

MEETING MINUTES
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
July 31st, 2024

Benton County DSAC Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The meeting was open to the public virtually via a published Zoom link.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Eklund, *Chair*
Chuck Gilbert
Jennifer Field
Brent Pawlowski
Matthew Ruettgers
David Hackleman
Rachel Purcell
Ian MacNab, *Republic Services Representative*

GUESTS

Brian Rupe, *Republic Services*
Julie Jackson, *Republic Services*
Bret Davis, *Republic Services*
EXCUSED: Jeffrey Morrell, Debbie Gile

STAFF

Petra Schuetz, *Interim Director*
Alyssa Thompson, *Recorder*
Bailey Payne, *Solid Waste Program Coordinator*
Rachel McEneny, *County Administrator*
Rick Crager, *Assistant County Administrator*
Ray Woottakewahbitty, *Safety Officer*
Nancy Wyse, *Commissioner*
Sean McGuire, *Sustainability Coordinator*

Chair Eklund expressed concern on delivery of committee packets for committee members and public. Payne shared that the packet information was delivered by email to the committee, and not posted online prior to the July 31 meeting.

WELCOME: Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

McEneny welcomed new and past committee members and shared expectations of the committee.

- Review regional disposal site,
- Provide forum and dialogue for all communities
- Prepare an annual report.

Request of DSAC members to be aware of the scope and length of future meetings as staff time is limited.

INTRODUCTIONS & GOALS

Committee members and staff introduced themselves and shared background information.

Questions from Committee members:

- Where does DSAC's scope ends and where the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's Scope begin.

- How have veteran committee members been engaging with the public and what shape does that take?
 - Public meetings, with opportunity to discuss and voice concerns.
- Questions regarding annual report process and when it is due.

Responses:

Schuetz shared that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) is still in review with staff and outside counsel for a completeness check. DSAC is considered a public body, DSAC will be able to review the application once public comment opens. There is no date set for public comment to begin.

ENRAC (Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Committee) has been charged by the County as the official body to review the CUP from an environmental perspective. There will a written comment period and a verbal comment opportunity to the planning commission, but no set time, likely sometime this fall.

Chair Eklund shared that the committee is backlogged in providing annual reports starting in 2021. There is a draft that was prepared and will be provided to committee members for review.

Payne shared that the 2021 report is still in draft. Chair Eklund has a different report from what staff has compiled, Payne will be working to combine the two to form one draft.

DSAC ORIENTATION: Bailey Payne

See exhibit 1, attached.

Questions from Committee Members:

- What is ENRAC? What is our relationship to that group?
- Does Republic have the ability to say they won't receive waste from other jurisdictions from Marion County and other jurisdictions?
- How often is the franchise agreement renegotiated?
- Who sets the annual cap on the total amount of waste into the landfill?
- How was the original cap put into the agreement?

Responses:

- Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee is ENRAC is the group the commission has named to fulfill the roll of SWAC (Solid Waste Advisory Committee) while that group is on hold during the Sustainable Materials Management Plan. ENRAC will provide comment to the planning commission and recommendation on the application as an exchange of SWAC.
- Republic has existing contracts in place with municipalities throughout the county, regarding accepting waste.
- The agreement is renegotiated every 20 years and was renewed in 2020.
- The franchise agreement negotiation sets the amount of waste to be received.

COFFIN BUTTE ANNUAL 2023 REPORT OVERVIEW: Ian MacNab, Julie Jackson, Bret Davis, Brian Rupe

See exhibit 2, attached.

Questions from Committee Members:

- Regarding Special Waste, what is that referring to?
- Regarding the 40,000 tons of compost pulled out per year in Benton County, where is that coming from?
- Regulatory sheet shows permits that you have with different agencies, City of Corvallis is for the leachate that is trucked to the waste treatment plant?
- Has Republic looked at what comes in on the trucks?
- Questions regarding post closure costs and leachate being trucked out, if there are enough funds. Is there a document stating that Republic is responsible for the site forever?
- What does it mean for Republic to manage wetlands?
- Are there groundwater wells or other measuring being done at the Pacific Region Compost facility to monitor for PFAS pollution?
- Public comment regarding leachate treatment and high PFAS levels. Are there discussions about trying to implement new technology?
- To sample methane gas levels, is equipment required to be explosion proof?
- Do you have means to ensure safety and security during the times that you have no operations going on?
- Will the quarry area be ready for the expansion at the correct elevation? Will it still be active for Knife River to mine that?
- If the expansion is approved, are there more expansions you foresee doing on the site?
- Is the annual environmental monitoring report and trends available for the public to review?
- How much methane does the methane system currently in place not capture? Is Republic interested in preventing methane leaks from happening? Questions regarding carbon mappers.

Responses:

- Material that is outside of regular household waste. I.E. materials that are coming from some kind of factory process. Special waste is not hazardous waste. Examples: wildfire debris, damaged goods from Costco, sawmill dust.
- Compost is collected on route, it would be how much the site processed, not the amount that Benton County produced. Transfer stations and landfills have separate areas for people to sort out their yard debris.
- Republic has permits with City of Corvallis and City of Salem for leachate.
- DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) will randomly pick trucks that come into Coffin Butte, they will dump all the contents on the ground and audit those trucks. They have folks going through the material and categorizing what comes in. Past data can be found in the waste characterization studies. Republic believes that DEQ is getting ready to do another one at Coffin Butte. Peter Spendelow at DEQ is the resident expert of the Waste Characterization Studies, would be a good resource to talk about what's in the waste in Benton County.
- Republic stated that once the landfill is closed and capped off into the underground system the leachate produced is drastically reduced. If the costs are more than derived previously, then Republic will spend more. Republic is responsible to the site and make sure that it is safe and being managed properly. If there is a sale of the property or of the site, the new entity will be responsible, the long-term care transfers through the owners.

- Mitigation wetlands were built in the 90's to offset impacts made from earlier activities. Forty acres of mitigation wetlands, some off the west side and some toward the front of the site toward highway 99. Department of State Lands go through design, approval, and monitoring and then eventual state sign off on the wetlands on the site.
- Measuring the compost for PFAS levels is not required by DEQ. Republic Services shared that they are watching the issue at the national level. Testing of compost quality is ongoing, but not specifically for PFAS.
- Republic Services shared they have wastewater experts at the corporate level that are engaged in emerging technologies to treat PFAS at a national level. Republic predicts that treatment facilities will need to invest in additional filtration technologies.
- We have ratings for any equipment where we have electrical components as a safety precaution. The pumps in the vertical gas wells are pneumatically powered for safety so there is no electricity running through them. Technicians also have gas meters that measures the lower explosive limit, oxygen levels, and methane.
- Republic relies on local authorities. A recent example would be the grass fire that Republic had recently. Local authorities have all emergency contact information for general manager, landfill manager, and staff also contacts each other for notification.
- The expected area will take time to grade to the appropriate grade. A portion of it will be used for construction of the leachate ponds and grading for berms. Republic expects that it will be the end of Knife River working at the location. They have stopped moving rock because there is enough rock in the quarry for them to continue to mine and sell from the core. Knife River is expected to be done by early first quarter of 2025.
- Republic has no knowledge of additional expansion at this time.
- County has copies of the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report that is send to DEQ. Reports show data back to the 80's and 90's.
- Republic stated there isn't a good way to estimate how much methane is collected versus what is generated. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that about 75% of what's generated is collected. A portion of the additional generated is oxidized in the cover soil, and whatever remains would be fugitive. Republic is engaged at a national level to fine tune the techniques of the carbon effort. The EPA and state mandate a method of detecting methane leaks that Republic Utilizes. Carbon mapping is part of the national focus. There is staff that specialize in air compliance at the national level that is actively working with the EPA.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Payne provided potential dates on the 4th Wednesday of meeting months. Committee members requested that another poll be sent out with potentials dates and times for future DSAC meetings.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Republic suggested a tour of the landfill and Pacific Region Compost Facility, the earlier the better to avoid the mud and muck in the fall.
- Committee requested a presentation on how the county is engaging with the public on the website. How the community is informed of meetings, what email address to use for complaints, ways for the community to reach out to the DSAC members.

Purcell made a motion to **ADJOURN**, Hackleman **SECONDED**.

Adjourned at 9:02 pm

***APPROVED* MEETING MINUTES**
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
September 11, 2024

Benton County DSAC Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. The meeting was open to the public virtually via a published Zoom link.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Eklund, *Chair*
Chuck Gilbert
Jennifer Field
Brent Pawlowski
Matthew Ruetters
Rachel Purcell
Jeffrey Morrell
Ian MacNab, *Republic Services Representative*

STAFF

Petra Schuetz, *Interim Director*
Bailey Payne, *Solid Waste Program
Coordinator*

GUESTS

Brent Learch, *Republic Services*
Julie Jackson, *Republic Services*
Bret Davis, *Republic Services*
Kate Harris, *Community member*
Kevin Kenaga, *Community member*

EXCUSED: David Hackleman

Chair Eklund expressed concern on the public notice of the DSAC meetings. He requested that staff work with the interim public information officer to provide email notices to the public at large to encourage participation. He also restructured the agenda sequence to provide an opportunity for Ms. Harris to address fire concerns at the landfill and the impacts that a wildfire from outside of the landfill could have on the landfill.

Overview of Previous Republic Assurances and Actual Monitoring Systems

Community member, Kate Harris, opened the discussion by referring to a KLCC article published approximately one month ago, which mentioned assurances from Republic Services regarding robust monitoring and emergency management systems in place at Coffin Butte Landfill. Harris expressed concern that, despite these assurances, in real-life situations such as a recent fire, external observers (such as motorists) were the first to notice fires, which suggests a failure of the early monitoring systems.

Harris quoted an SES Engineering Risk Assessment, noting that operators believed the flare may have caused a fire by igniting nearby grass. As a precaution, Republic Services created a gravel-covered buffer between the flare and grassy areas, which was believed to prevent further fire incidents. However, the fire in the summer of 2024 proved otherwise. Harris reiterated that Republic had provided multiple assurances that their fire prevention systems were adequate, but real-world incidents suggest these systems are failing.

Request for Third-Party Assessment: Harris suggested the need for a third-party, independent risk assessment (not funded by Republic) to provide an unbiased view of the existing risks at the landfill.

History of Wildfires: Harris also noted a discrepancy in the report, which stated that no history of wildfires existed near the landfill. However, there was a wildfire in July 2023, just west of the landfill, disproving this claim.

Republic Services reported that there is a robust monitoring and emergency management systems for employee, community, and environmental protection in the event of fires.

Concerns Over Wildfire Risk in Relation to Landfill Expansion: Letter from Bob Kipper
(Community Member)

Concern regarding Republic's expansion plans for Coffin Butte Landfill, especially regarding fires crossing Coffin Butte Road. Highlighted the increasing wildfire risk due to climate change and wind events, which could lead to embers affecting nearby properties and Adair Village.

Fire Covering and Operational Safety at the Landfill

Landfill material is sometimes covered with tarps, not dirt. Community concerns were raised over fire risks associated with this practice. Republic emphasized their commitment to safety protocols, including reduced working face areas, availability of water, and rapid response times. They disagreed with the assertion that fire risks are increasing.

1999 Landfill Fire Discussion

A large fire occurred in 1999 at the landfill, possibly due to a hot load. The fire was significant and reportedly gained national attention. Republic clarified that operations at the landfill have significantly changed since then, and current safety measures make a similar event less likely.

Recent Tipper Fire Incident

A recent fire near the tippers involved hydraulic lines and occurred due to compacted trash igniting. Republic personnel believed they had extinguished the fire, but it reignited under the tipper, damaging equipment. The nearby fire department and Republic responded quickly, and fire damage was contained.

Community Concerns Regarding Fire Risks

Community members are concerned about the increasing risk of wildfires and have taken steps for fuel reduction and other precautionary measures.

Inquiry into whether Republic has updated their safety protocols in response to climate change and increased fire risks. Republic has not made specific updates addressing climate change but follows standard protocols, including keeping buffer areas mowed and maintaining safety standards.

Republic confirmed the use of hot work permits during welding or cutting activities and mentioned ongoing improvements to safety protocols, but they do not currently apply these permits to the end-of-day operations. There was an open discussion on whether additional end-of-day safety measures could be implemented.

MacNab pointed out that a fire started outside the landfill could pose a risk but felt that this issue applied to timberland and other areas of Western Oregon, not just landfills. Emphasis on educational outreach to prevent the public from disposing of hazardous materials that could lead to fires in solid waste facilities.

The working face, where garbage is exposed, has been significantly reduced over the years (from several acres to less than one acre), and they use protocols such as having water and dirt on-site for fire suppression.

Morrell raised concerns about a poorly managed Douglas Fir stand near the landfill, which poses a fire risk. Republic Services noted that they would look into thinning the stand as previously recommended. There was a debate on the relevance of forested areas and other properties near the landfill in the context of fire prevention planning. Some committee members questioned if fire risk in non-landfill areas should be considered within the landfill's fire management scope. It was agreed that understanding the broader scope of land management, including forested and farmland areas, is necessary for comprehensive fire prevention planning.

There was discussion about the format of the report to the Board of Commissioners. Some members proposed issuing recommendations after gathering more information, while others suggested a simpler, itemized summary of the topics discussed.

It was decided to delay further action on this report until David Hackleman could contribute additional perspectives.

Public Comment:

Kevin Kenaga expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of public notification about the meeting. He mentioned that he had to personally reach out to the chair to learn about the meeting date. Kevin emphasized that the lack of communication undermines the committee's ability to fulfill its mission of fostering community dialogue and engagement. Kevin expressed concern over possible misinformation about the materials used in the landfill, particularly a statement that the polyethylene liner was not plastic. This was clarified by Republic Services staff as a misunderstanding, confirming that high-density polyethylene is indeed plastic.

DSAC Meeting Access and Attendance:

DSAC members discussed the need to stick to the agenda and keeping the meeting on track.

There was discussion on the low public attendance at these meetings, attributed to the lack of public awareness rather than lack of interest. Suggestions were made to explore alternative ways of notifying the public, such as collaborating with local media or leveraging platforms like Reddit.

The discussion highlighted the confusion on the county website regarding different pages for DSAC meetings, which were inconsistent or outdated. There was agreement that this needed to be addressed to ensure the public can easily access up-to-date information.

Ecklund expressed long-standing systemic problems in how the DSAC and related activities are communicated, with cancellations and changes to meeting schedules without adequate notice. In conclusion, the meeting underscored the need for better communication strategies from Benton County to ensure the public can engage with DSAC meetings and stay informed about key decisions affecting the community.

There was a suggestion to improve public outreach by establishing a hotline and email address for community concerns and feedback. The idea is to make it easier for the community to report issues and ensure that their concerns are captured and addressed.

Community Concerns Annual Report: The discussion starts with a mention of the format for the 2021 Community Concerns Annual Report, which will be reviewed and approved in an upcoming meeting. It's noted that the format used for prior reports will be followed.

Monitoring and Reports:

Surface Emissions Monitoring: The conversation covered the specifics of methane monitoring, including the use of aerial and remote sensing technologies.

The discussion highlights discrepancies between EPA findings and Republic Services' reports. Questions are raised about the methods used and the effectiveness of ongoing monitoring.

Emission Measurements: There was a discussion about the number of actionable items (i.e., methane concentrations exceeding limits) found by different monitoring methods and the challenges in interpreting these results. The discussion includes a presentation of methane measurement data, showing graphical representations of actionable findings versus overall measurements. There's a focus on the technical aspects of how data is collected, including the frequency of readings and the methodology for identifying and addressing exceedances.

There is an acknowledgment of the need to balance technical details with public understanding, ensuring transparency in how methane emissions are reported and managed.

Landfill Monitoring:

Discussions focused on the methodology and effectiveness of methane monitoring at landfills, including the number of readings and the monitoring period. Questions were raised about the sampling techniques, the duration of monitoring, and the challenges of working in different landfill areas. The conversation touched on the variability of methane emissions based on landfill age and activity, and the strategies used for managing excess methane.

Future Agenda Items:

Ecklund proposed offering the DSAC's services to the Benton County Environment and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) for reviewing the expansion proposal.

A discussion on whether the committee should look into setting up a hotline for community concerns.

The need for a summary of the surface monitoring process and how it aligns with EPA regulations was noted.

Next Steps:

The committee is expected to review the 2021 report and provide feedback.

Await David's presence to discuss fire risk management strategies in more detail

Further clarify the scope of fire prevention efforts related to adjacent properties and whether they fall under the landfill's responsibility.

Investigate the possibility of conducting an independent third-party risk assessment.

Explore whether additional precautions are needed to address climate change-related fire risks.

Consider thinning the Douglas Fir stand near the landfill.

Outstanding Questions:

How many fires have occurred at the landfill in recent years, and what are the next steps for fire safety improvements?

Action Items and Reporting:

Action items were considered, including the creation of a report for the Board of Commissioners to outline findings and follow-up actions regarding fire risks at the landfill.

OSU's involvement was questioned, particularly whether the university is undertaking any major initiatives to mitigate fire risk in the area.

Next Meeting: The committee plans to reconvene on Thursday, September 19, 2024 to continue discussions and address the remaining agenda items.

Morrell made a motion to **ADJOURN**, Purcell **SECONDED**.

Adjourned at 8:07 pm

***APPROVED* MEETING MINUTES**
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
September 19, 2024

Benton County DSAC Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm. The meeting was open to the public virtually via a published Zoom link.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ken Eklund, *Chair*
Rachel Purcell
Chuck Gilbert
Jeffrey Morrell
Brent Pawlowski
Ian MacNab, *Republic Services Representative*
David Hackleman (online)

STAFF

Petra Schuetz, *Interim Community
Development Director*
Bailey Payne, *Solid Waste Program
Coordinator*

GUESTS

Jean Weisinsee, *Community member*
Marge Popp, *Community member*
Kitty Bartee, *Community member*
Jim Fairchild, *Community member*
John Skillmon, *Community member*
Julie Jackson, *Republic Services*
Kate Harris, *Community member*
Kevin Kenaga, *Community member*
Ginger Rough, *Republic Services*
Nancy Whitcombe, *Community member*
Debbie Palmer, *Community member*
Tom Hewes, *Community member*
Joel Geier, *Community member*
Mark Henkels, *Community member*

ABSENT: Matthew Ruetters (excused), Jennifer Field (excused)

Agenda Changes

- **Item 7** (Discussion on Elections) was moved to Item 8.
- **Item 8** (Staff Presentation on Public Outreach) moved up to Item 7.

Announcements

- Committee Protocols: Limiting discussion to committee members when in session to streamline the process.

- Meeting Schedule: The committee will hold regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM, continuing through the end of the year.
- Public Access Issues: There have been ongoing issues with timely public access to agendas and meeting materials. The committee is actively working with staff to resolve these problems. Public comments on this issue were encouraged to emphasize the need for resolution.
- Landfill Expansion: The Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC) is not involved in decision-making related to Republic Services' landfill expansion application. Any testimony regarding the expansion must be submitted to the decision-making body, the Benton County [Planning Commission](#). The committee will hear concerns but cannot influence the official decision process.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Marge Popp:

- Commented on difficulties finding DSAC-related information online, which used to be easily accessible. Requested more detailed and accessible information on the committee's webpage.

Jim Fairchild:

- Raised concerns about hazardous waste being deposited at the landfill, specifically incinerator ash from Marion County, and its potential environmental impacts.
- Also questioned whether ENRAC accepts public comment, as there is confusion about the public's ability to provide input at their meetings.

Republic Services Response:

- Ian MacNab (Committee Member): Explained that the incinerator ash has been tested and deemed non-hazardous. DEQ approved its use as cover material after a lengthy trial process over 10 years ago.
- Chair: Clarified that ENRAC is responsible for reviewing the landfill expansion. However, it's unclear if ENRAC will take public comment when the application becomes active. Staff will look into this further.

Online Public Comment:

Ken Eklund (chair)

- The DSAC hears concerns as per its function to report them to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, however, any testimony regarding the expansion must be submitted to the decision making bodies.

Nancy Whitcombe

- Attempted to speak but experienced technical issues. She raised a concern via chat about clarifying ENRAC's role in public input, which was noted by the chair for follow-up.

Kate Harris (Soap Creek Resident):

- Expressed concerns regarding worker safety at Coffin Butte Landfill, referencing the August 6th Benton County Commissioner meeting and a recent OSHA inspection.
- Raised the following questions:
 - Why was an industrial hygienist hired only after a 2024 OSHA inspection and worker strike, and has the assessment been completed?

- What are the safety measures in place for workers exposed to dust and contamination at the landfill?
- Concerns about vehicles being washed without proper containment, leading to contamination of local waterways.
- Questioned the lack of visual screening along Highway 99, required in the existing conditional use permit.
- Raised concerns about delayed implementation of stormwater management projects.
- She agreed to leave further comments for review of the annual report.

Tom Hewes (Soap Creek Resident):

- Raised the question of the costs to Benton County for hosting the landfill, including:
 - Road degradation, pollution, and landfill fires.
 - Decrease in land values near the landfill.
 - Post-closure costs.
- Requested any available reports addressing these costs.

Republic Services Response:

- Clarified that post-closure management is required for a minimum of 30 years after the landfill closes.
- Mentioned no existing comprehensive report on externalities related to the landfill but suggested further inquiry with the County.

Kevin Kenaga (Soap Creek Resident):

- Commented on the updated report, specifically regarding new testing for the flare at the landfill.
- Kevin Kenaga inquired about the testing procedure:
 - What is being tested?
 - When will the testing be available to the public?
- Response from Republic Services:
 - Testing is scheduled for October 22.
 - It is a standard procedure for flare or industrial devices to have initial source testing.
- Kevin Kenaga raised concerns about the daily cover at the landfill:
 - The report mentions daily cover (typically 6 inches of soil), but in reality, mesh netting is used, which doesn't prevent odors or wildlife from accessing the garbage.
 - Kevin criticized the accuracy of the report and emphasized the environmental impact of not using adequate daily cover, including increased methane emissions.
- Republic Services Response:
 - The daily cover used is a heavy-duty 200x200 foot tarp, not mesh netting, and is an approved alternative daily cover. Using tarps saves clean soil and airspace.

Discussion and Action Items:

- The committee emphasized the need for a structured process to follow up on public comments and questions, particularly those directed at Republic Services.
- A suggestion was made to compile a concrete list of questions for Republic Services to address in future meetings. Staff will organize the questions and submit to Ian MacNab.

3. Agenda Item #3: Fire Safety at Coffin Butte Landfill

- The committee discussed recent fires at the landfill:
 - Two fires were reported this summer, one near the gas flare stacks and another on the working face of the landfill. Both were extinguished after being reported by highway drivers.

- The committee found the fire incidents significant enough to warrant a report to the Board of Commissioners.
- The 2023 Annual Report included some relevant information, but additional details about fire safety and responses were needed.

Proposal for Fire Safety Report

- David Hackleman volunteered to draft a report summarizing fire safety concerns, incorporating feedback from the previous meeting.
- Committee Agreement:
 - Members agreed to provide comments directly to David.
 - David will reach out to Republic Services for additional information as necessary.
 - The draft report will be reviewed at the next meeting before submission to the Board of Commissioners.

4. Agenda Item: 2021 Community Concerns Annual Report

- Discussion:
 - The report, presented in its proposed final form on page 11 of the packet, was reviewed.
 - The committee moved to approve the report to send to the Oregon DEQ to comply with state law and committee bylaws.
- Motion: To accept the report and allow for additional comments made by Rachel Purcell
- Seconded by: Jeff Morrell.
- Discussion Points:
 - A focus on concerns about Coffin Butte Road, particularly regarding traffic analysis and evacuation routes.
 - Clarifications were made about the nature of responses included in the report.
 - It was suggested that future reports provide more analysis of comments and responses to avoid misrepresentation of concerns.
- Amendment: Rachel Purcell will add a sentence to the introduction of the report clarifying that responses may not fully address all concerns raised.
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved with amendments.

5. Agenda Item: Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- The committee reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting.
- Amendments:
 - Page 2: Change "2023" to "2024" in reference to the grasslands fire.
 - Page 2: Update the name from "Rick" to "Bob Kipper" for the letter supplier.
 - Page 2: Revise the sentence regarding the response to the fire to "The Adair Rural Fire Department and Republic responded, and fire damage was contained."
- Rachel Purcell made motion to approve minutes as amended by Ken Eklund, seconded by Jeff Morrell
- Vote: Unanimously approved.
- It was suggested to approve minutes earlier in the agenda for efficiency.

6. Agenda Item: Break

- The committee took a 5-minute break.

7. Agenda Item 7: Coffin Butte Landfill 2023 Report

- The landfill report was presented at the July meeting but was not accepted by the Commissioners and returned to Republic for revisions. The revised report is now set for discussion in the upcoming October 1st Commissioners' meeting.

- The group discussed the need to provide guidance to the Commissioners regarding this updated annual report.
- A volunteer is needed to collate remarks and draft guidance for the Commissioners, as relying solely on meeting minutes may not capture the necessary nuances.
- Rachel Purcell volunteered to write a letter summarizing the DSAC concerns about the 2023 report.
- Members noted that there are specific questions regarding arsenic levels and compliance standards that should be included in the guidance.
- It was suggested to compile a list of relevant questions and comments, particularly concerning worker safety and contamination concerns.

Recommendations for the Report

- **Arsenic Monitoring:** Continue monitoring levels and compliance; the committee should flag ongoing concerns.
- **Carbon Mapper Data:** Request inclusion of carbon mapping flyover data in the report, emphasizing its relevance to landfill monitoring.
- Discuss the appropriateness of mixing 2023 and 2024 information within the annual report. Suggestion was made to maintain focus on the specific reporting year.
- **EPA Inspection Clarity:** Request clarification from the Commissioners on the number of exceedances reported in EPA inspections and the context of these findings.
- A discussion on the need for better context surrounding data findings, such as the number of measurements taken compared to the number of exceedances, was initiated.
- It was suggested that the guidance document include specific recommendations for Republic to enhance their reporting and transparency practices.

Discussion Points: Landfill Compliance and Methane Management:

- Republic Services mentioned weekly monitoring for exceedances, dependent on the time of year.
- Discussion on methane presence and management; acknowledgment that methane cannot be completely eliminated.
- David Hackleman acknowledged the extensive work put into the report and emphasized the need for clarity regarding the enclosed flare installation timeline.
- Raised concerns over a pre-enforcement letter received from Oregon DEQ indicating non-compliance, suggesting a full report should be requested from the Commissioners.

Fires Associated with Flares:

- Highlighted a fire incident near the flare and the need to understand the history of such events.
- Republic Services confirmed that there had been prior fire incidents at the landfill.
- Discussion on the relevance of the Carbon Mapper report and whether it should be included in the annual report. Decision made to withdraw comments regarding the Carbon Mapper from the current agenda.
- **A motion was made (Jeff Morrell) and seconded (Rachel Purcell) to recommend the acceptance of the report by the Commissioners, along with prepared comments for their consideration. The motion passed unanimously.**
- The report needs to be submitted to the Commissioners before their meeting on October 1, 2024.

8. Agenda Item #9: Public Engagement Overview

- Presentation on how Benton County is engaging with the public through the website, social media, and community involvement efforts.
- Mention of updated website features, including a timeline of developments at Coffin Butte.
- Emphasis on the Benton County trash process and email notifications for community members interested in solid waste issues.

- Communication Initiatives: Recent email blasts were sent out to the county’s contact list announcing the current meeting.
- An ad regarding the meeting appeared in the Gazette Times, although some attendees expressed they had not seen it.
- Discussion on public awareness of meetings, specifically noting that the public may not know that meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month.
- The difficulty of finding the Disposal Site Advisory Council (DSAC) page on the Benton County website was highlighted. Concerns were raised about outdated information and unclear navigation.
- Suggested utilizing social media and other channels to enhance outreach beyond official announcements.
- Acknowledgment of Ken's recent opinion piece that generated public interest.
- The committee agreed to empower members to disseminate information through their own networks.
- Although the staff presentation listed avenues that Benton County engages with the public, none of the avenues that staff listed had actually been successfully used by the committee to get its message out. “I'd like to have a note added the staff presentation did not address the question of how much outreach had been done, or will be done to make the public aware of DSAC's restart and of its mission to promote dialogue about and gather public concerns about Coffin Butte landfill.” (Chair Eklund)

9. Agenda Item #8: Election Discussion

- Elections for the chair and vice chair of DSAC are due before the first meeting of the new year, traditionally held in December.
- A proposal was made to elect a vice chair in the next meeting to relieve the current chair of meeting duties.
- Concerns regarding confidence in voting for new members were discussed, suggesting that elections should be held after members have gained sufficient experience.

Discussion on Vice Chair Appointment

- There was a discussion on the need to appoint a vice chair to balance the leadership and assist with training new members.
- It was suggested that Rachel could be a candidate for the vice chair position.
- A nomination committee was proposed to gather interest from potential candidates.
- Decision deferred until the next meeting, with an acknowledgment of an upcoming election in November or December.

Upcoming Meetings

- Clarification on the number of required meetings: The committee needs to hold at least four meetings per year. An October 9th meeting is scheduled, and the decision on November and December meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday from 6pm – 8pm.

Proposal for Voting on Vice Chair

- David Hackleman recommended voting for a vice chair at the next meeting.
- General consensus that electing a vice chair is a good idea and will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

10. Agenda Item #10 - Request for Agenda Items

- Matthew Ruettgers emailed the DSAC chair (Ken Eklund) about the committee’s role and addressing concerns of scope creep.
- Matthew will be invited to provide input on the email, as he could not attend the current meeting.

Site Security Discussion

- David Hackleman raised the issue of site security at the landfill, specifically regarding the management of idle equipment during non-operational hours.
- This will be added as a potential agenda item for the next meeting.

11. Agenda Item #11 - Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rachel Purcell and seconded by Brent Pawlowski.
- The motion was unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2024

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:09 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by: Bailey Payne, staff

Date of Preparation: 9/20/24

Next Steps

Issue	Assigned to:
Clarify ENRAC's public input policies and update the committee at future meetings.	Staff
The committee asked staff to consolidate public comments and questions for Republic Services.	Staff
Draft and circulate the fire safety report for committee review. Committee members to send comments or additional information to David. David Hackleman to submit the report to the chair and Mr. Payne for review.	David Hackleman
Republic Services to provide additional details on fire safety as requested.	Ian MacNab
Draft additional feedback to the board of commissioners for the Republic Services 2023 Annual Report (updated) report's introduction.	Rachel Purcell

These meeting minutes were approved (with corrections). At the DSAC meeting on 10/9/24, David Livesay made the motion to approve. Chuck Gilbert 2nd.

MEETING MINUTES
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
October 9, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ken Eklund, *Chair*
Rachel Purcell
Chuck Gilbert
Brent Pawlowski
David Hackleman (online)
Ian MacNab, *Republic Services Representative*
Charlene Carroll
David Livesay

STAFF

Bailey Payne, *Solid Waste Program
Coordinator*

GUESTS

Marge Popp, *Community member*
Julie Jackson, *Republic Services*
Mark Yaeger, *Community member**
Bernie Cummings, *Community member*
Kevin Kenaga, *Community member*
Bryn Hazell, *Community member*
Janet O., *Community member*
**Guests that provided oral comment to the DSAC*

ABSENT: Matthew Ruetters (excused), Jeffrey Morrell (excused)

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:00 PM by Chair Ken Eklund who reviewed the list of attendees.

Announcements

- Regular DSAC (Disposal Site Advisory Committee) meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM through the end of the year.
- The DSAC is not involved in the decision-making process regarding Republic Services' landfill expansion. The decision-makers are:
 1. ENRAC (Environmental Review and Advisory Committee)
 2. Planning Commission
 3. Board of Commissioners
- Public testimony regarding the landfill expansion needs to be directed to the relevant decision-making bodies at appropriate stages.

- It was noted that ENRAC may not have a public comment period, which could affect the public's ability to voice opinions to this committee.

Committee Change:

- Matthew Rutgers has announced his resignation due to a standing commitment, and he will no longer be able to participate in DSAC meetings. The committee acknowledged his contributions and wished him well.
- Members offered support to newer members, acknowledging the complexity of the issues and encouraging them to ask questions.

2. Public Comment

- **Mark Yeager**, a Benton County resident, raised concerns about Republic Services' construction of a landfill expansion into the quarry site. He emphasized that this expansion, according to Benton County Code Chapter 77, requires a conditional use permit, which he believes has not been obtained.
 - Yeager questioned whether DSAC was aware of the construction and if they had any comments on the issue.
- **Ian McNabb** (Republic Services representative) responded, confirming that the construction in the quarry had been publicly discussed in previous meetings and open houses.

Discussion:

- There was a brief discussion about whether the committee members were aware of the construction activities.
- A member raised the issue of quarry operations, noting that it would potentially extend for 14 to 16 years. They referenced discussions involving the county's legal subcommittee and third-party land-use attorneys, but specific documentation was not recalled.
- Clarification was sought regarding the capacity of the quarry area and its relation to cell 6.
- Legal and Land Use Considerations:
 - The Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) legal subcommittee previously found that the quarry was within the existing landfill footprint, but the details were unclear, and further review of past documents was recommended.
 - A member noted that documents referring to the use of quarry space were outdated, dating to before the quarry excavation, and there is uncertainty regarding land use conditions applied to the area.
- Regulatory Hierarchy: A discussion on the hierarchy of regulatory bodies took place, particularly between Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and county land use. It was noted that DEQ issues permits, but county land-use approval is needed for the landfill's expansion or use of the quarry area.
- It was suggested to review the findings and recommendations of the Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) subcommittees, particularly the legal subcommittee's report, as it had extensively looked into the matter. Members were encouraged to revisit [the report](#) for more insight. There was a suggestion to reach out to relevant county officials or the Planning Commission for further clarification.
- It was noted that cell 6 had been approved and constructed by DEQ, but the central issue remains with county land use and not DEQ's approval.
- **Mark Yeager's Comment:** Mark Yeager followed up on Rachel's earlier question, clarifying that the quarry would provide an additional 14 to 16 years of landfill capacity. This estimate was collaboratively developed with Republic Services. He emphasized that this extended capacity is contingent on staying below 1.1 million tons per year of garbage.

Next Steps

- Members agreed to read the legal subcommittee's report between meetings and come prepared with any questions or points of discussion.
- Further investigation into the county's role and any missing documents regarding land-use approvals for the quarry area was encouraged.
- The committee will seek clarification from county officials regarding the land-use process and any documentation related to the quarry area and cell 6.
- No further public comments were made.

3. Review and Approval of September 19th Meeting Minutes

The committee discussed the minutes from the previous meeting. Several amendments were made:

- Absentee Clarification: It was noted that Jennifer Field had notified in advance of her absence, and this should be reflected in the minutes.
- Rewrite of a Statement: The phrase regarding the committee's role in the expansion decision was revised to: "Any testimony regarding the expansion must be submitted to the decision-making bodies to be considered by them. The committee hears concerns as per its function to report them to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality."
- Deletion of Comment: A comment stating "time limit for public comment was invoked" was removed.
- Clarification on Analysis of Comments: A section regarding future reports was updated to emphasize a need for more "analysis" rather than "synthesis" of community comments in future reports.
- Correction on Fire Department Name: The "Near Fire Department" was corrected to "Adair Rural Fire Department."
- Ken Eklund raised a point regarding page 5/6 of the minutes and the need to clarify that the staff presentation did not fully address the question of how much outreach had been done or planned to make the public aware of DSAC's restart and mission. Another member recalled that the presentation did include some details on outreach activities, and a discussion followed on the accuracy of this statement. It was agreed that the critique was part of the original presentation and should be recorded in the minutes.
- A DSAC member identified a typographical error, stating that "DSAC" stands for "Disposal Site Advisory Committee"
- A line indicating the status of November/December meetings as undecided was suggested to be deleted, as these meetings were already scheduled.
- Motion was made (Chuck Gilbert) to accept the minutes with the amendments discussed. The motion was seconded (Ken Eklund), and the minutes were unanimously approved with the revisions.

4. Election of Vice Chair

- Elections for the Chair will occur before the year ends.
- Nominations were opened:
 - A Chuck Gilbert nominated Rachel Purcell for Vice Chair. Ken Eklund seconded.
 - Rachel accepted the nomination
 - A vote was held and unanimously passed, making Rachel Purcell the DSAC's Vice-Chair.

5. Fire Safety Inquiry and Recommendation to Commissioners

- The fire safety report by David Hackleman was reviewed.
- Discussion on fire safety and the role of DSAC in providing recommendations to the Commissioners was held.
- The document addresses concerns about recent landfill fires, specifically those occurring after hours. Recent incidents involved fires spotted by motorists due to a lack of monitoring on-site during off-hours (6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.).
- Previous fires were caused by “hot loads” of garbage that smoldered upon arrival at the landfill, leading to subsequent fires.
- A specific incident involved a fire that reignited after being partially extinguished during operational hours, which raised concerns about monitoring and communication protocols.
- Discussion about the absence of a current protocol for informing the fire department about extinguished fires during operational hours.
- Members expressed the need for a system to ensure awareness of potential fire hazards.
- Current protocol only involves notifying the fire department when assistance is needed.
- Discussion on whether a notification system for local fire authorities should be implemented for landfill fire incidents. Emphasis on the need for a reliable monitoring system for fire detection, especially during times when no personnel are present at the site.
- Concerns raised regarding the current reliance on passersby to report fires on Highway 99W and the implications of delayed response times.
- The overarching recommendation to the Board of Commissioners is to explore better systems for monitoring fire risks proactively.

Suggested Changes to the Document

- It was noted that an intermediate command level between the Rural Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal should be included in the document for clarification.
- Proposed revisions to clarify conditions under which incidents occurred, particularly around the classification of fires during operational hours versus after hours.
- Emphasis on the importance of addressing both operational and non-operational monitoring for fire safety.
- Suggestions were made for improved communication with local fire authorities regarding incidents to enhance safety measures.
- Current protocol only involves notifying the fire department when assistance is needed.
- Discussion on whether a notification system for local fire authorities should be implemented for landfill fire incidents.

Next Steps

- David Hackleman will continue to refine the fire safety document based on the feedback regarding the language in condition one and consider the implications of proposed changes.
- Members will review the modifications before final approval.
- Staff was asked about the process for submitting recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. It was clarified that the recommendations would be sent to the County Administrator, who would present them to the Board. The Board may invite someone to present further, likely the DSAC Chair.

6. Break

- A five-minute break was observed.

7. Updated Coffin Butte Landfill 2023 Annual Report

- Review of the annual report that was initially presented in July and subsequently returned by the Board of Commissioners for revisions.
 - Republic revised the report, and DSAC was tasked to provide guidance to assist the Commissioners in reviewing the updated document.
 - Rachel summarized the DSAC guidance into a final document that was submitted before the October 1st deadline.
 - Acknowledgment of the challenges faced due to the tight timeline but recognition that the guidance captured the nuances of the committee's remarks effectively.
 - Request made to attach the letter and additional materials from the late packet to the minutes.

Discussion on Arsenic Levels

- Queries raised regarding the reports of high arsenic levels in the landfill's leachate.
 - Clarification sought on whether arsenic levels in groundwater were derived from the leachate or if they were naturally occurring.
 - Emphasis on the need for clearer context regarding background levels of arsenic in the region.
 - Suggestion to include a presentation from a geologist in next year's annual report to help interpret the data and improve understanding of groundwater flow and contaminant levels.
 - David Hackleman mentioned the existence of USGS information about arsenic levels in the Willamette Valley, noting that some groundwater exceeds recommended drinking water levels.

8. 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report

- The staff draft of the 2022 Community Concerns Annual Report needs to be finalized.
- Positive Feedback: Members appreciated the addition of the pie chart summarizing community concerns.

Committee Concerns

- The fourth paragraph discussing the number of complaints in 2021 and 2022 was questioned for its accuracy and relevance. It was suggested that the statement claiming a significant increase in complaints needed substantiation.
- Members were unsure about the inclusion and context of the graph showing total vehicles per year to Coffin Butte landfill, suggesting it may be better to remove it due to a lack of explanation.
- Chair Eklund expressed concern regarding the assumptions made about complaint numbers, highlighting a lack of access to historical data from previous years (2018 and 2019).
- It was discussed that increased community concerns often relate to activities such as conditional use permit applications, but currently, there is no evidence of such spikes in activity.

- Members discussed the potential reasons for an increase in complaints, including total tonnage incoming and vehicle traffic.
- There was a consensus that while speculation about the causes of complaints is plausible, it is essential to substantiate these claims with thorough data analysis.
 - One member expressed concern over the purpose of exploring causes for the complaints, stating that their role is to report comments rather than provide explanations.
 - Another member questioned if their mission was well-defined, emphasizing the importance of providing data and contextual trends.

Report Structure and Contextual Analysis

- Members debated whether the annual report should focus solely on the current year or also consider previous years for context.
- The conversation highlighted the need for integrating context into data presentations, particularly regarding trends and anomalies.
- A suggestion was made to include a chart showing the number of complaints over the past five years to visualize trends alongside tonnage data.
- The first column in the complaints table was noted to have formatting issues, causing numbers to appear vertically.
- There were calls for standardization in how responses to complaints are presented, especially regarding who provided the responses.
- Discussion ensued regarding the need for clarity on landfill operators' responses to complaints. Members noted the absence of information regarding whether Republic Services were informed of concerns and what actions, if any, were taken.
- It was agreed that the current reporting format should be improved to ensure that all relevant details about responses to complaints are documented.

General Observations and Suggestions

- Members acknowledged the challenge of tracking responses to multiple complaints.
- There was agreement that thorough investigative work on each complaint might be beyond the scope of their responsibilities.
- It was suggested to visualize the complaint resolution process, clarifying where the trail ends concerning each complaint.
- Member highlighted the report labeled 59, indicating it represents an aggregation of various comments received concerning the landfill issues covered by Benton County Talks Trash.

Historical Context:

- A historical note was made that the DSAC (Department of Solid Waste Advisory Committee) was prevented from receiving community concerns during the period Benton County Talks Trash was convened.
- The absence of a public comment period in DSAC meetings was due to directives from the Commissioner, who preferred to channel all concerns through Benton County Talks Trash.
- It was discussed that all public comments regarding landfill concerns were directed to Benton County Talks Trash and should be treated similarly to individual complaints received by DSAC.

- Chair Eklund questioned the fairness of not including comments from individuals who submitted complaints directly to Benton County Talks Trash in the report.
- Members confirmed that the current practice allows for individual entries for concerns submitted by mail or testimony at meetings, contrasting past practices where comments were aggregated.
- There was an acknowledgment of the significant volume of comments, with approximately 1,099 pages of material to review, creating challenges in data accessibility.
- The need for better visibility and analysis of specific comments, particularly those aggregated under row 59, was emphasized. A request was made by Chair Eklund for the concerns from row 59 to be broken out for a clearer representation in future reports and updated pie charts.

Action Items

- Request Bailey to break out the comments aggregated in row 59 for a more detailed analysis in future reports. Bailey noted that it may be extremely time consuming to locate each individual complaint in the BCTT report. He committed to having the information compiled by the January 2025 meeting.
- Update the pie chart based on the newly provided data from row 59 once it has been analyzed.

Next Steps

- Members will review the detailed comments once they are broken out, and further discussions will follow on how to integrate this feedback into future reports.
- Bailey was tasked with reviewing the BCTT report for relevant comments and compiling this data for the next meeting.
 - Timeline set for completion by the January meeting, depending on the ease of data extraction.

9. Request for Agenda Items

Landfill Monitoring Concerns

- David Hackleman will also investigate the security measures at the landfill and provide a report at the next meeting.
- Emphasis on ensuring worker safety and prevention of potential vandalism, which is of personal concern due to past incidents. David Hackleman raised concerns regarding potential damage to materials and property at the landfill site. He highlighted that trespassers could affect the workers' safety and environment.
- Further investigation into the monitoring of landfill operations and worker safety is needed.

Permit Notification Requirements

- DSAC Members reminded Ian about the state law requiring DSAC to be notified about any permit changes from the landfill.
- Action Item: Ensure DSAC receives a copy of the conditional use permit when resubmitted.

EPA Enforcement Alerts

- A member reported two enforcement alerts from the EPA regarding municipal solid waste landfills dated September 25, 2023:

- Non-compliance in monitoring and maintenance of gas collection systems.
- Underreporting of emissions due to inadequate waste sampling.
- Members will conduct research on these alerts and discuss findings in future meetings.
- An EPA hearing on using remote sensing for landfills will take place later this month.

PFAS Gasification Technology

- Concerns about PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) were raised, especially regarding the potential treatment technologies available for biosolids.
- Next steps: Request a summary of PFAS data and sources, especially regarding groundwater monitoring.
- Invite Republic Services to present on groundwater data related to PFAS.

Leachate Monitoring

- Questions were raised about leachate monitoring, especially regarding its content and potential groundwater impacts.
- DSAC discussed the possibility of a presentation on leachate disposition as part of the annual report next year.

10. Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn: Rachel moved to adjourn the meeting; Charlene seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Minutes Prepared by: Bailey Payne

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MEETING MINUTES
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
December 11, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

Ken Eklund, *Chair*
Rachel Purcell
Chuck Gilbert
Brent Pawlowski
David Hackleman (called in)
Bret Davis, *Republic Services Representative*
Charlene Carroll
Jennifer Field
Jeffrey Morrell

STAFF

Bailey Payne, *Solid Waste Program
Coordinator*

**GUESTS - The online meeting software was not working so the meeting was not recorded.
Members of the public that wanted to attend were not able to do so.**

**Guests that provided oral comment to the DSAC*

ABSENT: David Livesay (excused)

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Technical Difficulties

- The Chair noted that there were technical difficulties preventing online attendance.

Disclaimer on Public Comments

- The Chair reminded attendees that DSAC is not involved in the decision-making process regarding the proposed landfill expansion and directed public comments to be made to the Planning Commission or County Board of Commissioners.

Agenda Item #2: Public Comment

The technical issues in streaming the meeting prevented the public from providing feedback at the meeting. There were no members from the public in attendance. Unfortunately, the meeting was not recorded.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of meeting minutes from 10/9/24

- The minutes from October 9th were reviewed. Concerns were raised regarding member identification in past minutes. A motion was made by a member (Jeff M.) to accept the minutes from October 9th, with a second from another member (Chuck G.). Motion passed unanimously.

- 44 • Suggestion to add speaker names in minutes. Add follow-up task section (action items).
45 Reviewing action items when meeting minutes are approved.

46

47 **Agenda Item #4: Approval of meeting minutes from 2022-2023**

- 48 • The Chair indicated a need for review and approval of minutes from meetings held on October 25,
49 2023 and earlier.
- 50 • Jeff M. suggested adding line items to future meeting minutes to make edits easier to find.
- 51 • A suggestion was made for members who attended those meetings to collaborate on revisions
52 before presenting them for approval.
- 53 • Discussion ensued regarding establishing a timeline for reviewing previous meeting videos
54 alongside their corresponding minutes, emphasizing accuracy in representation.
- 55 • Members discussed the importance of accurate minute-taking due to legal implications, citing that
56 approved minutes hold precedence over video recordings.
- 57 • There was consensus on needing clear guidelines moving forward with minute approvals and
58 video retention policies within legal parameters established by county regulations.
- 59 • Discussion about amending the 10/23/23 meeting minutes took place, with emphasis on additional
60 amendments proposed by Chair Eklund who will not be present at the next meeting.
- 61 • Jeff M. made a motion to have the County staff include transcripts of all past meeting minutes
62 that have not yet been approved. Chuck G. seconded. All approved, except Bret Davis, who
63 abstained.
- 64 • Some members expressed discomfort with voting on meeting minute approval for meetings in
65 which they did not attend.
- 66 • A member highlighted concerns regarding the legal implications related to parts of transcripts not
67 being captured during a Zoom meeting due to it being paused on 10/23/23.
- 68 • A hybrid approach was suggested to combine both transcript material and additional notes for
69 clarity, ensuring that everyone's input is documented appropriately.
- 70 • Jeff. M. made a motion to add Ken's "preamble" to the meeting minutes on 10/23/23 for final
71 review at the next meeting. Chuck seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

72

73 **Agenda Item #5: Fire Safety Report Update**

74 Discussion included clarifications needed concerning state aid requests related to fire marshal
75 operations and coordination with regional authorities. The committee accepted the report (with final
76 edits) and thanked David H. for his work on the document. Staff will forward the finalized version to
77 the county commissioners who will forward it to the Board of Commissioners. Jeff M. made the
78 motion and Charlie C. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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80 **Agenda Item #6: Break**

81 A 5-minute break was observed.

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83 **Agenda Item #7: Elections of Chair and Vice-chair**

- 84 • The meeting began with discussions around appointing a new chair and vice chair for the
- 85 upcoming year.
- 86 • It was noted by Ken Eklund that he would not be continuing as chair, expressing a desire to
- 87 remain on the committee instead.
- 88 • Jeff M. nominated Rachel Purcell as the new chair. Ken E. seconded. Rachel was voted in as
- 89 as chair in 2025; all attendees voted in favor.
- 90 • David Hackleman was nominated as interim vice chair (Jeff M., seconded by Chuck G.),
- 91 which also received unanimous support.

92
93 **Agenda Item #8: Carbon Mapper Update**

94 An update was provided by Ken Eklund discussing the emergence of Carbon Mapper technology

95 aimed at detecting methane emissions from landfills. The significance of recent findings from Coffin

96 Butte Landfill showing a methane plume approximately a mile long with an estimated leak rate of 1.4

97 metric tons per hour highlighted potential environmental concerns.

- 98 • **Methane Detection:** The technology used by Carbon Mapper was discussed, highlighting its
- 99 ability to identify methane plumes and quantify emissions from landfills, specifically Coffin
- 100 Butte landfill.
- 101 • **Emission Data Presentation:**
 - 102 ▪ Data showed a significant range of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions based on
 - 103 estimates from Carbon Mapper, with a low point at approximately one million metric tons
 - 104 CO₂e and a high point near two million metric tons CO₂e.
 - 105 ▪ Discussions highlighted the importance of understanding how much methane is being
 - 106 captured versus emitted to gauge efficiency in response strategies.

107 Questions arose regarding comparisons between what is detected through Carbon Mapper technology

108 versus what existing operators are capturing and managing.

109
110 **Agenda Item #9: Republic Services' application to expand the Coffin Butte Landfill**

- 111 • Republic Services submitted an application to expand the landfill which was initially deemed
- 112 incomplete but has since been resubmitted for review by the county's planning department.
- 113 • There was dialogue regarding whether DSAC should advise or engage with public concerns
- 114 around this expansion as it relates to community impact.
- 115 • Feedback indicated that community members are more concerned about immediate issues
- 116 such as operational inefficiencies (long lines) at the landfill than broader environmental
- 117 concerns, despite awareness of methane emissions related to climate change. Suggestions
- 118 were made about improving operational efficiency at Republic's facilities, including better
- 119 customer service initiatives and technological upgrades for monitoring wait times. Examples
- 120 of things that Republic Services is (or plans to) do include: Increasing pay for scale house
- 121 attendees to reduce turnover and build capacity, they've installed Starlink so that they don't
- 122 have technological related slow downs, redirecting Republic trucks to cut down on wait times
- 123 and they are open to the idea (David H.) of installing cameras to help people avoid busy times.

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125 **Agenda Item #10: Request Agenda Items**

- 126 • An idea was put forth about adding an agenda item at each meeting dedicated to reviewing
- 127 outstanding tasks or action items discussed previously, ensuring accountability and follow-
- 128 through between meetings.

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Discussion about Committee Dynamics

There were concerns raised about adversarial dynamics within the committee compared to past experiences. Members emphasized the importance of collaborative approaches moving forward.

Future Meeting Scheduling

- There were discussions regarding scheduling future meetings with suggestions made for holding the next meeting in January.
- It was noted that while Oregon law requires a minimum of four meetings per year for DSAC, additional meetings can be scheduled based on committee needs.
- Consider adding items concerning public outreach strategies and education surrounding landfill operations in next meetings' agenda discussions.

Adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2025, Kalapuya Building (4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis)

Action Items:	Lead	Status
Continue monitoring developments regarding Republic's application status; keep this item ongoing in future agendas.	Rachel P. / Bailey P.	Agenda?
Request data from PNGC on how much landfill gas is collected versus fugitive. – Bailey reached out for this information on November 6, 2024 and has not yet been provided this data.	Bailey P. / Republic Services	Not available
An idea was put forth about adding an agenda item at each meeting dedicated to reviewing outstanding tasks or action items discussed previously, ensuring accountability and follow-through between meetings.	Rachel P. / Bailey P.	Agenda
Jeff M. suggested adding line items to future meeting minutes to make edits easier to find.	Bailey P.	Done
Jeff M. made a motion to have the County staff include transcripts of all past meeting minutes that have not yet been approved.	Bailey P.	In progress (IT)
Staff will forward the finalized version of the fire safety report to the county commissioners who will forward it to the Board of Commissioners.	Bailey P.	In progress

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