your response should include your name, the approximate date you raised the concern, the nature of your concern, and how you expressed it (via a phone call, an email, oral testimony before a county body such as the Solid Waste Advisory Council, the Disposal Site Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission, the Board of Commissioners, etc.). If you can locate the email or testimony text of your concern, please attach it to your response.

Concerns about the landfill may include noise, odor, litter and roadside trash, visual impact, landfill gas emissions, leachate and other environmental impacts.

Please send your response to the Chair of DSAC, Ken Eklund, at futureeverything@writerguy.com and cc the county's Solid Waste Program Coordinator, Daniel Redick,

at daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov.

Thank you!

Thanks all,

Ken Eklund
Chair of DSAC



Ken Eklund, writerguy
writerguy.com

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

408-623-8372

--

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "VNEQS" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to vneqs+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit

<https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/vneqs/0FCF9863-42E0-410C-BCD2-A1E64D661205%40writerguy.com>.

From: [Benton Public Comment](#)
To: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: FW: Disposal Site Advisory Committee comment
Date: Monday, October 23, 2023 9:10:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Linda Ray

Community Development

Executive Administrative Specialist

Phone: 541-766-6819

Email: linda.ray@bentoncountyor.gov

www.co.benton.or.us

From: bellacd@peak.org <bellacd@peak.org>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 4:55 PM
To: Benton Public Comment <PublicComment@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: Disposal Site Advisory Committee comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Disposal Site Advisory Committee,

Thank you for your service on this committee. My husband, Dave Bella, is a retired OSU Environmental Engineering Professor. He is quite concerned with the damage and harm done by PFAS chemicals. These are “forever” chemicals that do not degrade over time. They are in almost everything currently, especially articles that are sold as “water proof”.

Please include consideration of these chemicals as you discern what requirements and mitigation are needed to keep Benton Co. residents safer.

Sincerely,

Cammie Bella

From: [Ken Eklund](#)
To: [NICHOLS Darren](#); [REDICK Daniel](#)
Cc: [Mark Yeager](#); [Marge Popp](#); [Joel Geier](#); imacnab@republicservices.com; [Deborah Gile](#); [Chuck Gilbert \(crgilbert@comcast.net\)](#); [Brent Pawlowski](#)
Subject: Re: Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) Meeting - 10/25/23
Date: Monday, October 23, 2023 2:27:10 PM
Attachments: [writerguy-cube2.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Darren and Daniel –

Just alerting you that the official calendar information for the upcoming DSAC meeting still lists the preliminary agenda prepared by staff. This agenda has been replaced by the one in my 10-17 email below, prepared by DSAC as per county code. Please correct this to avoid confusion with the public, thanks! Ken



Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of
World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Oct 17, 2023, at 4:48 PM, Ken Eklund <futureeverything@writerguy.com> wrote:

Hello fellow Committee members,

I've put together the agenda for our upcoming meeting on Wednesday October 25: it's attached as a PDF.

Daniel: please update the web record for this meeting with this agenda.

Some notes about it:

1. The preliminary agenda had “introducing Christopher Jacobs of EDO” on it, but I don't have any information about what that might be, so I've left it off this agenda.

2. Item IV is new language for our website – look for a draft proposal from me to come later this week.

3. Item VII is “establish a regular meeting time” – here is the summary of results from our Doodle poll on this subject:

First Monday of the month: ___NO
First Tuesday of the month: ___possible
First Wednesday of the month: ___possible
First Thursday of the month: ___possible

Second Monday of the month: ___NO
Second Tuesday of the month: ___possible

Second Thursday of the month: ___NO

Third Monday of the month: ___NO
Third Tuesday of the month: ___possible
Third Wednesday of the month: ___possible
Third Thursday of the month: ___NO

Fourth Monday of the month: ___NO
Fourth Tuesday of the month: ___not recommended
Fourth Wednesday of the month: ___not recommended
Fourth Thursday of the month: ___not recommended

4. Please note Item VIII: "summarize items to be included in the minutes." My idea here is that we take a few minutes toward the end of our meeting to go over the important items of the meeting, so as to make sure they are included in the minutes.

That’s all for now – thank you, Members, and see you next week.

All best,

Ken

<DSAC Agenda 25 October 2023.pdf>

Ken Eklund, writerguy

Creator of

World Without Oil
Ed Zed Omega
FutureCoast
and other storymaking games

On Sep 14, 2023, at 4:53 PM, REDICK Daniel
<daniel.redick@bentoncountyor.gov> wrote:

Greetings, Disposal Site Advisory Committee members.

The Board of Commissioners directed staff to schedule monthly DSAC meetings, and create meeting agendas to fulfill Benton County's statutory responsibilities, in October, November, and December 2023. Please see the information for this meeting below:

When: Oct 25, 2023 06:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please visit the following webpage, which will be updated prior to the meeting with more details, including the agenda and supporting materials:

<https://www.co.benton.or.us/dsac/page/disposal-site-advisory-committee-dsac-meeting-102523>.

Thank you,

Daniel Redick *he/him*
Solid Waste & Water Quality Program Coordinator
Community Development
Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: daniel.redick@co.benton.or.us
www.co.benton.or.us

**Community Development has moved to the Kalapuya Building at
[4500 SW Research Way, 2nd Floor](#).
Come see the new space; we are officially open for business!**

From: [Benton Public Comment](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#); [NICHOLS Darren](#)
Subject: FW: Written comment for DSAC 10-25-23 meeting
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 8:22:59 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)



Linda Ray

Community Development

Executive Administrative Specialist

Phone: 541-766-6819

Email: linda.ray@bentoncountyor.gov

www.co.benton.or.us

From: Debbie P <dwingp@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2023 9:11 PM
To: Benton Public Comment <PublicComment@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: Written comment for DSAC 10-25-23 meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear DSAC members,

I wish to make you aware of (and to get into the record) two recent news articles which are relevant to your purview. I believe that as members of this committee, you need to be made aware of information like this. The first article is specific to methane leaks at the Coffin Butte Landfill; the second is regarding hazards of exploding lithium batteries causing fires in Oregon landfills. As you can imagine, that would be a lethal combination: exploding batteries in a landfill that's leaking lots of methane...

In any event, I hope you will take the time to read these. I have included below both the article links and their content (in case the links don't work).

Thank you,
Debbie Palmer

PS - as a side note regarding batteries in the landfill - I expressly remember being informed by Republic Services staff at a hazardous waste recycling event a few years back that Republic was no longer accepting household batteries - and when I asked what I was supposed to do with them, I was told to "just put them in your garbage." I realize not all batteries are lithium - but many are. I found this very disturbing at the time... and now knowing about how explosive/flammable lithium batteries are in particular, I find it even more disturbing.

<> The first article is from the Oct 20th Salem Statesman Journal:

<https://statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/2023/10/20/methane-leaks-republic-services-coffin-butte-landfill-benton-county-oregon/71210509007/>

Methane leaks at Coffin Butte Landfill in Oregon pose

'potential safety concern,' EPA says

Story by Tracy Loew, Salem Statesman Journal • 3d

Coffin Butte Landfill is leaking methane at levels that exceed state and federal limits and what the landfill has publicly reported, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency inspection has found.

Landfills are among the nation's largest sources of methane, a greenhouse gas that's more potent than carbon dioxide and a major contributor to climate change, according to the EPA.

EPA measured methane exceeding regulatory limits 61 times during its June 2022 inspection of the landfill. Twenty-one of those exceedances measured at more than 10,000 parts per million, or 20 times the 500 ppm limit set by Oregon and the EPA.

In addition to contributing to climate change, the levels measured could cause health problems for neighbors, and in some cases were high enough to potentially cause an explosion and fire, said Lisa Arkin, of the Eugene-based environmental group [Beyond Toxics](#).

[The EPA did not publicly release its inspection report that found Coffin Butte Landfill is emitting dangerous levels of methane.](#)



The EPA did not publicly release its inspection report that found Coffin Butte Landfill is emitting dangerous levels of methane. © Abigail Dollins/Statesman Journal

Coffin Butte, located off Highway 99W north of Corvallis, is operated by [Republic Services](#), the second-largest waste disposal company in the U.S. The landfill is an integral part of Marion County's solid waste disposal system.

The [inspection report](#) noted there were so many exceedances that the inspector ran out of marking flags. In some cases, levels were so high instruments could not measure them. And multiple exceedances were measured several feet in the air, "indicating substantial landfill gas plumes," according to the report.

Coffin Butte and local Republic Services officials acknowledged an interview request from the Statesman Journal but did not respond to any questions.

"While we have differing perspectives on the testing protocols and analyses from the EPA's inspections in 2022, the EPA's observations were addressed," Melissa Quillard a spokeswoman for Republic Services' media relations office in Phoenix said in an emailed statement.

"The landfill was already in the process of expanding the gas collection system at the time of the EPA inspection, which has since been completed. We added additional cover soil in some areas, added soil along the edge of tarps, patched small holes in a liner system, and strengthened seals around gas collection piping," she said.

EPA did not publicly release its inspection findings. Beyond Toxics, working with the climate group [Industrious Labs](#), received a copy of the report in response to a request under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

The groups have since filed a complaint about the excessive methane emissions with EPA's environmental violations tip line. Their complaint included photos taken by neighbors living near the landfill of holes and tears in tarps covering the landfill, which can allow methane to leak.

The findings come as Republic Services is considering a [significant expansion](#) of the landfill, which currently is permitted for 178 acres.

Coffin Butte Landfill's role in Marion County's solid waste system

Much of Marion County's garbage is burned at the Covanta municipal waste incinerator in Brooks.

About a quarter of the garbage burned at Covanta ends up as ash, which is trucked to Coffin Butte, to be used as "alternative daily cover." Landfills are required to cover their active area at the end of each day to control vectors, fires, odors, blowing litter and scavenging.

About half of Coffin Butte's leachate — rainwater that trickles through the ash and garbage, picking up contaminants — then is trucked to the city of Salem's wastewater system, where it's treated and discharged to the Willamette River. The other half is treated by the city of Corvallis, which also discharges to the Willamette.

Salem began taking the landfill's leachate in 2012. During the three years between January 2020 and December 2022, the city was paid \$1.28 million to treat 42.6 million gallons of leachate from Coffin Butte, as well as a Republic Services' garbage transfer station in Benton County.

Salem also processes leachate from LRI Landfill in Graham, Washington, and Recology Organics compost facilities in Aumsville and North Plains.

Marion County garbage that doesn't go to Covanta is taken to Coffin Butte, as is garbage from West Salem residents, who live in Polk County.

According to the landfill's most recent [annual report](#), Coffin Butte accepts more waste from Marion County than from any other county it serves. In 2021, the landfill accepted 326,000 tons of waste from Marion County, 143,000 tons from Linn County, 115,000 tons each from Benton and Lincoln counties, and 73,000 tons from Polk County.

Oregon's new landfill rules strictest in nation

Coffin Butte, along with other landfills, operates a gas capture system for the methane, which is created as organic waste decomposes. The landfill partners with PNGC Power to generate 5.66 megawatts of power from gas collected on site, providing enough electricity for about 4,000 homes.

In October 2021, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Commission adopted [new rules](#) regulating landfill gas emissions. Oregon now has the strictest monitoring and methane reduction standards in the nation.

But landfill operators are basically on an honor system to test and report, said Katherine Blauvelt, of Industrious Labs.

"The landfill has to follow through and conduct effective monitoring," Blauvelt said. "That, in a nutshell is the real problem that this (EPA inspection report) is highlighting."

EPA questions Republic Services' monitoring

EPA environmental scientist Daniel Heins expressed concerns in the report about Republic Services' monitoring procedures. In its monitoring reports, the company reported finding a total of six methane exceedances. Some reports had zero exceedances.

That compares with the 61 exceedances the EPA inspector found, "with 26 exceedances at gas collection wells that Republic should have specifically been monitoring on a quarterly basis," Heins wrote.

"Many flagged exceedances represented clusters of exceedances at multiple points or broad areas of exceedances," he wrote.

Heins found an area where a tarp was visibly inflated with and leaking landfill gas.

"Along the top of this section of tarp ... every post or tarp hole Daniel Heins monitored exceeded the surface methane standard, with readings of up to 7% (methane) shown before the instrument maxed out," the report reads.

Heins noted "such an accumulation of flammable gas creates a potential safety concern."

Heins was accompanied by Republic Services environmental specialist Phil Caruso. Neither could identify any place where the wind could be lifting the tarps, but Republic officials later “disputed that the tarps were inflated with landfill gas, claiming that the wind has blown them up,” according to the report.

Heins also found methane exceedances in areas of the landfill that are supposed to be under final closure and sealed, so that nothing can escape.

The inspection was pre-scheduled, and EPA had offered Republic Services the opportunity to take its own readings to check EPA’s monitoring results. Republic officials responded that it was company policy not to do so, according to the report.

“Phil Caruso did not dispute any of the readings, though noted that he would not have checked many of the exceedance locations, that he would have spent less time monitoring, or that he would have considered a higher location to be ‘the ground’ when placing his probe 5 to 10 centimeters above the ground per the surface emissions monitoring regulations,” Heins wrote in the report.

Further action on monitoring methane

EPA requested additional information from the company, but it’s unclear what further action the agency has taken.

“EPA is still in the process of evaluating compliance at the Coffin Butte Landfill based, in part, on the inspection report you referenced,” EPA Region 10 spokesperson Sam Lovell said in an email to the Statesman Journal.

“EPA works closely with state and local Clean Air Act permitting agencies on these and other issues, and the agency will continue coordinating with Oregon DEQ regarding any next steps at this landfill,” Lovell said.

Blauvelt said she filed a FOIA request with the EPA for additional legal documents associated with the case and was told none were available.

DEQ spokesman Dylan Darling referred specific questions about the report’s findings to the EPA.

But, he said, “As part of DEQ’s new landfill rules and regulations, the company has indicated to DEQ that it is working on expanding its collection-and-control system. The company continues to provide monthly and semiannual reports to DEQ as required under their Title V air permit.”

Advocates say Oregon and the EPA should require better methane monitoring with off-the-shelf technology such as drones or satellites.

“You can deploy technology that will act as reconnaissance and spot these super-emitter events, significant methane leaks, and then fix them,” Blauvelt said.

“We can use technology to at least overcome this baseline issue, which is we have no way of knowing whether you’re living next to a landfill that has really significant issues,” she said.

<> The second article is an Oct 21 article on OPB’s website:

<https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/21/exploding-lithium-batteries-landfill-fires/>

Exploding lithium batteries are causing fires in Oregon’s landfills

By [Joni Auden Land](#) (OPB)

Oct. 21, 2023 6 a.m.

Exploding lithium-ion batteries are leading to more fires in Oregon’s landfills and recycling centers, prompting action from state and local governments.

Deschutes County Solid Waste Director Tim Brownell said his county’s landfill has seen 21 lithium-related fires in the past three months. Staff went from seeing battery fires once a month to multiple times a week.

“(Lithium batteries) are everywhere in the system,” Brownell said. “It’s a public safety concern and it’s a concern for the infrastructure that are taxpayer investments.”

Lithium batteries can be found in a variety of household objects, ranging from cars to power tools and from e-bikes to birthday cards that play music when opened. When run over by tractors or crushed in a trash compactor, they have the

potential to explode and catch fire.

Because of this, the batteries are considered hazardous and aren't allowed in the landfill. Many end up there anyway. Brownell said many people simply don't know that they shouldn't throw the batteries in the garbage.

In some cases, it's leading to potentially dangerous situations. On multiple occasions, garbage trucks have arrived at the Deschutes County landfill with a fire smoldering in the back, Brownell said.

It's unclear how many injuries these types of fires have caused in Oregon.

As for which objects are causing fires, Brownell has seen cellphones, tablets and large batteries found in e-bikes and cars. Those larger ones are of particular concern because the fires are bigger.

"You might get flames that are three or four feet up in the air," Brownell said. "Once you get flames like that, you start to get concerned about it starting to catch the adjacent materials around it."

Battery fires aren't a new issue.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency issued a [report in 2021](#) analyzing the impact of these batteries on fires in waste management facilities. The agency found 245 separate fires across 28 states, some of which led to entire buildings burning down. Recycling centers were at particular risk of fire damage.

The report mentioned Pacific Coast Shredding in Vancouver, Washington, which reported multiple lithium fires. In 2019, a car went through an automobile shredder and caught fire, causing tens of thousands of dollars in damage.

The problem appears to be worsening, which Brownell said could be related to lithium batteries appearing more widely in the marketplace. Reuters reported earlier this year that demand for lithium batteries is on the rise, with the market in the U.S. expected to rise six times by 2030.

State agencies have started taking notice. Earlier this year, the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office started tracking fires stemming from lithium battery explosions, according to spokesperson Alison Green.

Green said it's still early to pull any findings from the data. The agency collects data on all structural fires in the state, and Green said the agency's hoping to understand how often lithium batteries are causing fires, what's causing them to explode and how that can be prevented.

At this early stage, it's still unclear how many fires lithium batteries are causing in Oregon. Brownell said more data is key to getting the public to understand the severity of the problem.

"If we're going to speak publicly about it, we have to get a better sense of how often it is happening," Brownell said.

Brownell said people looking to throw away lithium batteries should bring them directly to the landfill, where operators can discard them properly.

He said he hopes, in the future, "people who put (lithium batteries) into the marketplace bear some of the responsibility" for the fires.

From: [Benton Public Comment](#)
To: [REDICK Daniel](#)
Subject: FW: Written Comment for 10/25/23 Disposal Site Advisory Committee meeting.
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 2:37:41 PM

Linda Ray
Community Development
Executive Administrative Specialist

Phone: 541-766-6819
Email: linda.ray@bentoncountyor.gov
www.co.benton.or.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacob Stallings <jacob@IUOE701.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 11:25 AM
To: Benton Public Comment <PublicComment@bentoncountyor.gov>
Subject: Written Comment for 10/25/23 Disposal Site Advisory Committee meeting.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 701, represents the heavy equipment mechanics of Valley Landfills, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic Services Inc., located in Benton County in Corvallis, Oregon.

Republic Service's identifies itself as a company whose success is driven by its employees, the companies Ethics & Compliance statement identifies Republic Services as a company that is a "committed steward of the environment" and goes further to state that the values of the organization are to protect the livelihoods of your colleagues and communities. In that regard, the Union is writing to ensure that you are aware of the situation occurring at Valley Landfills, Inc., as their actions are antithetical to the values they profess, and we believe this may be of concern to you.

The members of the unit at Valley Landfills, Inc. initially reached out to the Union because of grievous safety concerns at their facility, outdated PPE, broken or missing decontamination areas, and management that disregarded the company's own safety policies. Several complaints have been made against Republic Services and its Subsidiary over the years, but the reports have mostly ended up tangled in government bureaucracy. OSHA directs reports about the landfill to DEQ, the DEQ directs those reports to the EPA, the EPA directs the reports back to OSHA, and the circle continues. As such, Valley Landfills has been getting away with working people in extremely hazardous conditions mostly unchecked. The cherry on the top of this is that they have been paying exorbitant amounts of money out of their pocket for a healthcare plan that will no longer even be accepted by Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, the only emergency hospital in their area.

The Union has videos and pictures from the Valley Landfills, Inc. landfill taken from just the past few weeks that the Union is happy to share with the committee, USB thumbdrives of the violations have already been mailed to the county Board of Commissioners earlier this week. The majority of these videos were submitted anonymously to the Union from the operations inside of the landfill and were not taken by Union members, the exception being a few pictures that were taken from outside of the landfill in order to show you the distance at which the clouds of contaminants can still be seen rising into the air. In these pictures and videos, you'll see truckloads full of bags of

cancerous silicate microglass fiber being dumped from the back of full truckloads with no wet-down procedures to prevent the cloud flareup, which can be seen from miles away. You'll see black smoke rising from the burner ash and blood vials and broken sharps containers with employees performing repairs on the ground just steps away with no ground mats. You'll see heavy equipment parked with its side at nearly a 45-degree angle on top of a hill of refuse, ready to tumble off and pull the truck it is hitched to with it. What you won't see in these videos is any supervision or oversight.

On top of the personal safety concerns of the people working in this environment, you'll see articles that have come out recently about this landfill in having methane gas emissions problems, the buildup of methane gas in landfills can and has caused literal explosions and Republic Services does not have the equipment to monitor these emissions and, to our knowledge, is doing nothing to mitigate the issue. Republic Services has a publicly verifiable track record of writing checks to settle violations but doing little to prevent the violations in the first place. A penalty fee cannot replace a life, Republic Services must be made to answer for its egregious safety violations for the good of the community and for the safety of its employees.

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