

BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) &
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Joint Work Session
January 18, 2023 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier, Brent Pawlowski, and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Ian Macnab Absent
Members Excused:
Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret
Public Present: Sam Imperati (ICM Resolutions), Rebecca Geier
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Written feedback from the public has been received, and it will be reviewed further when SWAC and DSAC address regular business.

Acknowledge service on John McEvoy

Chair Eklund acknowledged John McEvoy's service, as his term has ended.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Marge said that the upcoming BCTT meeting will have the group review the most recent draft material from each subcommittee, and proposed SWAC and DSAC subcommittees to work on the material from BCTT subcommittees. Sam confirmed his intention is for SWAC and DSAC will review current draft material from each subcommittee in the upcoming SWAC/DSAC Joint Work Session (February 8th). Joel Geier asks for his December 6th comment to the Board to be included in the SWAC/DSAC packet, and Daniel confirmed that it was included in the packet. Chair Eklund said that he had not received a notification for this meeting, and Daniel confirmed that Chair Eklund was included in the meeting notice, and other members confirmed receipt of that notification. Marge said she had a hard time finding meeting information on the webpage. Marge expressed concern that the meeting packet includes comments going back to August 2022, and that Subcommittee E is working on public communications issues with processes like those regarding SWAC/DSAC communications. Mark asked if County staff, when receiving written comments from the public for SWAC/DSAC, inform commentor that SWAC/DSAC is not typically discussing written public comments during current meetings. Daniel said that Staff do not typically

communicate details about current limitations to SWAC/DSAC meeting agendas, but that it is something that staff can communicate in the future. Mark recommended that staff provide the public with more detail about SWAC/DSAC's current BCTT focus. Chair Eklund asked for SWAC/DSAC members to forward him written comments on the draft BCTT report ahead of the next SWAC/DSAC meeting on February 8th, which will be a two hour meeting from 6pm-8pm.

The group then discussed subcommittee work. Marge provided an overview of Subcommittee E's charge, which revolves around history and communication patterns. She said they researched newspaper archives, and found readily accessible information regarding SWAC meetings in the past. She also noted that she is not able to see public comments for BCTT, and that the webpage should be updated. Sam shared that SWAC and DSAC will have access to a word document and PDF version of the BCTT report draft #3 for comments, and Daniel confirmed that they would be available via links.

Mark Discussed the Land Use Subcommittee work and described the group's charge. They worked their way through many conditions of approval, and are developing key findings, and Republic Services staff are working on providing feedback on the subcommittee draft.

Chair Eklund discussed the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) Subcommittee work and described focus areas and the work process so far. The group is preparing a table of contents and a list of questions to cover important topics they would like to have included in the SMMP, including circular economy concepts.

Chair Eklund discussed the A1 subcommittee (Landfill Size, Capacity and Longevity) charge, and complexities associated with determining landfill size and longevity. Chair Eklund reported that Republic Services is in discussion with Knife River about the quarry timeline for Cell 6, which impacts landfill operations. He also mentioned that Republic Services accepted more waste than expected starting in 2017, and the expansion of the landfill was not approved, leading to challenges with landfill size, capacity, and longevity. Chuck discussed the engineering design of the landfill.

Daniel informed the group that the next BCTT report draft will be released on 1/25/23, and that he will reach out to the group with guidance on how to provide comments.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.

BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) &
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Joint Work Session
February 8, 2023 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier, Brent Pawlowski and Mark Yeager

Republic Services: Ginger Richardson, Ian Macnab Absent

Members Excused: Deborah Gile

Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret, Darren Nichols

Public Present:

Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

BCTT Work Group: Draft Report Review

The group discussed the draft of the BCTT report. Joel and Ken discussed that the document is not a mature document, and that it is in process. The draft version includes notes, comments, and proposed edits. Ken requested that the group send him feedback on the report after the meeting, so that he can send the Work Group feedback. Marge requested that Ken read Debi Gile's comments that Debi shared ahead of the meeting, and Ken said that comments will not identify the contributing member, and that he would not share Debi's comments. He then provided a higher-level overview about the type of comments that Debi provided.

The group then discussed the following sections of the report, which can be found here - [PDF Format](#); [History Document](#):

- a) A3-B1 Subcommittee (Legal): pp. 40-47; pp. 393-456.
 - a. Topics discussed include rights and obligations associated with future expansion applications, SWAC's roles, the 2002 MOU interpretation about prior conditions of approval, clarifying the scope of sustainable materials management vs. solid waste management, wetland regulation and inventories/significance determination.
- b) C1 Subcommittee (SMMP): pp. 60-66; pp. 193-235
 - a. Topics discussed include the improved version of this subcommittee report, expression of sustainability and environmental core values, circular economy and full lifecycle approach, the priority level of SMMP work related to the rest of the report, subcommittee report development process, the scope and detail

of the draft report, fidelity of the report compared to subcommittee conversations, concerns with the SMMP subcommittee process and overall BCTT process, existing resources and alternatives, best practices (in Oregon, nationally, and internationally), standards of public outreach, regional management perspectives.

- c) E1 Subcommittee (Community Education): pp. 67–73; pp. 457–474
 - a. Topics discussed include the cooperation between the group members and staff, SWAC and community influence over solid waste processes, advertisements for community feedback, value of the history component, communications/notification radii.
- d) A2 Subcommittee (Past Land Use): pp. 48–55; pp. 236–392
 - a. Topics discussed include the volume of work completed and in progress, status of introductory paragraph, resolution for determining compliance status of various conditions of approval, 2002 MOU implications on compliance status, determination of cell/landfill closure, monitoring and enforcement of conditions of approval, use of franchise fees, compliant process, view and screening of landfills, applicability and context of previous conditions.
- e) A1 Subcommittee (Landfill Size/Life): pp. 56–60; pp. 105–192
 - a. Topics discussed include the complexities of longevity estimation, complexities of size and capacity, closure and “capped” terminology, future factors that have landfill longevity implications, waste recovery technologies, the A1 section’s relationship with the SMMP section, variability on waste inflow as it relates to landfill business contracts and airspace budget, and how various perspectives are included. Chuck mentioned the importance of drawing on subject matter expertise when lacking knowledge on a topic, while Chair Eklund disagreed and said he instead relies on imagination.
- f) History section
 - a. Topics discussed include the timeline of landfill site history, inaccuracies, site compliance, emphasis on Soap Creek Valley and the variety of communities near the landfill, the time constraints of addressing concerns in this section, concerns about the accuracy of neighborhood tour minutes, missing leachate incidents, inclusion of a decommissioned well, and updates not included in this version and the evolving nature of the document.

Comments from SWAC/DSAC are due in written form to the Workgroup by February 10, 2023. Chair Eklund said that both general and specific comments are valuable and encouraged referencing page numbers. Director Nichols reminded SWAC that emails regarding SWAC decision-making must be publicly available, and Chair Eklund said that emails will come directly to him from members, and members should include staff of that email as well.

Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.

BENTON COUNTY
Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) &
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
Joint Work Session
March 15, 2023 Draft Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Joel Geier and Mark Yeager
Republic Services: Absent
Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Greg Verret
Public Present:
Location: Virtual

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Acknowledge receipt of public input

Chair Eklund acknowledged that SWAC/DSAC has received written comments from the public. Verbal public comment is currently unavailable, as the Board of Commissioners directed the group to focus on Benton County Talks Trash (BCTT) during liaison opportunities, which are limited to one hour.

Benton County Talks Trash Workgroup: Ambassadors' Liaison

Chair Eklund asked for comments about the BCTT draft report and process. The group then reported on their work with the various BCTT subcommittees, and shared information about the workgroup process. Chair Eklund said the A.1. subcommittee process was a horrific process, that they received significant pushback, that they did not feel listened to, that the process was not inclusive, and that there were abuses of the process. Marge said that they were happy with the outcome, and Chuck agreed that the process resulted in clarity. The group discussed SWAC and DSAC role in the Sustainable Materials Management planning process. Debi asked if there were links available to the most recent draft reports, and Daniel confirmed that they will send it out to the group. The group then discussed the upcoming polling process, and the workgroup representatives (Marge and Chuck) asked for SWAC/DSAC members to reach out to them with any questions. The group then discussed the next steps for the report, and possible outcomes, including a discussion of the process for a future conditional use permit (CUP) application from Coffin Butte Landfill, and a potential timeline and scope for a Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP). The group then discussed if Republic Services would wait until an SMMP is completed before filing a CUP application. Chair Eklund expressed concerns about the BCTT process generally, regarding difficulty of information coming forward.

Discussion about the packet/backlog

Chair Eklund asked if Daniel has requested that the BOC direct SWAC/DSAC to resume regular meetings. Daniel explained that the BOC is aware of the request, and will direct SWAC/DSAC when they are to resume regular meetings. Chair Eklund said that he would send in a request to the BOC to resume regular SWAC/DSAC meetings.

The group then discussed Republic Services and Knife River's excavation of the quarry area of the landfill. Chuck will look into it further.

Schedule next meeting, Wrap Up/Adjourn

Chair Ken Eklund adjourned the meeting at 6:05pm.



BENTON COUNTY

Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)

October 25, 2023 Minutes

Members Present: Ken Eklund, Deborah Gile, Marge Popp, Chuck Gilbert, Brent Pawlowski, Joel Geier and Mark Yeager

Republic Services: Absent

Staff Present: Daniel Redick, Darren Nichols and Linda Ray

Public Present: Scott Lesko, Fay Yoshihara, Debbie Palmer, Christopher Jacobs, Elizabeth Patte, Ed Pitera, Nancy Whitcombe, Kevin Kenaga, Jeff Morrell, Becky Merja, Bernie Cummings, Patricia Haggerty, Robert Orton, JB Jensen, and Josh Dodson

Location: Virtual

Meeting Agenda

Chair Eklund objected the meeting agenda presented by county staff. Several DSAC members gave feedback supporting the chair's request to proceed with the meeting agenda he provided. Mark made a **MOTION** to adopt Chair Eklund's agenda as the operating agenda for the meeting. Seconded by Marge, the vote was 4-3 and the **MOTION** passed. (Chuck, Debi, and Brent abstained.)

Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Ken Eklund called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

EPA Report on methane leaks at the landfill

Mark requested that county staff obtain a copy of the EPA report on methane leaks at the landfill (that was referenced in a recent article in the Salem Statesman Journal written by Tracy Loew) and distribute it to DSAC members. A member also suggested that the report be added to the DSAC website.

County Records Request

DSAC has requested several sets of documents from county staff:

1. Email communication between county staff regarding the recent decision to include language on the DSAC webpage stating that "written comments would no longer be accepted" in preparation for DSAC meetings.
2. On the same topic, a record request has been made for staff to provide documentation on how the decision to include that verbiage on the website was a "miscommunication".
3. DSAC has requested official records of all community concerns that were reported for

the 2021 DEQ community concerns annual report.

4. DSAC has requested official records of all community concerns that were reported for the 2022 DEQ community concerns annual report.

Re-ground the Committee

DSAC members expressed their dissatisfaction with the decision made by the Board of Commissioners to summarily dissolve the Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC) against county code without notification or discussion, and without any provision for its functions, about review of landfill expansion applications, which also against code requirements. The **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Chair Eklund will follow up with a letter to the BOC stating DSAC's motion.

Community Member Comments

- **Robert Orton** is a heavy equipment mechanic at the Coffin Butte Landfill. He expressed concerns about unsafe working conditions at the landfill. Jacob Stallings, attorney for the landfill union sent an email statement to county staff which was included in the meeting packet.
- **Nancy Whitcombe**, neighbor of the landfill suggested that DSAC consider making a recommendation to the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners to re-evaluate the zoning of the landfill. Ms. Whitcombe will bring back her suggestions at the next DSAC meeting that may address some of the compliance issues in the past.
- **Kevin Kenaga**, concerned community member expressed gratitude to DSAC members for their service. He also expressed concerns about county staff response time to requests made by DSAC members.

Edit and approve county website language.

DSAC members expressed concern over language on the DSAC home page, specifically the sentence "To file a solid waste complaint, please call 541.766.6819".

DSAC members requested the following changes:

- Request to clarify that solid waste complaints may be submitted in writing.
- Process where the committee members can get complaints directly.
- Request that submitted comments from community members be sent to DSAC unscreened by county staff.

In conclusion, Mark stated that he would work with Ken to finalize the edits to the language included on the website and would submit those changes to Daniel.

Website edits made by county staff will be presented to the committee at the next DSAC meeting.

Community Concerns Annual Report

Two requests were made of county staff by DSAC members:

- A copy of the 2021 & 2022 community concerns report (that was sent to DEQ) be provided at the next DSAC meeting.
 - An email sent to DSAC members on the status of those reports.
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Agenda items for next meeting

- Establish a regular meeting time.
- Summarize items to be included in the minutes.
- Approval of meeting minutes (may be moved out to next month)
- Member Requests
- Website edits on the DSAC homepage
- Discussion of the SMMP Ad Hoc Committee and request that DSAC members be included on that committee that will be appointed by the BOC.

Marge made a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mark, the meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

NOTE: These draft Minutes were reviewed by Disposal Site Advisory Committee Members on February 12, 2025 and the committee wished a disclaimer to note potential incompleteness.

- Chair Purcell moved to accept the Minutes for October 25, 2023; Member Morrell seconded. Motion carried, 7-0; Members Livesay and Koster abstained from the vote. A disclaimer shall be added to that set of Meeting Minutes noting potential incompleteness.
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