Merged Member Track Changes
(9/29/22)

COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS TABLE OF CONTENTS

TRACK CHANGE INPUT REQUEST

Please make your track change suggestions to the following document. You do not need to add suggestions as to where they go in the last three columns. We will do that later.

When done, please label it, **[Your Last Name], TOC RECOMMENDATIONS,** and send it to bentoncountytalkstrash@Co.Benton.OR.US & SamImperati@ICMresolutions.com as a Word document – not a PDF for ease of combining the input… Thanks!

If there are any documents you would like to include with your track changes, please add them to your homework email.

DUE DATE: **Thursday, September 22st at 9:00 AM.**

NOTE: The text highlighted below in yellow was added *after* the September 15th workgroup meeting.

Some members made suggestions about re-ordering topics. Those changes will be considered after we agree on what the topics are. Given this, suggestion specific to re-ordering are not included in this document.

When combining everyone's documents, all comments became labeled as "Sam Imperati." However, the text of each comment is colored to credit the member who made the comment, indicated by the color-coding key on the right.

Member 1 = Light Blue
Member 2 = Dark Blue
Member 3 = Yellow
Member 4 = Orange
Member 5 = Purple
Member 6 = Green
Member 7 = Pink
Member 8 = Red
Staff Member = Brown

There is very little time that the workgroup has to dedicate to these issues. I suggest that the workgroup address the specific questions that were called out in the assessment:

- What is a regional landfill?
- When will the landfill close?
- Could a new landfill be permitted West of the Cascades?
- Can the County preclude waste from outside the county being disposed of in the landfill?

Amazingly, those questions I think have been answered, and a consensus could be reached on the answers. I don't think the questions are particularly meaningful, nor the answers particularly useful, but I believe they are answerable, so we should do that.

As this list grows, I become more confused about the purpose of it. I have no items to add, and look forward to removing items.

I suggest a consensus process may be a question similar to the following, "Can this group actually answer this question in the time allotted, either because a workgroup member has subject matter expertise, or because staff has enough free time to answer the question?"

If the answer is "no" maybe the follow up question is:

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Is this question a question which should perhaps be addressed in a SMMP?

If the answer is "no" maybe a followup question is:

Is this a question which should perhaps be considered if the BoC/Planning Commission jointly decide to attempt to revisit the section of the Zoning Code and Comp Plan that deal with the following zones:

- LS (Landfill Site)
- FC (Forest Conservation)

If the answer to that is no, it might be a good idea if, in the draft that is submitted to SWAC/Planning Commission (due 11/1/2022, to the best of my recollection), those issues be placed in some kind of "pending" bucket, and SWAC/PC be given the opportunity to kick them back up to a front burner.

IV. Workgroup Recommendations	**SECTION A: Develop Common Understandings**	**SECTION B: Existing Criteria and Information Requirements for Land Use Review Process of any Landfill Expansion.**	**SECTION C: Scope the Necessary Tasks to Start a Long-Term Sustainable Materials Management Plan Process**
1) A chronological history of key Coffin Butte Landfill topics	X		
A) History of Solid Waste Sources, Disposal, and Materials Management in Benton County			
A) Description of the site	X		
A.1. Geological setting	X		
A.2. Climate	X		
A.3 Surface water	X		
A.4 Groundwater	X		
A.5 Vegetation	X		
A.6 Wildlife and conservation status	X		
B. Human presence in Coffin Butte area	X		
B.1 Indigenous people (Kalapuya)	X		
B.1 (a) Traditional land management	X		
B.1. (b) Ridgeline trail system / connections to coastal people	X		
B.1. (c) Present-day representatives in region	X		
B.2 European-American settlement	X		
B.2 (a) Applegate Trail	X		
B.2 (b) Letitia Carson homestead	X		
B2 (c) Town of Tampico (early rival to Corvallis)	X		

Commented [SI1]: Not a chronological history, this section encompasses additional topics

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B.3 Pre-1940s agricultural communities Wellsdate, Soap Creek, Palestine, Airlie, Suver) -- include a map	X		
B.3 (a) Rohner family farm (photo)	X		
B.4 Camp Adair (displacement, construction, post-war military presence)	X		
B.5 Re-establishment of farming and residential communities after WW II	X		
B.6 Growth of north Benton County	X		
B. 7 Conservation, preservation, and recreational use of area	X		
C) History of Solid Waste, Disposal, and Materials Management in Benton County	X		
1. A brief history of communities in the Coffin Butte/Tampico Ridge area	X		
(i) Major Themes	X		
(ii) Detailed Timeline of Events (1910-2022)	X		
(iii) History of Recycling and Composting - New section that discusses history of environmental impacts landfill has had	X		
2. Solid Waste Sources and Volumes			
(i) Sources (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 wasted included in the waste stream and its sources; identify where the "M-Washington" area listed in CB reports actually is)			
(ii) Volumes (Use results from subgroup working on this esp limits on disposal volume issue.) Alternative: Use			
2. Description of the site and environmental conditions	X		
(i) Site Setting **Purpose: Clearly identify the general area and who/what might be impacted by CB. Use generally recognized USEPA protocols.**			

Commented [SI2]: Very important section

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(map of general area e.g. 3 mile from CB Boundaries, with human and environmental receptors noted)			
(i) Site Characterization	X		
Purpose: Describe the site and features that were addressed to make it suitable for waste disposal. (Describe the soils, geology and hydrogeology of the landfill site evaluate site-specific subsurface conditions in detail including the depth and extent of the uppermost (water bearing) geologic units and hydraulically interconnected units, the lithologic and hydraulic properties of these units, groundwater flow patterns. Ref: Info should be in DEQ files per "Solid Waste Disposal Sites and Landfills Permit Applications" web page https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/swpermits/Pages/Solid-Waste-Disposal-Sites-and-Landfill.aspx) Probably need an illustration of a typical landfill see Example "Explanatory Cartoon of a Landfill" provided in separate file			
(iii) Existing Environmental Control Systems **Purpose: Describe the measures taken to limit adverse impacts of CB.** (Describe: liner system, soil liner component, geomembrane component, primary leachate collection and removal system, secondary leachate collection and removal system, leachate treatment and storage impoundments, leachate holding tanks and conveyance pipelines, leachate treatment process, final cover system, surface water control system, and landfill gas control system. See Figure 1 (needed something for the report) as illustrative of aspects of landfill design. Ref: Info should be in DEQ files per https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/SWGuidance07.pdf)			
(iv) Environmental Control System Performance for 2012 to current time. **Purpose: Review data for potential impacts on environment including releases of contaminants particularly as disposal volumes increased.** (Provide the results of the landfill's environmental monitoring network and state how the results indicate the impact of operations on: groundwater, surface water, leachate, vadose			

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zone, landfill gas, private wells, and any other environmental media monitored by the operator. Identify new and existing wells and piezometers intended for the monitoring network. Justify the number of wells and well location, depths, and horizontal and vertical spacing. Identify all sampling locations on a location map that shows: · the unique identification number of all sample locations, surrounding features, including manmade, natural features, and contours, the location and boundary of the facility, all landowners within one-half mile radius of the solid waste boundary, a North arrow, any USGS benchmarks. Map size: The location map should be at a scale of not more than 1" = 200' and contour intervals not to exceed 5' Ref: Info should be in DEQ files per https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/SWGuidance10.pdf			
4. Description of Operations **Purpose: Report the performance or effectiveness of key aspects of operations (from OAR 340-94-40)** Endangered Species Describe operating procedures to prevent the harming, killing, capturing, or collecting of any endangered or threatened species, or to the direct or indirect alteration of critical habitat for those species. Describe how any such species are protected. Litter Control Describe control and cleanup procedures to prevent on and off-site windblown litter accumulations. Ref: OAR 340-94-040(11)(l) Vector and Bird Control Describe methods used to control or prevent on-site populations of flies, rodents, other disease vectors, and birds. Ref: OAR 340-94-040(10); 40 CFR 258.10 Leachate System Address the following topics System component Topics to be addressed Leachate Collection Leachate collection system operation and performance			

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Leachate Storage Odor control Prevention of leachate releases to the environment (such as overflows or leaks) Ref.: Section 9: Landfill Operations https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/SWGuidance09.pdf Additionally, details on how leachate is generated, how it is managed, disposed of (and where), the chemical composition, and any requirements governing management/disposal.			
5. Offsite Measurements and Monitoring **Purpose: Demonstrate there are no offsite impacts.** (Provide actual results of any CB or community testing of drinking and irrigation well water, surface waters, or air in areas abutting or encircled by CB)			
6. Air Emissions **Purpose: Define the scope and size of the impacts.** Start with CO2 and VOCs. (needs details)			
(i) From Transport of Solid Waste to CB			
(ii) From Operations at CB			
(iii) From landfill (area emissions – capped, open face, etc.			
(iv) From landfill gas management, etc. Include what and how much is collected, who uses it, and what and how much is emitted to the atmosphere			
(ii) identification/control of disease vectors - As well as a description of the communities around the landfill	X		
Waste generated within Benton County: historically and projections (Third Party)	X	X	X
Solid Waste Management Planning -- history of plans produced by county and status of existing plan (1970s-era?).			
Alternative disposal methodologies and timelines for landfill closure considered in county's existing SWMP			
B) Landfill Size and Development History	X		
(i) Confirm and provide the RSI materials, drawings, and data that faithfully represent the actual landfill size over the past 10			

Commented [SI3]: Remove

Commented [SI4]: This whole section should be restructured to give it a more logical order. Right now it's a mess

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years and current directions of groundwater and surface water flows. Cite when this information was validated, by whom, and their credentials.			
(ii) Explain what was physically done to ensure the CB operations described on page 32 of 1974 chemeketa_region_solid_waste_management program technical report volume ii 54.pdf are not on ongoing environmental issue. (PDF submitted with homework assignment.)			
Change in Landfill footprint and height over time (Graphic)			
D.1 Corporate ownership history of site (...., VLI, AW, RS)	X		
D.2 Increase in landfill footprint over time	X		
D.2 (a) Graphic illustration)	X		
D.2 (b) Increase in landfill height over time (graphic illustration)	X		
D.2 (c) Specific cell locations and sizes	X		
(i) Intake Volume History at Coffin Butte Landfill			
Waste generated within Benton County: historically and projections (Third Party)	X	X	X
Annotated volume chart with major timeline of events. And sources (Counties)			
Impacts to Market: Fire, Riverbend Landfill Closure, METRO rule changes, etc…			
D.3 History of landfill fires (Wah Chang waste etc.)	X		
(ii) The Quarry Problem	X		
D.4 (a) Corporate ownership history of quarry operations and leasing agreements	X		
D.4 (b) Expansion of quarry footprint and visibility over time (graphics).	X		
D.4 (c) Neighborhood impacts of quarry	X		
a) Background info and data on quarry site characteristics, environmental impacts, ownership and history.			

Commented [SI5]: This is from from the September 15 meeting. This could be a good section for it, but I was also hoping to have an emphasis on policy and what has worked at reducing and preventing waste, either here or in other places. If it's a policy discussion, there may be a better section for it. Understanding successful methods to prevent waste and decrease consumption may be highly informative for the SWMP

Commented [SI6]: I'm concerned on the word "Problem"; as I feel it's leading? Is it a Problem for everyone & everyone agrees there is a Problem. Or would "Issue" be more appropriate?

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b) Explain the plan including timing for exhausting the quarry materials, transitioning to landfill use, and commencing landfill operations.			
c) Explain what will be done to protect groundwater and surface water.			
d) Explain/quantify the impact of the expansion on landfill gas and leachate management.			
e) Explain when the expansion would be available to receive wastes and the projected impact on CB life.			
Additional Quarry considerations	X		
D.5. Buffer lands and zoning			
Why is the Quarry important (Impacts if it is not able to be mined)			
C) Specific Landfill Locations and Cell Size	X		
Clarifying existing landfill zoning. including history and intent of zoning changes. (see attached zoning clarification figure)	X		
(ii) Confirm which RSI 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.			
D) Conditions and Compliance of past land use approvals	X		
CP-74-01	X		
PC-83-02; L-83-07	X		
LD-88-11	X		
PC-94-03	X		
PC-94-10	X		
PC-94-11	X		
S-97-58	X		
PC-99-06	X		

Commented [SI7]: This fits more logically under heading D.2 above.

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PC-02-07	X		
PC-03-11	X		
LU-11-016	X		
LU-13-061	X		
LU -15- 001	X		
LU-21-047	X		
Missing Land Use Decisions?	X		
Most Recent Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS)	X		
E) Reporting requirements	X		
Content Desired: (i) Reporting Add a simple table list of County, State, and Federal reporting requirements (content, frequency, timing, etc.), how they are met, by what entity (ii) Report Review and Corrective Action Identify how Benton County reviews these materials to ensure public health or adverse impacts on residents or the environment do not go unaddressed. (iii) Community Outreach Identify the kind of reports/communications the permitted parties are required to provide near neighbors to the CB site.			
Regulatory Compliance with DEQ – Report card			
F) Assumptions	X		
(i) When will the landfill close?	X		
Landfill Capacity	X		
Fill Rate	X		
Projected Future Capacity	X		
Projected Future Fill Rate	X		
(ii) Can Benton County prohibit solid waste generated outside the county from being deposited at Coffin Butte landfill?	X		
(iii) Is Coffin Butte a Regional Disposal Site? (Define what being a Regional Disposal Site means and the obligations of such a site)	X		

Commented [SI8]: What is causing the significant increase in volume of waste taken in by the landfill since 2017?

Commented [SI9]: This fundamental bit of information has not been answered; there is currently no common understanding about when, under the status quo, the landfill will run out of capacity and close. My own working number is: 12 years from now (2034).

Four factors in answering this fundamental question:

Commented [SI10]: Factor 1: What is the current capacity of the landfill?

Discussion: As established in the last DSAC meeting, the capacity stated in the most recent Coffin Butte Landfill annual report (17.6 M cubic yards left, 38.7M cubic yards total) is not accurate / is misleading: this capacity will only be available by the year 2030 at the earliest, and assumes that quarry operations have continued through those years (increasing capacity) without interference from landfill operations. This is inaccurate / misleading because the nonquarry part of the landfill is set to fill by the year 2025, and then must move into the quarry area Eklund – Common Understandings: Questions – Page 1 of 15 and disrupt/end operations. So quarry operations are set to stop in 2024 or 2025, under the status quo – they will not continue through 2030.

As established in the last DSAC meeting, the capacity that Republic has reported to the EPA is suspect. The number for total metric ton volume changes from 26.7M in 2016 to 35.5M in 2017, and no one seems to be able to explain this sudden increase in capacity. Our landfill representative ...

Commented [SI11]: Factor 2: What is the current fill rate of the landfill?

Discussion: To calculate its estimate of the life of the landfill, Republic uses an average disposal rate of 750K tons per year in the 2020 landfill annual report; the last year intake was that low, however, was 2016. After annual intakes of 853K tons (2017) and 937K tons (2019) the current fill rate (202 ...

Commented [SI12]: Factor 3: How will the capacity of the landfill change in the future?

Discussion: There are factors such as quarry operations and settlement that cause the landfill capacity to fluctuate over time.

Commented [SI13]: Factor 4: How will the fill rate of the landfill likely change in the future?

Discussion: Theoretically, the landfill currently has an intake cap of 1.1M tons a year, but (a) it's unclear if that cap has actual penalties associated with it or is just on paper, and (b) by the 2020 franchise agreement, that cap is removed if any landfill expansion is permitted. Also (c), there appear ...

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(iv) Is DEQ prohibited from permitting another landfill west of the Cascades?	X		
(v) Coffin Butte Landfill Environmental Impacts (Include Positives)	X		
Leachate	X		
Landfill Gas - Include VOCs, particulates, and GHG (methane, etc.) - Carbon Dioxide: - Hydrogen Sulfide: - Other gases - Particle emissions	X		
Wildlife Impacts	X		
Traffic	X		
Visual Environment	X		
Long-Term Impacts	X		
(vi) Coffin Butte Landfill Operational Impacts: "What are the rules that govern the landfill? Is it complying?"	X		
Benton County Resources and Infrastructure	X		
Benton County Citizens and Landfill Neighbors	X		
Regulatory: EPA & Oregon DEQ	X		
Coffin Butte Landfill Closure: Process, Timeline, Operator Liability, Potential Franchisee Resistance	X		
Franchisee Business Impact	X		
Business and Legal Envelopes	X		
(vii) Coffin Butte Landfill Public Safety Impacts: "What risks does the landfill create for the county?"	X		
1. Risks of Fire, including persistent fire	X		
2. Risks of Earthquake include liquefaction (ex. landfill sliding down on to 99W)	X		

Commented [SI14]: "What is the environmental cost of the landfill?"

This fundamental part of the cost-benefit analysis of the landfill is not commonly understood at all. I'm not sure if a list even exists of what all the harms are.

Commented [SI15]: Leachate: the landfill produces leachate, which is toxic. What are the costs of leachate?

Commented [SI16]: Waste gases: the landfill generates landfill gas, which contains methane, carbon dioxide,

Commented [SI17]: Poor odor that neighbors are smelling that could be connected to poor air quality

Commented [SI18]: Carbon dioxide: carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas; carbon dioxide emissions are the prime

Commented [SI19]: Hydrogen sulfide: this gas has a strong disagreeable odor, even in trace amounts. Its

Commented [SI20]: . Other gases: what other gases are produced by the landfill? What are their health and

Commented [SI21]: Particulate emissions: waste gases and exhaust from flaring/burning landfill gas.

Commented [SI22]: Wildlife impacts: the landfill disrupts the natural environment. What are the costs of disrupting

Commented [SI23]: Environmental impacts through traffic generation: the landfill generates vehicle travel,

Commented [SI24]: Impacts on the visual environment: the landfill is both monumental and an eyesore. What is t

Commented [SI25]: The landfill currently operates as a regulated nuisance, or disamenity – that is, its operations

Commented [SI26]: How do the current landfill traffic volumes (vehicles per day by type and total transported

Commented [SI27]: How do the sale prices of private properties sold to the Valley Landfills, Inc. over the past 4(

Commented [SI28]: 1. What are the current governing permits and regulations?

Commented [SI29]: 1. What lead time is required for proper closure?

Commented [SI30]: 1. What is the gross profit ratio for Republic Services landfill operations nationwide in the US

Commented [SI31]: 1 What are the current hours of operation (i.e. daily first employee arrival time – last

Commented [SI32]: An operation as large as the Coffin Butte Landfill creates risks on a similar scale. These risks

Commented [SI33]: a. What is the fire history of the landfill?

Commented [SI34]: a. What magnitude earthquake are the slopes of the landfill expected to withstand? Specifica

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3. Risks of Surface Water and from Hazardous Waste	X		
4. Risks from PFAS	X		
5. Risks from Flood (and Extreme Flooding Conditions)	X		
6. Risks of Extended Power Outages	X		
7. Risks of Concatenating Disasters	X		
8. Groundwater contamination	X		
9. Risks of leachate releases			
10. Risks of landfill gas migration and associated fire and explosion hazards			
11. Risks of forest wildfires			
12. Risks of transportation accidents			
13. Risks to flora and fauna in ecological area to east of CB			
FYI: Contingency plan scenarios required to be addressed per ORDEQ			
(viii) Coffin Butte Landfill Economic Impacts: "What are the economic effects of the landfill?"	X		
Customer Interests	X		
Long-term economic risks to Benton County (cleanup, fire, community health).	X		X
Full lifecycle impacts of materials	X		
State of Oregon Solid Waste Management Plan	X		
Impacts from new state legislation	X		
State Values	X		
County 2040 Initiative Core Values	X		
G) Economics Cost and Fees	X		
(i) Landfill Fees	X		
(ii) Collection Franchise Fees	X		
Current costs of road maintenance and traffic hazards associated with landfill/quarry traffic	X		

Commented [SI35]: a. How is hazardous waste officially defined?

b. How much hazardous material is received annually and what is it constituted of?

c. What safeguards are in place to prevent hazardous materials from entering the landfill?

Commented [SI36]: **Risks from PFAS, a class of persistent organic pollutants ("forever chemicals") commonly used since 1940 in items that are commonly landfilled. PFAS are an emerging focus of health concerns, as we now know that PFAS accumulates in human tissue and exposure to it has been linked so far to increased risk of decreased antibody response, dyslipidemia (abnormally high cholesterol), decreased infant and fetal growth, and increased risk of kidney cancer, and other health impacts are likely to emerge. Concerns include health harms and economic harm from litigations**

a. What studies have been done to identify the level of PFAS in the landfill? in leachate?

Commented [SI37]: Risks from Flood – especially extreme flood conditions, which are becoming more prevalent as the climate changes

Commented [SI38]: a. What studies or plans have been done to prepare for situations where more than one disaster is happening, i.e., if a heat dome causes a power

Commented [SI39]: What are the effects of power outages on landfill operations, especially necessary operations such as gas collection and leachate pumping?

Commented [SI40]: A. Groundwater contamination is not a risk, it is an inevitability – the liner and other barriers to contamination will fail in time, and leachate and other

Commented [SI41]: Add section here discussing air quality/ groundwater concerns

Commented [SI42]: (https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/SWGuidance09.pdf)
on-site personal injuries

Commented [SI43]: **"What effect does the landfill currently have on collection rates in the county? On**

Commented [SI44]: MOVE THIS ENTIRE SECTION TO "Economics" section below.

Commented [SI45]: The Workgroup charge states "Economic (benefit-cost)". This section implies mainly cos

Commented [SI46]: These topics are not Economic, they're simply fees & costs.

Commented [SI47]: (Generally this sections should address the macro and micro information to get a sense of the economic impact of SWM. Ideally, where all

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Impacts on residential property values	X		
impacts on other economic activity in North Benton County	X		
Long-term economic risk for county as a landfill site	X		
(iii) Cost of disposal in Coffin Butte Landfill compared to other Regional Landfill or disposal option?	X		
(iv) Cost / Benefit Evaluation of Benton County Hosting Coffin Butte Landfill a) Identify RSI et al revenues from Benton County customers and associated direct costs for providing these services. b) Identify RSI et al total revenues and costs associated with their operations of the service area and Coffin Butte. c) Identify non-monetary benefits and burdens associated with RSI et al.			
(v) Need a section to address "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			
(vi) Current Closure Costs (Explain where the 41.7 acres already closed are and how the cost of this closure is reflected in the overall Financial Assurance for landfill closure required by DEQ & EPA**)**			
(vii) Landfill gas management (revenues generated/cost avoidance associated this operation			
(viii) Materials Recycling (revenues generated/cost avoidance associated with this operation)			
H) Financial Liabilities			

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(i) County Financial Obligations: **Subtopics (TOC subheadings)**: What are the obligations?			
(ii) Closure Obligations: **Subtopics (TOC subheadings):** How funding obligations are addressed. Entities responsible for funding. Bankruptcy Considerations: What entity is responsible for funding Closure Costs if the current responsible party declares bankruptcy? How is the County protected from exposure to Closure Costs? How would the County fund the approx. $15millon closure cost?			
(iii) Impact of Landfill Expansion on Closure Financial Requirements (indicate dollar amount and how it will be funded)			
H) Examples From Jurisdictions Hosting Landfills	X		
(i) Gilliam County	X		
(ii) Morrow County	X		
(iii) Yamhill County	X		
(iv) Lane County	X		
(v) issue sequencing (land-use or hauling approval first)	X		
2) Republic Services, VLI, and Benton County's Current Rights and Obligations	X		
How county agreements interact with other jurisdictions	X		
How county agreements interact with other jurisdictions	X		
Contractual considerations and dynamics for Coffin Butte Landfill for future decision-making: franchise, quarry, agreements	X		
Long-term obligations of VLI vs. RS as distinct corporations			
Landfill Rights and Obligations	X		
Collection Rights and Obligations	X		
3) Other Entity Rights and Obligations	X		

Commented [SI48]: (What is the County selection criteria? 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.

Commented [SI49]: Discuss these two first as more relevant examples in Willamette Valley.

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(i) Rights and obligations of the community (particularly near neighbors)			
(ii) Authorities Rights and obligations of the Planning Commission (Explanations/examples of what constitutes an undue burden, public nuisance, activity in harmony with area would be helpful)			
4) Future Directions			
A) Possible Futures: "What are our options as we move into the future?"			
(i) Possible Futures			
: if we maintain the status quo, what happens?			
: if we expand the landfill, what happens?			
: if the landfill closes prematurely, what happens? (due to earthquake, fire or other disaster; due to environmental hazard such as groundwater contamination; due to regulation such as greenhouse gas reduction legislation)			
: if the county seeks to use best available methods to pro-actively reduce its trash impacts, what happens?			
: if the county fails to prepare for a transition in its waste stream, what happens?			
B) Next Steps: "What are our next steps as we move toward more desirable futures?"			
(i) Obtain independent, third-party, reliable data about key parameters relating to our waste stream and its effects.			
(ii) Communicate with others who are also evaluating their options for their waste streams. Other counties in Oregon (and other entities across the nation and the world) are already operating successfully without a local landfill, and others are in the process of making the transition to post-landfill living. We can learn from their experience			

Commented [SI50]: Another fundamental (perhaps the most fundamental) bit of information about the county's solid waste future is: what are our options? In other words, what happens if we do nothing? What happens if we do something? What happens if we do a third thing? And so on.

Like Rome, all the roads of this document lead here: all the other understandings lead us to favor choosing one possible future over another. If the landfill is generating significant Eklund – Common Understandings: Questions – Page 11 of 15 amounts of climate-damaging methane, for example, we favor choosing a future which generates less.

In my experience, it can be difficult to arrive at common understandings about possible futures, because (a) people have widely varying comfort levels with even thinking about possible futures, (b) people have widely varying comfort ...

Commented [SI51]: A. Benton County adds its garbage to the landfill for approximately 12 years, adding a total of about 850,000 tons of garbage to the landfill

b. Other sources add their garbage to the landfill for 12 years, adding approximately 15,000,000 tons of garbage to the landfill ...

Commented [SI52]: a. Benton County adds its garbage to the landfill for approximately 15 years, adding a total of about 1,000,000 tons of garbage to the landfill

b. Other sources add their garbage to the landfill for 15 years, adding approximately 20,000,000 tons of garbage to the landfill ...

Commented [SI53]: a. Benton County makes a sudden transition to trucking its waste to another landfill such as Columbia Ridge near Arlington; garbage costs rise suddenly

b. Benton County acts quickly on a plan to better manage its waste, such as building an intermodal transfer station so ...

Commented [SI54]: a. Benton County adds a steadily diminishing amount of garbage to the landfill for approximately 12 years, adding a total of about 500,000 tons of garbage to the landfill ...

Commented [SI55]: A. Benton County makes a sudden transition to its waste stream, similar to Possible Future #3 above

b. This future seems unlikely at first, but that may be (a) because it is unexamined, and (b) because it seems unlikely politically that the public will revert to apathy about the ...

Commented [SI56]: One way to make it easier to futurethink about solid waste management is to break down each possible future into discrete steps, and then to focus on just the next steps for each. That way you don't have to be daunted by the exact route, you just need to be reasonably sure you're starting to move in the right ...

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(iii)	Study possible actions to take, and share that information. Some examples for Benton County: an intermodal transfer facility (which enables waste to be shipped more efficiently by rail); a materials recovery facility for construction debris; a materials recovery facility for advanced recycling; a waste-to-energy facility; upstream waste materials reduction policies; and so on. Net Zero and other strategies already exist, to use policy and technology to begin to control and minimize damage from the county waste stream.			
(iv)	Hire a consultant who specializes in these transitions, to advise us.			
(v)	Don't be afraid to engage the public at large. Asking "what if" is a game that anyone can play, and our ideas and values matter when envisioning a future and taking the first step, and then the next, and then the next, on the path to get there.			