
BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)
December 1, 2021 Minutes 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Members Present: John Deuel, Debi Gile, Jay Simpkins (Chair), Linda Brewer (Vice Chair), Fred Penning, and Larry Sleeman

Members Dismissed: *John McEvoy was excused from the meeting due to ex parte. John is on the Planning Commission and will be involved in the landfill CUP going before the Commission in November.*

County Staff Members Present: Greg Verret, Daniel Redick & Linda Ray

Call to Order/Introductions. Chair Jay Simpkins called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. *Due to the current health crisis with Covid-19, the council met via Go To Meeting (a virtual meeting platform) online.*

Approval of Minutes. There were 3 sets of minutes up for approval.

- **August 25th:** Linda suggested making a grammatical change on page 1, bullet point 1, She suggested the term “in half” be changed to “by half” in regards to the landfill expansion. John made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes with that correction. Seconded by Linda, the **MOTION** passed 6-0
- **October 13th:** Linda suggested changing the word “dump” wherever it was used in the minutes by replacing the word with “landfill”. Fred stated that the vernacular should be reflective of the choice of word used by the public or members. After a brief discussion, Linda withdrew her suggestion to make the word change. Linda made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes. Seconded by John, the **MOTION** passed 3-0 (*The October 13th meeting did not have a quorum, so only those members that attended voted in the decision to approve the minutes*).
- **October 19th:** Linda recommended a change in the minutes regarding a statement made by Fred in reference to SWAC’s recommendation concerning the application to expand the landfill. Fred referenced the Planning Commission in regards to the recommendation. SWAC is an advisory council to the Board of Commissioners, so the recommendation was intended for the BOC. After discussion, the decision was made for staff to draft language in the minutes to reflect that correction. John made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes with that change. Seconded by Linda, the **MOTION** was approved 6-0.

Citizen Comments.

Nancy Whitcombe spoke to the issue of waste being brought to Coffin Butte from other counties. She stated that if the application for expansion of the landfill is approved, then the historic cap on the amount of waste allowed to be deposited at Coffin Butte will be eliminated and the amount of waste received will increased substantially. She encouraged SWAC to change their recommendation of support for the landfill expansion.

Joel Geier stated that his application to fill a vacant seat on the SWAC is in process. He suggested several points of change he would like to see regarding SWAC. Among those, he suggested that a change in an agenda item that was titled "citizen" comment. He explained that it is not an inclusive term and does not reflect the correct terminology. Greg apologized to the attendees for the oversight in using incorrect language. He emphasized that the county as a whole is working towards changing language to reflect more diversity and inclusion. Going forward, the agenda item "citizen comments" will be changed to say "community member comments". Joel encouraged SWAC members to pursue conversations with contracted consultants and not solely rely on conversations with Republic Services regarding the landfill expansion. Joel mentioned that several community members are considering organizing a local Waste Management Cooperative and hopes that SWAC's engagement with that group when it comes to the franchise agreement will be productive.

Rana Foster submitted questions prior to the meeting and Linda Brewer was able to respond.

Ken Eklund expressed his concern about the methane cap at the landfill and how that would be affected if the application for expansion is approved. He would also like to see further discussion about the bulk of waste being shipped to Coffin Butte from outside Benton County. (Jay clarified that the term "methane" cap should be considered as "tonnage" cap.)

Kevin Kenaga shared his concern that SWAC should have had more information before making suggestions to support the expansion. Kevin asked that SWAC reconsider the approval on another basis regarding the proposal to close Coffin Butte Road. He noted that other agencies have expressed concern and caution to make sure the road is kept open.

Marge Popp stated that she is a concerned community member in opposition of the application. She urged SWAC to consider the testimonies given at the recent Planning Commission meetings regarding the expansion and change the decision to support the application.

Priya Tucker lives near the landfill and spoke to the impact of the landfill on her property and efforts to farm there. She requested that SWAC change the recommendation made to the BOC in support of the application and to reflect on the information that has been presented since that decision. She also expressed concerned that the public was not given sufficient time when the notice of application was sent out, nor the SWAC members before they made their decision.

Greg Storms referred to the landfills operating report and believes that the landfill will reach capacity in 16 years and the council should consider future decisions that will rise regarding closing the landfill.

John Deuel clarified that the letter of recommendation sent to the BOC included conditions that addressed several concerns that have been raised by community members.

The Solid Waste Collection Franchise Application Review - SWAC was sent this document the day of the meeting and members felt they needed more time to review the document and consider if SWAC should take any action. This item will be included on the January SWAC agenda for more discussion. Daniel clarified that the review is presented to SWAC so that they can make recommendations or suggestions to the BOC. It is not a requirement from SWAC to act on this review. John requested a copy of the agreement being negotiated and to allow SWAC more time for discussion. The Board of Commissioners will meet to discuss the application and make a decision in the coming weeks. So SWAC will not have sufficient time to review and make any recommendations. John made a formal request for a copy of the new collection franchise agreement. Daniel sent the current collection franchise agreement to SWAC just before the meeting, and will ask County Counsel about the new collection franchise agreement. Daniel said that the collection franchise agreement is intended to be revised in 2023 to line up with the Corvallis collection franchise agreement, and that County Counsel would be involved in that process. Daniel said he will check with County Counsel on how the timeline of the upcoming agreement will be arranged. Greg mentioned that SWAC members may provide feedback as individuals during the public hearing.

Solid Waste Management Plan. Daniel mentioned that the Solid Waste Management Plan was reviewed in previous SWAC meetings, and that the next stage of the plan development involves writing out the content based on data and examples of other plans. The next steps for feedback are to send detailed content to SWAC for review, send SWAC a draft of the plan, have opportunities for feedback from DEQ and the public, and then share the draft with the Board of Commissioners. Work on this plan to this point has included data analysis, which will be reviewed for accuracy. Joel Geier, a community member, asked if there has been input from independent expert consultants, and Daniel responded that the plan does not have input from independent consultants at this time, but includes stakeholder input. Greg mentioned that the plan will address next steps and identify needs for future technical consultation and public engagement. There may be future plans which address other details that are not addressed in this plan. Public engagement will be planned with input from the Public Information Officer. Some similar plans have public input periods of 30 days for feedback on completed published drafts. Staff intends for the plan to be revisited in 2025, but will also include some aspects of long-range planning.

Member Requests. Debi thanked Linda for the recommendation to attend the Association of Oregon Recyclers. She is encouraged by the efforts being done around the state to promote recycling. In regards to "Library of Things", Debi suggested that safety vests and tools for litter pick up around the county be made available for smaller groups that want to clean up. Julie Jackson responded that she would look into Republic Services getting involved to help with those supplies. Debi referred to the success of the recent "cover and secure your load" campaign by Republic Services and hopes to see the same efforts made towards food waste, construction materials, etc. Debi asked if the county is working with the City of Corvallis sustainability program in collaboration to reduce waste. Daniel reported that he has been working with the city towards that effort.

SWAC Members discussed the upcoming expiration of several member's terms. Larry Sleeman and John Deuel terms will be ending on December 31, 2021. Jay Simpkin's term ends on December 31, 2021 as well, but he expressed interest in continuing to participate as a member for an additional year if approved by the BOC.

Agenda items. Recruitment for the vacant positions on SWAC/DSAC. Election for the Chair and Vice Chair on both councils.