



## BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SWAC)

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING: March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Leklem (Chair), Linda Brewer (Vice-Chair), Jeff Freeman, Jay Simpkins, Jeff Morrell, Larry Sleeman

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Anne Schuster

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gordon Brown

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ron Tacchini, Julie Jackson, and Kevin Hines (Republic Services) & Ashley Johnson (Benton County Intern)

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**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** - None

The January 2013 minutes were presented for approval.

**MOTION was made to approve the January 2013 minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

### Republic Services' Refuse Rate Index (RRI)

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*Gordon Brown, Benton County Environmental Health*

- Gordon presented the materials provided for the April 2 Board of Commissioner's work session. The main point of discussion was the public input for the rate adjustments. Benton County Code Chapter 23 currently requires that public hearings be held prior to any rate adjustments. SWAC members are encouraged to attend the work session if they can.
- Three options posed to the Board for the work session were discussed
  1. Approve RRI as proposed by Republic with annual public hearings prior to implementing.
  2. Approve the RRI as proposed with amendments to Benton County Code to allow the adjustments to be automatic.
  3. Not approve the Refuse Rate Index (RRI) and provide direction to staff and Republic Services.
- General discussion on the RRI index as adopted by the City of Albany. The Albany resolution places a cap on the Republic Services of Albany rate of return and RRI adjustments.
- Historical data on the CPI was viewed and a cap for the RRI was discussed. Historically, the CPI is typically below 4%. While a cap may reassure the public and show due diligence, the council could find no financial reason to place a cap on the RRI for Benton County. If need be, Benton County has the authority to eliminate the RRI.
- A number of public notification methods were discussed including bill inserts, websites and newsletters. Republic Services feels that they can do a good job of informing their customers of pending rate increases if RRI is implemented because it is much easier to anticipate and plan ahead.

**MOTION was made to recommend approval of the RRI as proposed by Republic Services with the condition that Republic Services provide an annual report to Benton County no later than October 1 of the year prior to RRI rate adjustments; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

**Upcoming Schedule – Next meeting is April 24, 2013**

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**MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.*



## BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SWAC)

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING: April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Leklem (Chair), Linda Brewer (Vice-Chair), Jeff Freeman, Jay Simpkins, Jeff Morrell, Larry Sleeman & Anne Schuster

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Ron Tacchini, Julie Jackson, Peter Lepre, Judy Ball, Brian May, Terri McDonald & Kari Whitacre

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gordon Brown & JonnaVe Stokes (recorder)

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**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** - None

The March 2013 minutes were presented for approval.

**MOTION was made to approve the March 2013 minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

#### **Republic Service Annual Haulers Report**

*Gordon Brown, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, Benton County Health Services, (BCHS)*

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- Not available this month, but has a request in to make this report due in the fall.

#### **Republic Services Refuse Rate Index (RRI)**

*Gordon Brown, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, BCHS*

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##### *Handout #1 Recovery Rate Index*

- BOC to approve with an order based on certain conditions to include:
  - Changing the county ordinance to include a RRI.
  - Rates to change starting in January 2014
  - Calculation language was changed and included with table for an example.
  - Receive annual report including the adjustment factor from Republic Services, Inc. (RS) no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - To be reviewed every four years half way through all current franchise agreements.
  - Board could withdraw this order at any time with another board order if needed.

##### *Handout#2 Benton County Code Chapter 23 Changes*

- Need two recommendations from SWAC members to present to the Board of Commissioners.
  - Discussed needed changes to the Benton County Code Chapter 23
  - Continue with the proposal

**MOTION was made to approve changes made to Chapter 23 of the Benton County Code; motion seconded; all is favor, so approved.**

**MOTION was made to recommend approval of the proposed Refuse Rate Index by Republic Services to Refuse Rate Index rate adjustments; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

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## **Mattress Recycling Project**

*Kari Whitacre, Executive Director, Community Outreach, Inc.*

*Terry McDonald, Executive Director, St. Vincent De Paul of Lane County*

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- Terry has been recycling mattresses in Oregon and California for the last 12 years.
- As a mattress is deconstructed, the polyurethane foam goes back into making residential carpet pads, the pillow topper goes into making commercial carpet padding, the cotton goes into dashboards of cars, the steel gets recycled back into steel and the wood goes back into making wood products.
- Terry partnered with the local solid waste district, which pays his company a fee to keep mattresses out of the landfill.
  - It costs his business \$6.20 to deconstruct one mattress, covering the tipping fee charged at the landfill.
  - The waste district also provides the container, hauling it from the landfill full of mattresses back to the facility for deconstruction.
- This service benefits the community by leaving more room in the landfill, creating jobs and preventing waste.
- Terry has recently been in discussions with Community Outreach, Inc. to help provide jobs for Benton County residents who lack work history. This job may help workers transition back into the community; while also providing a service to the community.
- Products come primarily from the landfills, universities and the hotel industry.
- Terry suggested partnering with the local waste district (RS at Coffin Butte Landfill) to access the product, which could also open doors for other opportunities to pull other debris from the landfill to be recycled, IE: Polystyrene into fuel.
- Need funding sources: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has donated funds to start more facilities.

*How many mattresses show up at the landfill?* They are the source and heat, if you have a fire at a landfill this is usually the cause. Republic Services would like to remove these from the landfill.

*What about couches?* Cost of deconstruction was around \$30.00 and only 30-40% of the material is recyclable. Eugene receives 3,000 pieces each month which provides jobs for 6 full time employees.

*What does Oregon State University do with their mattresses?* Portland metro charges \$15.00

*What about mattresses coming from other locations in a truck?* Compacted material is nearly impossible to deconstruct and contaminated with debris. You would need to charge an additional handling fee.

*How to prevent them being dumped on the side of the road?* RS doesn't want them dumped on the side of the road.

*Result of charging a mattress fee?* Initially, they may have midnight donations left behind stores.

*Do you take self-haul at St. Vincent's De Paul?* Yes, for \$6.20.

*What kind of educational program would you offer and how long would it continue?* RS receives a large volume of calls regarding mattresses.

*Where would the site be?* Need to identify the business opportunity first then identify potential sites.

*What's the next step, survey? What's the market?* After looking at the profile of Benton County's population, Terry estimates around 2,000 pieces per month could be deconstructed and prevented from entering the landfill.

*What would you like from this committee?*

- Are you willing to charge a fee for haulers and provide service for the community?
- Provide consumers the opportunity to save money and provide a drop site.
- Collaboration with other non-profits.

There is a mattress company in Eugene that rebuilds mattresses if they are in nice shape.

Collaboration Corvallis has been in discussions with the City of Corvallis about landlords and couches.

This could be a potential source of revenue for Community Outreach, Inc. The \$6.20 fee covers the cost of deconstruction.

*How would the site be paid for?*

- There would be no profits in the beginning.
- Collaboration with St. Vincent De Paul of Eugene who is willing to cover the cost of the property, tools and rent of facility.
- The point of the organizing this business is to give back to the community and provide economic opportunities for low income residents.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation contracted with Terry McDonald on other projects in Orlando, Florida and Bridgeport, Connecticut. They want him to start up 10 additional deconstruction sites and to support this effort they have awarded him \$40,000-\$60,000 in seed money per project to get started.

*What can the committee do to help facilitate this?* It is a community effort between the landfill, haulers and community development (city planning). A business rollout could take place within 4-6 months. Since the operation would be in the city you would need to include the City of Corvallis. This Committee can support the business plan and inform the Board of Commissioners that SWAC members support this proposal.

**\*Terry and Kari to propose business plan that will be reviewed at a future meeting.**

*Do you have a bed bug plan?* Bedbugs are not residents of a mattress they actually prey on dormant prey who are in the mattresses. At the deconstruction site, the bugs have no way to get back into the home. The biggest problem is usually fleas.

Starting pay for employees would be between \$11.00 and \$15.00 an hour plus full benefits (medical & dental).

**Upcoming Schedule** – Next meeting to be held May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

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**MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.*



## BENTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL (SWAC)

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### MINUTES OF THE MEETING: August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Brewer (Vice-Chair), Jay Simpkins, Jeff Freeman & Jeff Morrell  
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Leklem (Chair), Larry Sleeman & Anne Schuster  
GUESTS PRESENT: Brian May, Ron Tacchini, Adam Stebbins & Ian Macnab  
STAFF PRESENT: Gordon Brown, Bill Emminger & JonnaVe Stokes (recorder)

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**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS** - None

The April 2013 minutes were presented for approval.

**MOTION was made to approve the April 2013 minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

The July 2013 notes were presented.

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### Benton County Fair Sustainability Actions – Adam Stebbins, Projects Coordinator, Benton County

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- Benton County Fair Green Vendor Program:
  - Vendors earned incentives at the fair this year by transitioning from throw away materials to approved compostable products. Vendors received 1% off gross sales in vendor fees paid to the fairgrounds this year.
  - Half of the vendors switched to compostable products this year.
  - Other stations were monitored all around the fairgrounds to prevent contamination.
  - 22 volunteers gave 102 hours last year to man these stations and 16 volunteers volunteered 150 hours this year.
  - The county saved an estimated \$2,500-\$3,500 in tipping fees they would have paid to the landfill for animal bedding waste that was spread at a local farm.
  - Some vendors transitioned during the fair week to other non-compostables, ie: ran out of approved supplies, hired new staff that used inappropriate materials, etc.
  - Stebbins asked which products to direct fair vendors to, so he can collect real data and not just rely on estimates.
- Metrics to develop: Stebbins is currently tracking what products the county uses and what is generated as waste, so costs can be decreased.
  - What is going on inside the organization? Metrics need to be measured.
  - The Public Works Department, Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's office and Information Technology staff meet each quarter to decide which projects to work on.
  - Sustainability metrics were developed last year, now the data needs to be analyzed.
- Stebbins is focusing first on electricity, then will collect and analyze energy, natural gas, waste and water data.
- Benton County wants to start tracking their energy efficiencies. The county has been practicing sustainability since the 1980's and plans to use this information to earn energy star credits.
  - Tacchini agreed to help go back and run route summaries for Stebbins metrics and Emminger suggested checking with the county's shredding company.

## **Coffin Butte Landfill Annual Operations and Capacity Report - part 2**

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*Brian May, Division Manager, Republic Services, Inc.*

- Infrastructure: Cell V-A construction, new public tipping area, etc.
  - Design engineers continue to evaluate this area for improvements.
  - Looking to provide a one stop drop area of compost and landfill debris.

**MOTION was made to approve the Coffin Butte Landfill Annual Operations and Capacity Report; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

**Upcoming Schedule** - Next meeting to be held September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.*



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Committee

### (SWAC) October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 Minutes

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|------------------|---|
| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Jeff Freeman, Jeff Morrell, Jay Simpkins, Larry Sleeman & Jim Leklem (Chair)  |
| MEMBERS EXCUSED: | Linda Brewer (Vice-Chair), Anne Schuster & Chuck Kratch                       |
| GUESTS PRESENT:  | Brian May, Julie Jackson, Ian Macnab, Gary Blake, Kevin Hines & Jeff Barcenas |
| STAFF PRESENT:   | Gordon Brown & JonnaVe Stokes (recorder)                                      |

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**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m.

**Citizen Comments** - None

**II. Approval of the September 2013 Minutes**

**MOTION was made to approve the September 2013 minutes as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

There will be a new opening on the SWAC; Anne Schuster will not be renewing her membership.

**III. Republic Services, Inc. 2012 Report – Julie Jackson & Gary Blake, Republic Services, Inc. (RSI)**

*Presentation: Benton County Annual Report Summary*

- RSI serves 5,520 residential customers.
- They had 99% participation from customers who have the service to recycle.
- 39 outreach presentations were given.
- Recovery rate for 2011 was 46% in Benton County.
- Customer calls are all answered locally.
- Drivers took over 13 hours of annual safety training.
- 12,470 tons of garbage, 12,435 tons of organic waste and 11,462 tons of yard debris were recycled in 2012.
- Commingled recycling has become more popular and convenient because it requires less sorting.
- Responded to the community's needs by offering honorable disposal of flags and recycling for Christmas lights, cooking oil and campaign signs last year.
  - Increased outreach by relocating the farmer's composting workshop from the fairgrounds to the farmer's market.
  - Donated 300 yards of compost to local community gardens.
  - Employees volunteered over 200 hours of their time to the Benton County community.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) trucks are coming to Benton County

- 15 new trucks will be online and a new fuel station will be completed by the end of the year.
- The natural gas fuel is delivered through a natural gas pipeline and then is compressed before use.
- Heil of Chattanooga, Tennessee is manufacturing the CNG garbage trucks for RSI.
- While the trucks are more expensive than the traditional trucks, they will save in fuel, create fewer emissions (up to 80% less) and offer some tax break.
  - They have also been reported to be 90% quieter and will reduce dependence on foreign oil.
- Fueling is available from Northwest Natural Gas; rates differ depending on the time of the day. RSI plans to fuel their trucks overnight for a lower price which is a slower fill, but they still have the option to fuel instantly during the daytime for a higher price.
- Lane County and Linn-Benton also have plans to build public fueling stations.



**MOTION was made to accept the Republic Services, Inc. 2012 Report as written; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

**IV. Coffin Butte Landfill Conditional Use Permit – Jeff Barcenas, RSI**

*Handouts: Application for Conditional Use Permit & Aerial photo of Coffin Butte Landfill.*

If approved, the permit will allow CBL to use 7.5 acres around the office for construction staging activities.

**MOTION was made to approve the conditional use permit at the Coffin Butte Landfill; motion seconded, so approved.**

**\*SWAC also agreed to write a letter of approval for this conditional use permit to Benton County Community Development staff.**

**V. Coffin Butte Landfill Review of Pollution Liability Insurance and Environmental Trust Fund**

*Handouts: Memo to SWAC, Table 1 Landfill Cleanups and Coffin Butte Landfill Environmental Liability Trust Summary 2009 Report to the Board of Commissioners.*

SWAC to decide on this issue at the next meeting.

**VI. 2012 Waste Recovery and Recycling Data**

DEQ is looking at other ways to measure impacts: carbon footprint, etc.

**VII. Upcoming Schedule - Next meeting to be held at 5:00 p.m., November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Coffin Butte Landfill.**

**VIII. MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.*



# Benton County

## Solid Waste Advisory Committee

### (SWAC) September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Minutes

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Brewer (Vice-Chair), Jeff Freeman, Jeff Morrell, Jay Simpkins, Chuck Kratch, Anne Schuster, Larry Sleeman & Jim Leklem (Chair)

GUESTS PRESENT: Brian May, Julie Jackson, Peter Lepre, Adam Stebbins, Gary Blake, Kevin Hines, Ron Tacchini & Jeff Barcenas

STAFF PRESENT: Gordon Brown

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**I. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**II. Citizen Comments** - None

**III. Approval of the August 2013 Minutes**

The August 2013 minutes were presented for approval. There was one noted change under section I., bullet 5, the sentence reading "The county saved \$2,500 - \$3,500 in tipping fees" was changed to "The county saved *an estimated* \$2,500 - \$3,500 in tipping fees....."

**MOTION was made to approve the August 2013 minutes as amended; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

**IV. Republic Services Annual Refuse Rate Index Report - Gary Blake & Kevin Hines, Republic Services, Inc. (RSI)**

*Handout: 2012 Annual Report* (to be reviewed next month).

*Handout: Annual Refuse Rate Index Report*

Background on Benton County (BC) Franchise system:

- BC regulates RSI's rate charges for services; they decide which services they want offered and then RSI determines a fair rate that the Board of Commissioners either approves or rejects.
- RSI is allowed a rate of return because they are regulated and they are requesting the current rate increase to move back towards historical profit margins.
- RSI received feedback that the county wants to receive smaller increases more often than to have large increases every few years.
- Other places in Oregon are increasing their rates annually using a Consumer Price Index (CPI).
  - RSI uses the CPI with additional adjustments (that occur annually in the business) which they call their Refuse Rate Index (RRI).
  - This rate is 75% of the CPI, 17% of the Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) disposal rate and 8% of the Pacific Region Compost (PRC) disposal rate. These are actual costs for RSI to do business.
- This will be the first year RSI enacts this rate change to an annual adjustment.

*Page 2:*

- The CPI for Portland/Salem in the last year has been 1.9%. The BC disposal rate increased 2.9% and the PRC increased 5%.
- Determined an overall rate adjustment of 2.3% to take effect January 1, 2014

*Questions?*

*Can you give us some background on Republic Services, Inc.?*

- RSI is national company headquartered in Arizona. It includes around 500 other operations. They are managed on a local level and are currently the second largest national waste management company in the U.S.

- They previously operated as Allied Waste Services, Inc. (AWS) under the name Corvallis Disposal. AWS and RSI were the second and third largest companies in the U.S. that merged in 2008.
- RSI also operates in Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, Salem and Portland.
- RSI locally maintains the Corvallis, Albany and Lebanon facilities.

*Was this a rate increase per ton?*

We took the beginning and ending rate of the year, which gave us the difference of the 5% increase at the PRC.

*How does this fit into the index?*

The increase is to cover the investments that are being made to the PRC.

*Do they weigh the trucks going through?*

Yes

*The economy took a hit in the last few years, did you take any rate decreases?*

- Some parts of the business are impacted by that and some are not. RSI had a sizeable decrease in industrial business and construction material.
- The company is impacted more from trying to reduce operating expenses. Despite the fact that they had less volume, RSI was able to shrink their variable expenses. Fixed costs remain the same even in the poor economy and hurts company revenue when they take in less product.

*Why don't you just keep adjusting the rate every three years, wouldn't it be easier?*

Elected officials have communicated they do not like the large increase adjustments and prefer to see a smaller increase more often and people will know it's coming.

*In what way will you notify the customers?*

It will be on their bill or they will be notified per their address. The November and December billing cycles will notify customers of the new rate.

*What other role does SWAC have if they don't agree with the refuse rate index adjustment?*

SWAC can either recommend this to the commissioners or not recommend it to the commissioners.

- RSI stated that the methodology had been approved but they also recognize that there needs to be oversight of this calculation by SWAC each year.

*There is a huge difference in costs for dumpsters in Corvallis versus Albany, has there ever been a discussion to freeze one or the other and adjust the rate when one catches up?*

- RSI has not had this discussion. This rate reflects county residents only not city residents (they have another rate).
- The difference depends on which collection company serves a resident of the county.
  - Albany-RSI services residents of North Albany and Corvallis-RSI serves the rest of BC.
  - These two companies have different cost structures based on the distance to the landfill, operating overhead, etc.
- Over the last few years, rate increases have been adjusted across the board on a percentage increase equally spread amongst the RSI facilities.
- RSI has never tried to equalize these rate differences because of the cost differences tied to the different areas.

*Two different companies; aren't they both RSI?*

- All accounting operations are handled separately. Each of the 500 RSI companies share best practices and management, but at the local level they all have their own operation costs.
- Salem and BC have totally different costs and rates.

*Is there a list of terms that are defined for this report?*

Yes, they are listed in the original franchise agreement. Services and sizes are different depending on the community's requests, which can make these reports complicated to read.

*So if someone lived in rural BC, Philomath, Corvallis, etc. the new monthly residential service rates would all be the same?*

Not necessarily, only if they were served by the same company. North Albany and some rural BC residents are served by Albany-RSI.

*Corvallis, Monroe and Philomath are they all the same?*

No, these are all cities who have asked for different services that have different costs.

*So these rates you have calculated are for?*

The un-incorporated areas of BC, not the cities or smaller towns.

SWAC is charged with representing these unincorporated areas of BC.

*So how does that work? Does RSI come to Philomath City Council Meeting as well?*

Yes, it is a very similar process. RSI discusses rates with Philomath City staff which then gets presented to the city council.

*Is this done on a yearly basis?*

Yes. Historically RSI approaches a city when they have a rate request and the city approaches RSI when they have a service request.

*Is the annual CPI 2.3% increase now going to be in every city?*

Yes it will be in every area, but only based on that specific area's prices already (the rate is all based off the same criteria).

*Can you give an example of a service that Philomath would want but not Corvallis or Monroe?*

RSI may pick up curbside glass once a month where in Albany they pick it up every other week. Rates depend also depend on frequency.

*Regionally or nationally are you allowed to make contributions to city council races or political campaigns?*

Yes RSI can, but they tend not to do a lot of that. It is a very controlled matter and there has been a history of abuse in the past, so RSI tends not to do it.

It was noted that this report was calculated using the Consumer Price Index - Urban Wage (CPI-W) instead of the Consumer Price Index - All Urban (CPI-U).

**\* SWAC will wait to see the adjustment under the CPI-U. Using the CPI-W the rate would be a .25% increase instead of a .23% increase.**

**\*Republic services will adjust the report to show the CPI-U rate.**

**MOTION was made to accept the Refuse Rate Increase as adjusted under the CPI-U rate and recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

Additional Questions:

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*What happened with the St. Vincent De Paul mattress recycling project?*

Community Outreach, Inc. just recently restructured and they are still looking for a place for the business.

- California and (Maryland/ Connecticut?) are now starting up mattress deconstruction sites.

Brian May introduced Jeff Barcenas who works with RSI at the PRC.

*What happened at the PRC after the piles were turned?*

Jay Simpkins visited the site and reported.

- They had 2 windrows of different aged material that had been inoculated as it came out of the grinder. The oldest windrows were six weeks, then five weeks and four weeks; each containing 1,000 yards of material.
- When they turned it you could smell a sweet sugar odor. It didn't smell like compost yet, but it was amazing to see how much of the material had decomposed. He also pointed out that there was still plastic and metal in the rows.
- Pointed out that there were new misters.

The PRC was turning compost windrows 16 times in a four week period, so if the inoculation works they will now only have to turn the windrows 3 or 4 times a month.

**V. Upcoming Schedule** - Next meeting to be held October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**VI. MOTION was made to adjourn; motion seconded; all in favor, so approved.**

*Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.*