
MEETING MINUTES
Benton County Planning Commission
July 9, 2025 Public Hearing
6:00-8:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER | ROLL CALL

Chair Fowler

Benton County Planning Commission Chair Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was open to the public virtually via a published Zoom link. Chair Fowler confirmed a full quorum of the Commission.

Benton County Planning Commissioners

Nick Fowler, Chair
Catherine Biscoe (virtual)
Sara Cash
Ed Fulford
Evelyn Lee
Andrew Struthers
John Wilson

Benton County Staff

Petra Schuetz, Planning Official
Melissa Ryan, Special Land Use Counsel
Jesse Winterrowd, Winter Brook Planning
Larissa Gladding, Winter brook Planning

Absent

Greg Hamann, Vice Chair

II. APPROVE MINUTES

Prior meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved

III. MEETING PURPOSE

Chair Fowler explained that this session was dedicated to public testimony. Approximately 54–55 individuals had signed up to testify, with a three-minute time limit per person and allowances for time-seating. The Chair reviewed procedures for testimony, submission of written materials, and rules for decorum.

IV. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Testimony was received from both proponents and opponents of the landfill expansion. Supporters emphasized the landfill's role as a regional facility, the economic and service capacity benefits to Benton County, and concerns about increased costs, carbon footprint, and illegal dumping if waste is transported to distant facilities.

Benton County will make reasonable accommodations for all alterable participants. Please notify Amanda.Makepeace@bentoncounty.gov 72 hours before the meeting. All Planning Commission meetings are recorded and retained as required by ORS 166-200-0235.

Several cited operational improvements since the applicant acquired the landfill and expressed support for the conditional use permit with the proposed conditions.

Opponents expressed concerns regarding environmental impacts such as odor, noise, litter, wildlife disturbance, traffic safety, and especially water quality and PFAS contamination. Many referenced public health risks, historic zoning restrictions, and questioned the county's enforcement of conditions of approval. Some suggested alternative waste management strategies, including use of rail transport and eventual cessation of landfill operations.

Testimony included references to agency comments, public records, technical studies, and personal experience. Speakers on both sides discussed the implications of removing or maintaining the landfill's tonnage cap.

PRODECURAL NOTES

- Speakers were called in order with an on-deck system to maintain flow.
- Supplemental written materials were accepted for the record.
- Time limits were enforced to ensure all registered participants could be heard.

V. DECISIONS

- No deliberations or final decisions were made at this session.
- The record remained open for additional written submissions as allowed by hearing procedures
- Deliberations and a decision are scheduled for July 22, 2025.

VI. NEXT MEETING

July 22, 2025 6:00 pm

VII. ADJOURN

Adjourned 10:20 PM by Chair Fowler