

From: [Ken Eklund](#)
To: [Benton County Talks Trash](#); [REDICK Daniel](#); [Sam Imperati Oregon Consensus Assessment](#)
Cc: [Brian May](#); [MCGUIRE Sean](#); [John Deuel](#); [Joel Geier](#); [Ryan McAlister](#); [Marge Popp](#)
Subject: Re: Contribution to SMMP Document
Date: Friday, December 9, 2022 10:53:32 AM
Attachments: [SMMP draft rec for RFP 2.docx](#)

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Thanks, Marge, for making this contribution. I have been working on my own document, and it's attached here in Word format. I've only been able to glance at Marge's ideas, but it seems she and I want to emphasize many of the same points.

I've gone ahead and started to populate the TOC with language ideas... In the time allotted, I've only been able to address certain parts of the TOC (the most difficult sections IMO), but the idea is that we would continue in the same vein for the entire TOC.

It's important to me that the RFP speaks not to the average consulting firm but to the best consulting firms. I can say from personal experience that top-level firms look for language in the RFP that their talents will be put to good use, so I am incorporating that signaling in what I've got so far.

Your ideas and feedback welcome. Til next we meet ~

All best,

Ken

Ken Eklund, writerguy
writerguy.com

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

408-623-8372

On Dec 9, 2022, at 9:15 AM, Marge <marge@jyo.com> wrote:

Hello All,

I will yield to my far more knowledgeable subcommittee members regarding the composition of the TOC and the content of the section introductory paragraphs. I have targeted the attached verbiage to the document introduction, Section II in the Table of Contents.

We have an enormous store of knowledge and experience on this subcommittee that I wish to acknowledge and yield to. I feel very fortunate to have served on this subcommittee because I have learned so much from all of you.

The attached document contains some main points that I would like to make sure don't get lost in the shuffle. These points have been made throughout our discussion by various members but I would like to list them here to make sure we cover them in our document.

First and foremost, in my opinion, the Benton County 2040 Thriving Communities Initiative values should permeate this document. I hope some of the aspirational concepts I have raised in my Introductory paragraph (attached) can be blended into the SMMP Subcommittee's report.

Cheers,

Marge

<SMMP Introductory Paragraphs.docx>

Benton County Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP)

Request for Proposal: Recommendations

Ken Eklund

I. VALUES AND GOALS

Language here stating that the successful applicant will show their understanding of the importance of the values listed in Benton County’s “Core Values” and the State of Oregon’s “Materials Management in Oregon 2050 Vision and Framework for Action,” and will describe how these values will permeate the process and the product of the SMMP.

Language here laying out the goal of the SMMP as a bold, resilient path forward for Benton County as it moves into a future with a regional-scale landfill in its late operational stages, increasing awareness of environmental concerns, and multiple options for transition to more equitable and environmentally sound post-landfill waste systems.

II. INTRODUCTION

A Context of the Plan

Language here describing the situation leading up to this RFP: Benton County, comfortable in its reliance on its local landfill (Coffin Butte Landfill), did not update its SWMP and that plan is now obsolete. The landfill’s corporate owner applied to expand the landfill in 2021; the attempt failed; given the current high rate of waste intake, the landfill is now entering its late operational stage; it’s clear that the County needs an innovative new Plan in order to be able to evaluate its options moving forward, and protect its citizens from undue economic and environmental impacts.

At the same time, the County finds itself increasingly aware that larger forces are at work regarding the environmental impacts of regional-scale landfills such as Coffin Butte Landfill. Concerns about climate change are sparking legislation and regulatory action targeting the greenhouse gases and other environmental consequences of landfilling. The County does not do independent testing or verifications of landfill impacts and does not have a robust method of fielding citizen complaints; it typically relies on data gathered by the landfill owner, and on monitoring and enforcement done by other agencies.

Language here characterizing the County’s economic relationship with the landfill.

The landfill owner has announced its intention to apply for another landfill expansion, and in response the County has assembled a Workgroup to fill in the gaps in its relevant knowledge. This Workgroup is composed mainly of citizen volunteers. Language here about the Workgroup process and its findings, which will be made available to RFP applicants.

B Plan Purpose and Goals

Language here stating that the successful applicant will show their ability to map out the County's changing social, economic, environmental and regulatory landscapes, and ability to develop a Plan to navigate the County through them. The successful applicant should be able to articulate a clear narrative or set of scenarios that describe how the Plan will be a resilient guide for the future.

C Issues to be Addressed by the Plan

Language here listing the top-level questions that the County needs the Plan to answer:

- What are the true environmental impacts of landfilling for Benton County? Especially: what is the greenhouse gas footprint of the landfill? What do these impacts look like when projected into the future?
- What are the true economic costs and benefits of landfilling for the County? What do these costs and benefits look like when projected into the future?
- Given that a transition away from landfilling at Coffin Butte Landfill seems inevitable, what are the various paths that the County can take to accomplish this? What means (funding, collaborations, etc.) are necessary to make to embark upon these paths?
- Are there landfills other than Coffin Butte Landfill that should be considered? What are the tradeoffs (economic, environmental)?
- What are the alternative waste technologies available to lessen or replace landfilling? What means (funding, regional collaborations, etc.) are necessary to bring these technologies into Benton County or the region?
- The County's interests would seem to be best served by diverting waste from the landfill, but the landfill's interests are best served by emplacing waste in the landfill. What is the path forward that balances these competing interests?
- What is the risk assessment of the landfill? How can the County best manage these risks?
- What is the long-term outlook for the landfill? What is its best closure plan? What measures should be in place to manage the landfill's impacts after closure?
- Which options for addressing the above issues best reflect the County's (and the State's) stated values?

D New Approaches to Managing Waste

Language here relating that, since landfilling is an old technology and has always been problematic, many alternatives to landfilling have been developed and employed by people all over the world. The successful applicant will be conversant in the design and implementation of these alternative waste technologies, be able to evaluate their suitability for use in Benton County, and be able to map out rough timelines for their deployment. This roadmap should include possibilities for transition assistance from state and federal initiatives addressing climate change.

Possible bullet points in this section:

- 1) Evolving the County's current garbage and reuse/repurpose/recycle system
- 2) Evolving products and materials that avoid the wastestream
- 3) Diverting/treating high-methane-producing materials
- 4) Moving materials from wastestreams into Sustainable Circular Economies
- 5) Waste-to-energy and waste-to-fuel facilities
- 6) Imagining new systems, and making the transition to them
- 7) Transition assistance from impending initiatives addressing climate change
- 8) Job creation
- 9) Leading with equity and other core values

E Environmental Impacts of Products and Materials

Language here about the wide range of products and materials that enter the County's waste systems, and the correspondingly wide range of environmental impacts they have based on what happens to them. This includes the largely positive environmental impacts when products and materials are reused, repurposed, or recycled, or when they are used in a circular economy, the mixed environmental impacts when materials are converted to energy, and the largely negative environmental impacts when highly organic materials such as food and food waste are landfilled, when microplastics and PFAS enter landfill leachate or groundwater and rivers, when usable resources are made unusable, and so on.

1) Measuring environmental impacts

Language here about the need for accurate impact assessments, by independent third parties as necessary, to form the basis for action plans.

2) Reducing our impact

The successful RFP applicant will be able to lay out innovative pathways for the County to reduce negative environmental impacts in keeping with county and state values.

Possible bullet points in this section:

- a) Preventing wastestreams (producer responsibility)
- b) Reducing and diverting waste streams
- c) Total life cycle analysis

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III. CLIMATE CHANGE

Language here to the effect of: "People all over the world are growing increasingly concerned about the threat the uncontrolled release of greenhouse gases poses to the ecosystems that human societies depend upon... UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said that "The world still needs a giant leap on climate ambition... we can and must win this battle for our lives"... In the United States, this fight is focused on the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas...

Landfills are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Landfilling inherently creates methane as a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in landfills... As a large regional landfill in a wet environment (which encourages methane generation), Coffin Butte Landfill is likely to be a focus of this increasing concern and the target of social environmental activism and legislation. The successful applicant will be able to map out the social, ethical and environmental landscape of climate change and incorporate this map into its Planning process and product.”

A Pervasive Environmental Effects (“Everything Change”)

Language here describing the novel nature of climate change effects, and their pervasive nature (“climate change is everything change”) which poses unique challenges to successful planning. The successful applicant will demonstrate their ability to design a well-imagined and resilient Plan that can assess the likelihoods of such climate-impacted events as wildfires, floods, population migrations, unprecedented disruptions to energy and transportation infrastructure, and so on.

B Methane and other Greenhouse Gases

Language here that relates how, in the past, “methane pollution has been difficult to quantify – but in recent years, focus has shifted to better direct measurement technologies for more accurate and transparent emissions reporting, using area measurement tools deployed on satellites, aircraft, and towers... A flyover project across California discovered that only 1% of sites produced 50% of methane emissions, and the largest emissions were from landfills... These developments all signal a changed operating environment for Coffin Butte Landfill, one in which its greenhouse gas emissions move from being an unknown and largely unexamined factor to being an open number impacting waste flows, operating costs, regulatory fines, corporate investment levels, and so on. The successful applicant will delineate paths for the County to establish clearer knowledge about and control over these environmental impacts by its franchisees, and incorporate these responsibilities into its Planning process and product.”

C Social, Political, Legislative Dimensions

Language here describing how “The US is taking critical, commonsense steps at home to reduce methane across the economy... Through the 2021 Methane Emissions Reduction Plan, the US government is using all available tools – commonsense regulations, catalytic financial incentives, transparency and disclosure of actionable data, and public and private partnerships – to identify and cost-effectively reduce methane emissions from all major sources... As part of this Plan, in a carrot /stick manner, the EPA has begun to offer incentives to reduce / assess charges for the release of methane into the atmosphere.” These regulatory steps are echoed by developments in the US public arena, where citizens are protesting climate polluters, and in US courts, where citizens are suing governmental bodies to end their climate inaction. Coffin Butte Landfill currently has a high intake rate because environmental activism in Yamhill County prevented the Riverbend Landfill from expanding. The successful applicant will be able to incorporate these evolving dimensions into its Planning process and product.

Language here about the growing prominence of the climate crisis and the necessity for the successful applicant to innovate a robust mechanism to incorporate public input and idea generation into the County’s Plan.

D Wastestream Impacts

Language here about how the effects listed above will influence the anticipated volume of the wastestream of Benton County, and the much larger flows of waste into Coffin Butte Landfill from its statewide watershed. The successful applicant will be able to incorporate measures into its Planning process and product that will help the County respond to trends affecting these wastestreams.

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