

MEMORANDUM

TO: Benton County Talks Trash Work Group

FR: Benton County Community Development Director and Benton County Counsel

DT: January 13, 2023

RE: Clarification of County processes regarding selection of various solid waste consultants

Sustainable materials management plan consultant selection process.

Following direction from the Benton County Board of Commissioners to the Benton County Talks Trash Work Group, and as outlined in the work group's formal charge, the Board anticipates the work group will recommend topics to be considered in a Sustainable Materials Management Plan.

Following the Board's receipt of those recommendations, and following Board direction, staff will solicit initial responses from qualified firms to conduct one or more elements of a Sustainable Materials Management Plan. Once the County has identified one or more qualified firms, staff and the Board anticipate inviting a panel of community members (including BCTT work group members) to review the firm(s) and/or proposals and provide feedback prior to the County's selection of a firm or team.

Land use planning consultant selection process.

Benton County is in the process of identifying an outside land use planning consultant to represent the county prior to any conditional use permit application that may be filed by the landfill operator. Staff anticipates the land use planning consultant will review and analyze one or more land use application(s) and related materials, receive written input from the public, prepare and present a staff report(s) to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Planning Commission and/or the Board of County Commissioners, and respond to any additional materials that may be submitted during public hearings or on appeal.

The County anticipates seeking feedback from the BCTT work group regarding the preferred expertise and qualifications of any land use planning firm(s) the County may select to fulfill this role.

Land use attorney selection process.

Benton County is also in the process of identifying a land use attorney to represent the county in the event a conditional use permit application is filed by the landfill operator. It is expected that the land use attorney will provide advice and guidance to staff and outside consultants during the application review process, as well as to the County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners during public hearings. The county anticipates selecting and contracting with an outside land use attorney prior to a land use application being filed by the landfill operator.