

MEETING MINUTES
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
March 25, 2026

Benton County DSAC Chair, David Hackleman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was open to the public virtually via a published Zoom link. These minutes were made with the assistance of artificial intelligence.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ATTENDING

David Hackleman, Chair
Robert Kipper
Jennifer Field (Excused)
Brent Pawlowski
Charlene Carroll
David Livesay
Paul Koster, Republic Services
Peter Peterson
Diane Cassidy

GUESTS

Julie Jackson, Republic Services
Bret Davis, Republic Services
Sarah Steen, Republic Services
Patricia Wheeler - Online
Catherine Stearns - Online
Debbie Palmer - Online
Faye Yoshihara - Online
Camille - Online

STAFF

Bailey Payne, Solid Waste Program Coordinator

Key takeaways

- DSAC held its first meeting of 2026 after delays related to county decisions on expansion discussions
- Republic Services received a pre-enforcement notification from DEQ in November 2025 and a judgment order in March 2026
- A new Title V air quality permit application is under [public review](#)
- Republic Services stopped leachate disposal at the Corvallis Wastewater Treatment Plant in December 2025; now using City of Salem's Wastewater Treatment Plant for all leachate.
- Water quality subcommittee drafted response letter to DEQ's comments on environmental monitoring report
- Republic Services invested \$2.2 million in gas infrastructure improvements in 2025
- Coffin Butte has approximately 10 years of remaining permitted capacity as of December 2025
- Cell 6A was completed and filled by January 2026; Cell 6B construction completed at \$16 million
- Bob Kipper elected as Vice Chair of DSAC

Welcome

- Chair Hackleman: Welcomed attendees and explained meeting delays were due to county decisions unrelated to DSAC's operational oversight role
- Confirmed additional meetings scheduled for remainder of year (May 27, Aug. 26 & Nov. 4
- Noted Jennifer absent (excused) due to spring break vacation

Public Comments and Correspondence

Committee reviewed letters submitted to the packet, including DEQ response to water quality subcommittee questions.

- Paul K.: Stated he had not seen the DEQ response letter before and needed time to review
- Charli: Confirmed the water quality subcommittee (all three members) reviewed and recommended the draft response
- Bailey: Agreed to send both DEQ response and subcommittee draft letter to full committee for review.
- Committee given one week to review DEQ response and draft letter
- Letter will be approved as written unless edits submitted within one week

Pre-Enforcement Notification and Compliance Actions

Paul provided update on DEQ pre-enforcement notification and Republic's response.

- **Details**

- Paul: Confirmed all informational and corrective action requirements from January and February deadlines were met
- Paul: Cannot discuss details of recent judgment order
- Paul: Explained corrective actions included field walks, fugitive dust control, and other measures documented in public record
- Paul: Noted DEQ did not respond with follow-up questions before issuing judgment order
- Committee members: Requested better access to public documentation of Republic's responses to DEQ

- **Conclusion**

- All required documentation and corrective actions submitted to DEQ by deadlines should be sent to Bailey at time of submission.
- Public can access information through [DEQ website](#) or public records requests
- Paul will notify Bailey when Republic Services submits documents to DEQ's system

Title V Air Quality Permit Renewal

Paul updated committee on new Title V application status.

- **Details**

- Paul: New Title V application released for public hearing after working closely with DEQ
- Paul: Application is improved and tighter according to DEQ staff James and Michael
- Paul: Expects public comments and corrections but hopes to avoid complete redo
- Application currently in public review process. Hearing is set for May 12, 2026. [Register here.](#)

Operational Updates

Paul presented comprehensive operational updates for Republic Services facilities.

- **Details**

- Weekly road cleanup on Coffin Butte Road, Highway 99, Independence Highway, and Camp Adair Road using Sheriff's Department work crews at \$1,200 per event
- Recycling guides going out to all Benton County residents
- Republic now owns and operates commingled recycling facility in Salem (formerly Garten Services) since August 2025
- New baler installed in November; facility participating in Oregon RMA Act
- Julie Jackson was appointed to Governor's Task Force for Municipal Solid Waste
- Paul and Bailey were appointed to Oregon DEQ Rules Committee meeting next month
- Gas well construction starting April 13th with new headers, force mains, pipes, and wells on west side, east side, and top deck
- Considering ordering second flare based on gas modeling
- Cell 6B completed and ready to fill once wet weather stops
- Cell 6C construction started, 10.5 acres, expected completion October 2026

- “Sliver filling” front east side to recover half year of airspace due to settling
- Planning final cap of 25 acres in 2027-2028 once east side filled
- Completion expected May-June with soil cover instead of tarps
- **Conclusion**
 - Significant infrastructure investments ongoing
 - Road cleanup program expanded and operational
 - Recycling facility acquisition expands Republic's processing capacity
 - Major cell construction and capping projects on schedule

Fire Safety Monitoring

David H. reported on fire safety discussions with Adair Rural Fire Department.

- **Details**
 - Met with Adair RFD Chief Harris to discuss fire monitoring needs
 - Public notice of fire danger available through DEQ website and other sources
 - Organizations performing work with fire risk are already responsible and liable. The Fire Defense Board indicated businesses are responsible for their own monitoring
 - David H. relayed that Chief Harris praised employees at both sites for attentiveness and cooperation. Chief Harris recommended maintaining barrier between areas at PRC
 - Committee: Discussed whether 24-hour monitoring needed (non-operating hours)
 - David: Will contact Chief Harris for recommended real-time fire danger notification site
- **Conclusion**
 - Fire safety protocols in place during operating hours
 - Committee may request county support for 24-hour monitoring during high fire danger periods
 - David to follow up with Chief Harris on best notification resources

Battery Fire Concerns

Committee discussed lithium battery fires at landfills based on recent media coverage.

- **Details**

- Charli: Raised concerns about Statesman Journal article on battery-caused fires at other landfills
 - Paul: No known battery fires at Coffin Butte landfill; couple incidents in collection trucks annually. Well temperature monitoring would detect subsurface fires
 - Bailey: New state legislation passed for battery recycling program starting 2029 (HB 4144)
 - Julie: Republic has supported this legislation for 3-5 years. Household hazardous waste events accept batteries for proper disposal. Most battery fires occur at sorting facilities (MRFs) rather than landfills. Embedded batteries (greeting cards, vape pens) not included in current legislation but hopefully will be in future legislation.
- **Conclusion**
 - Paul K.: Battery fires not significant issue at Coffin Butte landfill
 - State legislation will establish recycling program by 2029
 - Public education on battery disposal continues

Odor and Methane Subcommittee Update

David provided update on subcommittee activities since November.

- **Details**
 - David: Subcommittee met several times including site visit to hilltop. Observed complex wind patterns in valley affecting odor dispersion. Recommended weather monitoring stations at both landfill and PRC sites.
 - Paul: Confirmed weather station exists at Coffin Butte office on Coffin Butte Road, tracks temperature, rain, humidity, wind direction with timestamps
 - David: Air samples taken at three sites (PRC, landfill, Corvallis wastewater treatment plant) between November and March. Fingerprinting technique successfully demonstrated distinct chemical signatures at each site. Work done to develop pre-proposal for more comprehensive study. Funding requests submitted to county with no response yet.
 - David: OSU lab group (Dr. Stacey Seminichi and Dr. Field) conducting research, seeking additional funding. Methane and PFAS measurements possible but not current focus
- **Conclusion**
 - Chemical fingerprinting technique validated for odor source identification
 - Weather monitoring exists at landfill; PRC status unclear
 - Funding being sought for expanded air quality study
 - Subcommittee continuing work on odor source identification

Groundwater and Leachate Subcommittee Update

David L. summarized water quality subcommittee activities.

- **Details**

- David L.: Subcommittee reviewed environmental monitoring report revision under DEQ review. Provided suggestions to improve monitoring program robustness
- Focused on monitoring program integrity, not specific data exceedances
- DEQ responded to comments; subcommittee drafting response to DEQ's response. Dialogue with DEQ ongoing and positive
- Paul: Leachate now going to Salem and other third-party haulers after ending Corvallis relationship

- **Conclusion**

- Constructive dialogue established with DEQ on monitoring improvements
- Committee has one week to review response letter
- Leachate disposal transitioned from Corvallis to other facilities

Community Engagement and Odor Complaint Tracking

Committee reviewed odor complaint data and identified significant discrepancies.

- **Details**

- Bailey: Presented the 2025 Coffin Butte Landfill Community Member Concerns Annual Staff Report (CBCC) which included a pie chart showing 209 complaints in 2025. Data showed 49% of 2025 complaints went directly to Republic vs 4.7% in 2024
- Paul: Disputed accuracy, stating 95%+ complaints come through DEQ, very few through Coffin Butte website
- Paul: Receives complaints via DEQ, investigates within 30-45 minutes when possible, documents with photos, submits to DEQ. All submissions to DEQ done through electronic upload system, no email CC capability.
- Charli: Suggested Paul notify Bailey when uploading documents so Bailey can retrieve from public records
- Bailey: Will reconcile complaint source data for next meeting
- Committee: Discussed importance of encouraging public to use Coffin Butte website for fastest response

- David: Noted some community members refuse to use Republic website, prefer going to DEQ or commissioners

- **Conclusion**

- Possible discrepancy in complaint source data requires review
- Bailey to compile accurate 2026 data for May meeting
- Committee to consider public education on most effective complaint reporting channels
- Paul will notify Bailey when uploading documents to DEQ system

Annual Report Review

Paul presented draft 2024 Coffin Butte Landfill and PRC Annual Report (CBAR)

- **Details**

- Report covers 2024 operations with some 2025 forward-looking information
- Report due to county commissioners in May 2025 but delayed due to CUP process
- 12.9 years of life estimated remaining at end of 2024; approximately 10 years remaining as of December 2025
- Total permitted capacity 39,591,000 cubic yards; 24.5 million filled; 14.5 million remaining
- Invested \$9.5 million in gas infrastructure 2019-2024 (57 vertical wells, 22,700 feet horizontal piping)
- Updated 18 horizontal and 22 vertical wells in 2025 for \$2.2 million
- Gas-to-energy partnership with PNGC powers 4,000 homes since 1995
- Cell 6A construction \$16 million, 7.5 acres, filled January 2026
- 35-well groundwater monitoring network; Q4 sampling completed December
- 43 million gallons leachate produced in 2024
- Six inspections in 2024 by EPA, DEQ, Metro. No violations issued by EPA or DEQ in 2024
- EPA June 2024 inspection identified 41 surface emission exceedances
- EPA used different methodology than required for Republic (probes under tarps, in holes)
- New enclosed flare completed October 2024 per DEQ requirement
- PRC collected 140,000 yards organic material, produced 120,000 yards compost in 2024
- PRC donated over 100 yards compost to community gardens
- Three OSHA citations in 2023-2024 with \$580 fines; respiratory training added

- Bailey: This report will be presented to Board of Commissioners after DSAC review
- David: Found report substantially complete
- **Conclusion**
 - Committee has until March 31st to provide feedback on report
 - Report will be forwarded to commissioners for presentation in May
 - Paul will also present 2025 report to the DSAC in May

Vice Chair Election

Committee elected new Vice Chair.

- **Details**
 - David H.: Called for nominations for Vice Chair position
 - Bob: Indicated willingness to serve
 - Committee member: Peter made motion to elect Bob as Vice Chair and Bob seconded the motion. Committee: Voted unanimously in favor
 - Bob: Accepted position but noted may not attend next meeting due to travel

Next Meeting Planning

Committee discussed agenda items and scheduling for next meeting.

- **Details**
 - Benton County: Next meeting scheduled May 27th
 - David: Recommended agenda item on methane observation requirements due to state legislation
 - Committee: Confirmed May 27th date works for most members

Challenges

- Discrepancy in odor complaint source data between Bailey's tracking and Paul's records. The part in question is the accuracy of who received the complaints. The number of complaints and their topics is correct. County staff will work with Republic Services to ensure that record keeping is consistent.
- DEQ's Your DEQ Online (YDO) electronic submission system does not allow CC'ing county staff, creating communication gaps
- Public reluctance to use Coffin Butte website for odor complaints despite faster response time

- Funding request for expanded air quality study submitted to county with no response
- Need for 24-hour fire monitoring during high fire danger periods not yet resolved
- EPA inspection methodology differs from Republic's required procedures, creating inconsistent results
- Embedded batteries not included in new state recycling legislation

Action items

- **Bailey, Benton County staff**
 - Send DEQ a groundwater monitoring response letter and subcommittee draft response to full committee for review (by tomorrow)
 - Provide one-week deadline reminder to committee for annual report feedback (March 31st)
 - Reconcile odor complaint source data discrepancies between 2024-2025 tracking and Paul's records
 - Compile accurate 2026 complaint data including Republic sources for May meeting
 - Submit the 2024 CCAR to BOC and DEQ (with caveat about source of complaints being inconsistent).
 - Send the DSAC the recycling flyer that Republic Services will be mailing to the community soon.
 - Will ask Republic Services for a record of the number of fires (regardless of size) that have occurred each year at the Coffin Butte Landfill. Will send the document to the DSAC.
- **Paul, Republic Services**
 - Notify Bailey when uploading documents to DEQ YDO system
 - Provide list of historical fires (regardless of size) each year. Send to Bailey who will send to full DSAC
 - Respond to DSAC feedback on the 2024 Annual Report – will receive DSAC's feedback by March 31st
 - Present 2024 Annual Report to Board of Commissioners (May)
 - Present 2025 Annual Report to DSAC and commissioners (May)
- **David H., Chair**
 - Contact Adair Fire Chief Harris to request recommended real-time fire danger notification website

- Send note to DEQ to learn about accessing submitted documents without requiring additional work from Republic
- Provide odor subcommittee air sampling documentation and locations to committee
- **Committee Members**
 - Review DEQ response letter and water quality subcommittee draft response letter
 - Review 2024 Annual Report and provide feedback to Bailey (by March 31st)
 - Submit agenda items for May 27th meeting
- **Julie**
 - Confirm whether weather monitoring station at PRC facility is working

Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm (Robert K., Dianne)

Next DSAC Meeting: Wednesday, May 27, 2026