

BCTT Workgroup Homework Summary for 9/8/22 (Meeting One)

Q7. Topic Allocation

	A. Common Understandings	B. Landfill Expansion Cond./Info	C. Scoping L-T SMMP Process	D. Additional Topics	E. Community Education	Total
Polling - 14	24.2%	29.4%	34.3%	6.8%	8.0%	100%
Ex-Officio - 2	32%	45.5%	13%	7.5%	2%	100%

All Comments:

Include an allocation for revision of FC and LS codes as "additional topics" but that is not a listed option

Fine with all as currently listed

Add expansion/CUP to additional topics

Giving a good background of the issue is really important especially in this first meeting.

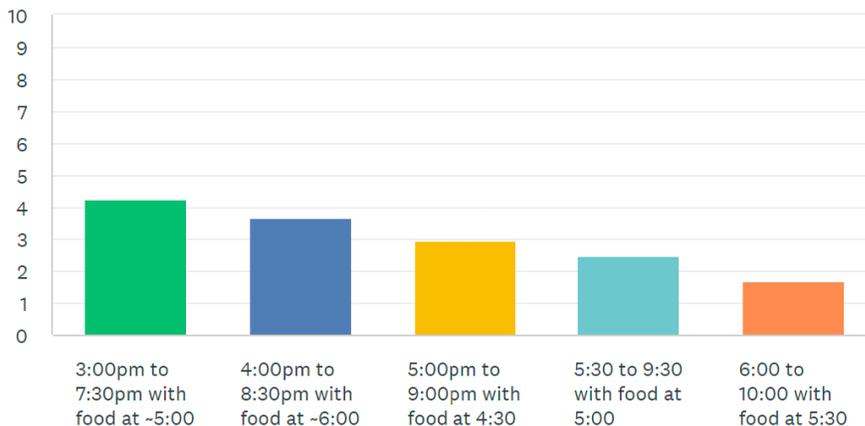
We need to develop common understandings about all topics related to solid-waste disposal and sustainable materials management. This group is a unique opportunity to do that in a "holistic" way, as was proposed by the Development director to our County Commissioners. This group does not have adequate expertise or sufficiently broad representation to address the technical issues related to the CUP process for a landfill expansion.

N/A

This group does not have adequate expertise or sufficiently broad representation to address the technical issues related to the CUP process for a landfill expansion.

All equal

Q8. Meeting Times



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Q9. Overall Schedule

The days seem fine. I can't make the 10/6 meeting if it is before 530pm

Depending on how much homework there is from the first meeting, it might be good to have more time between the first and second.

Do not have meetings after the first meeting until better protocols/drafts are in place

This "survey monkey" is terrible

would prefer meeting #2 be week of 9/26

Move existing meeting #3 to week of 10/10

Too much time between meetings 2 and 3.

Suggestions above would establish a cadence of every other week in September/October

October schedule is good. Don't change it to a meeting on October 20th.

Were Tuesdays considered?

None

Dates are ok

Original time of 1-5 was my preferred time and what I used to schedule my calendar

Q5 is a distortion of ranked choice voting; I support only one time and RCV would not force me to choose more than one option

Be open to adding more meetings as needed. There is a lot of information to cover.

Meeting four should be sooner in the month.

Meeting six should later in the month

Meeting two should be later in the month

Moving Mtg 8 to earlier could be good, but only if before Dec 12. I have a prior commitment that will require me to be in a remote location with no internet Dec 13-14, but I should have internet access from NW Nevada on the afternoon and evening of Dec 15. All other dates are fine. I have already committed to travel for a European project Nov 5-12, based on the previous schedule. This "survey monkey" is a bad format. I can only see what I've written by copying and pasting into a sensible document. This is amateurish.

Meeting Two: The Coffin Butte tour will take up a significant amount of time and doesn't seem necessary at this point for us to discuss Benton County future plans. I vote we strike that tour from the schedule.

Meeting Three and Four: Spending 25% of our time on a Land Use Review which can lead to no outcome (since any change of the code is likely outside the timeframe of a new CUP discussion) seems

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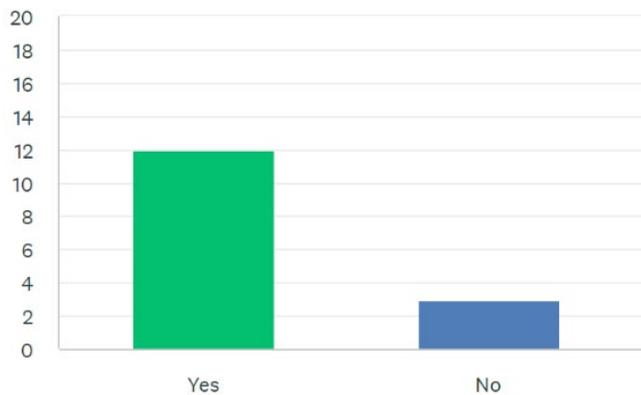
irrelevant and counterproductive to our aim of envisioning a future posture for Benton County's solid waste infrastructure.

Meeting Five: Finally, at the half-way mark, we are scheduled to spend 12% of our time on the subject that I believed was the purpose of this workgroup.

Meeting Six: I think the land use review process could appropriately be listed as one of the steps under Additional Topics.

Meeting Seven and Eight: These meetings which are scheduled for 25% of our time (editing and finalizing) are apparently designed as a wrap-up of discussion that we spent only 12% of our time formulating.

Q10. Tour



All Comments

I am setting up a separate email for PC-related correspondence, more info to follow. I prefer my home phone number not be used on publicly-available information

We welcome Workgroup members to Coffin Butte

While I have toured the landfill and PRC before, I think this would help a lot with establishing context for our "common understandings" objective.

A visit by at least all the polling members, knowledgeable RS operations representative (not PR person), a county government representative and the WG facilitator seems essential to develop a common visualization of the problem.

I think that this would be helpful. I am not sure it is necessary.

This is really a waste of precious time that will do nothing to promote a balanced perspective on our options for sustainable materials management. It could be acceptable if it were balanced by group visits to learn about alternatives. It will also be very problematic in terms of logistics, as these are public

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meetings and need to conform to Oregon Public Meetings Law (including on field trips, which must be open to the public).

Could change perceptions and enlighten.

For those who haven't seen it

Q11. Missing Topics/Questions to be Answered

SECTION A: Common Understandings¹) Chronological history of Key Coffin Butte Landfill Topics a. History

What are the most relevant decisions that resulted in the County's current position in managing its waste.

I will fill this portion of the survey out in the new format per 9/3/22 email.

The entire document is seriously flawed; will comment separately

This document is missing even the most basic description of the site in question. Geology, hydrology, climate, local history, communities, economic activity, etc. Even the most basic facts are missing, such as, how much rain falls here? And there's not even a place for those things in your outline. What is labeled "history" in this document is just a history of trash, mainly from a Corvallis urban perspective. There is no acknowledgement that any humans have ever lived in the neighborhood affected. Not even a perfunctory "land acknowledgement" for the Kalapuya people who belong to this land, and who still live in the region. No mention of more recent historical features like the Applegate Trail, the Letitia Carson homestead, the townsite of Tampico, or anything else in the rich history of the Soap Creek Valley and Camp Adair. Instead there are a lot of links to articles about rats and junk cars in Corvallis, most of them from more than 70 years ago. From this "history," you would never guess that any human beings ever tried to raise families in northern Benton County. It's just a convenient dumping ground.

Some sources should be added (ex: I.1.A. 11, 13, 14, 21, 39, 40, 58, 59)

Why was this location chosen?

Add: landfill land acquisition and zoning determinations; map of general area e.g. 3 mile from CB Boundaries, with human and environmental receptors noted; provide wind rose, groundwater flow and surface water flow direction information; explain what was considered as potential impacts of CB on ecological area to east; actual results of any testing of drinking and irrigation well water in areas abutting or encircled by CB; details on landfill gas i.e. how much is collected, who uses it, what are the economics for the most recent 3 years; details on how leachate is generated, how it is managed, disposed of (and where), the chemical composition, and any requirements governing management/disposal; identify when the concept of using the quarry was first introduced in projecting the life of CB; what are the geographical and individual sources of materials being disposed of at CB; what is the nature of what is being collected and brought to CB and from what geographical areas; the amounts of industrial waste included in the waste stream and its sources; identify where the "M-Washington" area listed in CB reports actually is.

History of solid waste disposal in Benton County (pp 11-27 in Gazette Times articles) is not a part of the charter, is only marginally relevant, is low-effort, and is distracting. Facts about the history of the landfill development are scattered about in different sections and are impossible to assemble into a coherent picture or story. Consider including some actual historical images, if those are available. What did the landfill look like from Highway 99 in 1973? What is the same view today? That will convey (in six seconds) more information that reading this 99-page document conveys in six hours (or six days). Re-imagine a more effective way to present better information (well, you don't have to re-imagine it, actually, ample better-presented histories are available from public comment on

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LU-21-047, but "Survey Monkey" doesn't allow graphics to be inserted into comments – "Survey Monkey" is a poor choice when one is discussing presentation of information that should incorporate graphics).

It would be important to talk about the tension between surrounding communities and the landfill that has existed for a really long time. There was recently an article in the Gazette Times that has said that there has been tension for over 40 years.

b. Landfill Size and Development

We need to see a clear table and graphical chart of how garbage tonnage coming to Coffin Butte has increased on a per-county basis, over the operating life of this landfill since the 1970s. This is an obvious thing to include, and could be compiled from past filings of annual reports for the landfill by VLI/Allied Waste/Republic. County staff have access to this information, and apparently now also plenty of budget to work on this kind of thing. So let's see some charts showing, for example, when did Washington County become such a major source of garbage shipments to a landfill that was originally supposed to just serve Benton, Polk, Linn, and Marion Counties?

Was there ever a master plan developed?

Confirm which drawings and data faithfully represent the actual landfill size, current direction of groundwater and surface water flows. Cite when this information was validated and by whom. Address the status, condition, and issues associated with the 41.7 acres already closed.

"History" should incorporate "landfill size and development" -- it should be "History of landfill size and development"

How has this landfill size and development affected surrounding communities? For example, has it forced anyone to move or anything like that.

c. Specific Landfill locations and cell size

Lotta numbers here but where's the synthesis?

Confirm which drawings and data faithfully represent the actual landfill locations and cell sizes. Identify how rainwater, rainwater drainage and leachate are managed for each cell. Identify measures taken to control each cell's contamination of groundwater and how their efficacy is monitored and reported. Identify how cell locations and allowable volume are determined.

I would include a graphic snip from the PDF illustrating the math error here, but "Survey Monkey" will not allow that. These numbers do not add up to what the landfill operator has told the EPA, DEQ, and Benton County about the landfill size (which is 38,000,000 cubic yards, not 58,000,000 cu yards) Before figures are posted, CHECK THE MATH.

9/6/2022 1:59 PM

What is Republic Service's projected time that the new cell 6 will last? Is there any kind of average time Republic Services can give us as to how long each cell lasts? A lot of the communities frustration comes from how fast the cells are being used up and how they feel that Republic Services isn't being transparent about that time period until the cell becomes unusable.

d. Conditions and Compliance of past land use approvals

What conditions were left out of previous approval decisions.

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After reviewing the Draft with the history, it appears that there are conditions of the permit approval that have not been fulfilled or it is unknown if they have been fulfilled. How do we insure there is a process to follow up on all conditions?

Why is documented exceedance of annual tonnage caps not mentioned? "No longer relevant" appears repeatedly in reference to conditions that VLI/Allied Waste/Republic have egregiously failed to meet. No longer relevant according to whom? Also note that several local land-use decisions related to the landfill have been missed in this document.

Should add an appendix with past land use decisions

Good visibility to this is needed

Please add a simple table list of prior approvals and their associated conditions, current status of compliance, and note the entity/person verifying compliance. In particular, address how the CB Closure Plan was applied to the 41.7 acres already closed and how this is reflected in the Financial Assurance for landfill closure.

This section of the draft is both incomplete and materially inaccurate.

For some of the Past Land Use Approvals if possible it would be nice to put something by the results section that includes how the community felt about the decision. We can start this by adding that for the latest request.

e. Reporting requirements

Are the current reports provided to the County by the Landfill leasee meeting Federal, State and Local laws? Is this enough information to support effective decision making processes? Are third party assessments needed due to concerns about proprietary interests of the Leasee?

Benton County has established wildlife and environmental goals for the area around Coffin Butte. Where do those get reported? What happened to the Great Blue Heron nesting colony?

Clarify reports for needed for expansion or reports for existing LF?

This would be great to shine a light on

Please add a simple table list of County, State, and Federal reporting requirements (content, frequency, timing, etc.), how they are met, and by what entity plus the penalties for not filing appropriately. What kind of reports/communications are the permitted parties required to provide near neighbors to the CB site?

Research the LUCS (Land Use Compatibility Statement) to determine whether one has been signed prior to the copy that DEQ has, which is from the year 2000 (that copy was not the copy submitted with LU-21-047, which had an illegible Planning Director signature and no date. If the LUCS needs to be updated, advise the Planning Director on whether to sign off on the LUCS

This all looks great to me!

f. Assumptions

This might not be the best section for it, but I'm curious if there are any assumptions about changes to landfilling and solid waste land use requirements based on recent state or federal legislation.

You've barely scratched the surface here. In your Section A titled, "When will the landfill close?" this is a very weak assessment, based on a 750kt/yr projection provided by Republic which has been routinely exceeded in recent years (with no apparent repercussions). Alternative projections based on actual data from recent years have been

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provided as public testimony by community members, and should be referenced here for comparison. Your section B makes no mention of Benton County's contractual authority to enforce the annual cap agreed on, IF there is no expansion. This is extremely important!

Information, reports, data, permits, etc. will be included and accessible from the Workgroup project website. e.g. it seems difficult to find OR DEQ SWM Permit 306. All lands used in the CB operation have been properly zoned including but not limited to appropriately advertised Public Notification(s).

A. When will the landfill close? Present this as math, not the historically unreliable opinion of the landfill operator. A much more meaningful answer than the answer presented by staff in the draft is: "If there is an expansion, this question becomes impossible to answer." BECAUSE IF THERE IS AN EXPANSION THE VOLUME CAP GOES AWAY...why, WHY is this NOT MENTIONED in this document? B. Can the county restrict waste from outside the county? I assume this section was written by the County Attorney. Whether or not one agrees with his legal research, if the County Attorney thinks this issue is something that can not be litigated it is 100% certain that it will not be litigated. That being the case, I would like to emphasize, in this section, that IF the county believes it cannot constrain imported waste, THAT MEANS that there is really no upper limit to the amount of waste that could be hauled in from other states (northern California, Nevada). C. Is Coffin Butte a Regional Disposal Site? Yes. Is this a meaningful question? No. Please, this question needs one sentence, not one page. Additional "Assumptions" Go to the Nov/Dec Planning Commission hearings, look at the Findings that were cited in the denial of the application, and address all of the issues that the Planning Commission flagged as important/unmitigated/unaddressed, including but not limited to: odor, health effects, noise, the problems with coordinating DEQ oversight with land use oversight, the character of the area, modification of fundamental topography, viewshed elimination, elimination of agricultural production, livability issues, views of the landfill, purposes of adjacent zones, wildlife conservation, "buffering", leachate, methane, the cost of accepted farming/forestry practices, screening

A big concern in nearby communities is that the landfill is dumping ash from a nearby incinerator onto the landfill. This act of dumping releases dangerous pollutants such as Particulate Matter and the nearby community has been known to experience odors on these days from the landfill. Has Republic Services been confirmed this at all and if so what days is Republic Services dumping ash onto the landfill?

g. Economics

What is the anticipated increase in costs of waste disposal after the landfill closes or significantly reduces its intake.

Economic aspects of climate impacts (e.g. from methane leaking from the landfill) are not addressed. What about cleanup costs for things like PFAS? I see nothing in this section about RISK ASSESSMENT. What are the long-term economic risks to Benton County, if the current landfill owner shunts off their liabilities to VLI as their subsidiary. Local economy and community get no mention. Adair Village -- a thriving and expanding residential community -- is only mentioned as a former incinerator site. You wouldn't know there's a big K-12 school, Santiam Christian, with a highly successful athletics program. There is no description of crops on local farms. No mention of E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area just across the highway, which is a major outdoor recreation site serving the mid-Willamette Valley. No mention of OSU's research forests and ranches. Why isn't Adair Village represented as a local government? Concerns about garbage hauling costs are mentioned (but lacking any research). But there is no mention of potential long-term economic impacts from the landfill as an environmental hazard, whether in terms of direct remediation costs or indirect costs to homeowners whose property values will be depressed. This section needs a whole lot more work!

Clarify economics of landfill operations for Coffin Butte or how much money does the county get from franchise agreements?

Nearest available landfills from Coffin Butte

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Macro and micro information to get a sense of the economic impact of SWM. Ideally, where all funds/services come from and where they go should be identified for the past 3 years and the impacts of RSI's proposals projected forward. "Hidden costs" like State/County maintenance/improving/policing roads, county management, county Board/Planning Commission, committee resources, community member/neighbor expenditures et . There should be generally recognized protocols for evaluating endeavors like SWM - research is needed to find them. Of particular interest is revenues generated/cost avoidance associated with landfill gas management and recycling materials. These numbers should be available from RSI'S operating records. It is trying to determine how pollution prevention pays and how to structure future county programs.

So much is missing here. Costs of the landfill TO Benton County (and other counties): road damage, costs to respond to accidents caused by landfill traffic, costs to pick up litter, costs to respond to landfill fires, etc. Opportunity costs: lost property tax revenues as a result of the effects of disamenities on property values, lost ability to develop the parcels held by the landfill operator to their highest and best use (i.e. unfarmed farmland, unlogged forests, unbuilt residential subdivisions) Reputational costs: how does hosting the second largest landfill in Oregon correspond to Benton County's view of itself as a forward-thinking, climate conscious community that is protective of its citizens' health and well-being? How will the increasing visibility of the landfill affect tourism/agriculture, the University? Dollars and cents: what would replacement infrastructure -- probably a waste transfer station or stations -- look like? how much would it cost to put in place? most counties in Oregon don't have landfills. How much do they pay to dispose of their household waste? FINALLY -- How much could a small-grade/medium-grade/high-grade environmental disaster cost (Republic has paid \$87,000,000 in fines to date for the fire at their Bridgeton landfill, to give some idea of potential scope of a really expensive disaster).

This section looks good, however you could also mention and explain how Coffin Butte Landfill and Republic Services are benefitting from other counties dumping their trash at Coffin Butte.

h. Examples from other jurisdictions hosting landfills

Why have you chosen Gilliam County (a county barely large enough in population to maintain a county government) and Morrow County (only slightly larger, with a landfill located in a no-man's land by a former chemical weapons depot) as your examples? Both of these are in semi-arid climates with sparse populations. Lane County (with Short Mountain) and Yamhill County (with Riverbend) are far more relevant examples. Are we to believe that this was simply an "oversight"? This really undercuts the credibility of this entire effort. It's ridiculous.

Should add an explanation of why these jurisdictions are used as examples

Criteria for selecting relevant jurisdictions should be agreed upon i.e. a Benton County socio-economic/demographic equal located in a dry part of OR would not be useful.

Please include, examples from counties who have decided to close their landfills down. What entered into those decisions?

Mention here how communities around these landfill's are reacting to the landfills. Have the communities and landfill reached an understanding and if so how did they come to this so maybe Coffin Butte Landfill and surrounding communities can live by this example set by other Juristdictions.

Issue sequencing

How important is having a master long term materials management plan to many of the decisions about landfill expansion?

This is not relevant. The schedule is pre-determined, and the group should not waste time on this.

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2) Summary of the County's Current Rights and Obligations to Republic Services, and Vice Versa.

a. The hauling franchise

What is the responsibility of the hauling franchise to insure waste does not leave their trucks and clean up of any roadsides where itmes have escaped?

I don't think we should spend time on this, it will come up in 3 years.

What are the obligations

b. The landfill franchise

How similar or different are the Benton County's obligations to the Franchisee as compared to other landfill host counties in Oregon? In the U.S.

The county commissioners have already voted on this and we have not authority to change their contractual commitments. So this is another moot point.

c. What legally can and cannot be conditions of any land use approvals

This is not specifically detailed in the document.

Yes - good information this is needed for mapping an available process forward

Overall

Generally section b. page 7 of the Assessment is appropriate. I would also like to see: examples of what constitutes an undue burden, public nuisance, activity in harmony with area.

This section looks really good, the color coding makes it really easy to read and understand.

3) Summary of Rights and Obligations of Other Entities

a. Federal

US EPA may be empowered to regulate methane emissions from landfills, per the recent IRA Act of Congress, signed by President Biden. Methane is a big deal.

b. Tribal

Are the Tribes even at the table?

This would be important to bring to light

c. State

i. Is DEQ prohibited from permitting another landfill west of the Cascades

This is a dumb question, they are not prohibited. Only public disinformation from our County Counsel suggests otherwise, but that's his problem.

NO

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Need an answer

ii. What does the “regional landfill” designation mean?

It just means a landfill that accepts more than 75,000 tons per year of garbage from outside the county. This is another non-issue that we shouldn't waste time on.

Clarify this to public and what are requirements with this designation if any

d. Local Government

None

e. Summary of the step-by-step process in ORS chapter 459 and associated timing for the cross-jurisdictional approvals of landfill applications

You need to clarify what you mean here, Sam.

Clarifying who decides what when will be helpful.

f. What topics are within whose authority

This is such an ambiguous question, it's meaningless to try to answer here.

Matrix for this? Possibly a flow chart?

g. Whether the County can or should consider the topics it does not have permitting authority over when assessing the criteria outlined in Code section 53.215?

This is a very poorly phrased question.

Should we start this section with this question?

Overall

Generally section c. page 7 of the Assessment is appropriate. Where will the rights and obligations of the community - particularly near neighbors - be explored?

This seems to have already been mentioned but definitely add more stuff about the Rights and Obligations that the landfill has to tribal communities.

Q11. Updated General Comments

Throw this draft out and start over. Don't be constrained by Republic's timetable for submitting a CUP. What do they say? You can do two out of three? fast/cheap/good? Volunteers are cheap, and we want a good product, we're going to have to give up on fast.

Nope.

As a general comment, it was my understanding that this workgroup would be a step in the direction of Benton County actually taking steps to look forward into the future and make actual plans and decisions and devote resources to the process of constructing a materials and solid waste plan for the

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future. Such a plan, by its nature, would not be centered on the current landfill franchisee but would look a decade or two into the future and having agreed on a vision for the county then backtrack to make a plan to get from here to there.