



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

360 SW Avery Avenue
Corvallis, OR 97333-1192
(541) 766-6821 FAX
(541) 766-6819

BENTON COUNTY

Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)

March 23, 2022 Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, John McEvoy, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp & Joel Geier
Staff Present: Daniel Redick & Linda Ray

Call to Order/Introductions. Ken Eklund, Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Ken gave a quick synopsis of the March 17th work session and encouraged council members to view other county SWAC websites and send recommendations to county staff for potential improvements to the Benton County site.

Approval of Minutes for February 23, 2022

Three edits were suggest by council members to the February 23rd minutes:

- Debi asked that the language in the minutes clarify that she did not make a recommendation for an audit of the landfill, but encouraged the council to add that subject to the next meeting agenda.
- Ken noted that "Exhibit B" was not attached to the minutes sent out the council for review and need to be included in the final minutes.
- Joel would like the language to reflect that Julie Jackson, Republic Services did not provide the videos mentioned in her presentation, but referenced to links that the council and public could view.

John made a **MOTION** to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes as edited. Seconded by Joel, the minutes were **APPROVED 5-0**.

Community Member Comments

Ken acknowledged two written comments that were submitted to the council prior to the meeting;

- An anonymous recommendation to schedule a special session related to hearing neighbor comments about the landfill. That the length of time provided for community member comments to be equal in length to the time allotted to Republic Service at SWAC meetings. Written comments will be included in **Exhibit A**.
- Charles Gilbert sent in a detailed document about transporting waste via rail.
- Kevin Kenaga asked if SWAC were given an answer to a request made at the public hearing for the CUP concerning the landfill. SWAC submitted a recommendation to the BOC regarding the landfill expansion. Daniel clarified that the prior recommendation submitted during the public hearing process are part of the record and therefore cannot be withdrawn since the record has been closed.

- Nancy Whitcombe expressed concern that the landfill is not included as a significant fire danger in a newly developed Wildlife Protection Plan (Wildfire Protection Plan) by county staff. She encouraged council members to contact Inga Williams, county planner. Her second suggestion was about a document she sent to SWAC prior to the meeting. Other counties have prepared documents that provide information on future solid waste management plans and to encourage the BOC to create a document that discusses the options such as rail, landfill closure, price increases.

SWAC members asked staff to send out written comments with the meeting packet to the public prior to the meeting so that they can be more engaged at the next meeting.

Update on the landfill expansion application status

Daniel updated the council on Valley Landfills decision to withdraw their appeal to the December 7th decision by the Benton County Planning Commission that denied the landfill expansion and proposed Coffin Butte Road closure. No information has been provided by Valley Landfill on potential future applications regarding the landfill. Daniel mentioned a recent discussion with the Board of Commissioners; the Board has directed county staff to explore opportunities for building consensus with the help from a third party facilitator. SWAC members expressed interest in more information regarding this potential collaboration.

Sustainable Materials Management Plan

The council discussed the plan with Daniel and made suggestions on changes. Daniel was asking what challenges are being addressed and understand the public's perspective on those challenges. He emphasized that these are long term concepts and the short term concept includes the strategies in that time frame (til 2025). Council members requested that two SWAC members be included if a subcommittee is developed to work on this plan. Joel & Ken both volunteered to be on the subcommittee. The council will have further discussion on this topic in the future.

Solid Waste Program Grant Initiative

The county budget for Solid Waste includes grant money in the amount of \$20,000. The county is looking for initiatives that involve community-driven sustainable materials management that focus on waste prevention and recovery.

Applications will be received starting in the next few weeks. Daniel encouraged SWAC to put an item on the May 27th agenda to spend time reviewing and discussion the applications received to give staff input on how to allocate the funding. Daniel will provide SWAC a list of criteria for the grant process to help guide SWAC in their review. SWAC will have this topic as an item on the May 27th agenda to review the applications and discuss potential initiatives they would like to grant funding.

SWAC Elections

Fred Penning has resigned as SWAC chair. After a brief discussion, the council decided to continue the conversation as an agenda item at the April DSAC and SWAC meetings. Elections will take place at that time.

Member Requests

- Marge asked for a copy of the slides presented at the March 17th work session that covered an orientation to SWAC. Daniel will send out the presentation to the council members.
- Marge noted the members of the public that attend the virtual meetings and would like to have access to the names of the public that are attending.
- Ken followed up on this topic with the request to move the SWAC meetings back to the Go To Meeting platform. That platform would also allow the council to view names of the public attending virtually
- Joel suggested a longer meeting time for DSAC.
- Joel referred to Charles Gilbert's written testimony and alternate transportation for waste encouraging the council to put this topic on the upcoming agenda for more discussion.
- Joel would like SWAC to explore the opportunity for a regional SWAC since many of the issues include other neighboring counties.

Daniel will look into changing the meeting platform to Go To Meeting. He will also look into making the list of requests to view previous videos available to the council. (2:03 on tape)

Agenda Items

- Discussion topic: Explore the possibility of having Darren Nichols, Community Development Director join a future meeting to discuss the next steps following the withdrawal of appeal by Valley Landfills' CUP application.
- Ken suggested including an agenda item that allows for discussion for more public feedback at the next DSAC meeting that is oriented towards the landfill.

Joel moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Marge, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

March 21, 2022

Community member comments to SWAC:

1. **Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 6:05 PM
Subject: 2/23/2022 SWAC

Hi Daniel,

I requested an invite to this meeting to be able to present at the beginning, but did not receive one. Please convey to the members of SWAC what I would have said, which is that I think SWAC should call a special session of SWAC (or DSAC, it is unclear) to take neighbor feedback on the dump, since one of SWAC (or DSAC's) specific duties is to listen to neighbor concerns and report those to DEQ, and I think that conveying neighbor concerns would be easier if a forum were provided for neighbors to voice those concerns.

2. **Sent:** Wednesday, February 23, 2022 7:20 PM
Subject: Please convey to the SWAC

Please convey to the SWAC that even 1/5 of the time given to Republic Services given to actual people who have to live next to the landfill would be more in keeping with the actual mission of DSAC (or SWAC, it's unclear). People who have to live next to the landfill are concerned that they are getting cancer. Why don't they get 20% of the time that is given to the landfill operator?