

MEETING MINUTES
Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)
September 3, 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
Brent Pawlowski (Excused)
Charlene Carroll
David Livesay
Paul Koster, Republic Services
Peter Petersen (Excused)
Diane Cassidy

GUESTS

Tom Easley
Nancy Whitcombe
Paul Nietfeld
Ken Eklund
Marge Popp

STAFF

Bailey Payne, Solid Waste Program Coordinator
Bob Richardson, Community Development Director

Call to Order & Approvals

- **Meeting Commencement:** The Chair welcomed the committee and public attendees, confirming a physical and online quorum was met.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made (Robert Kipper), seconded (Dave Livesay), and passed unanimously.
- **Action Item Tracking:** The joint Community Engagement and Odor Subcommittee proposal remains an open action item. The subcommittee previously met with the Soap Creek community group regarding ongoing frustrations. It was agreed that one committee needs to take the lead; the current lead (Diane Cassidy) volunteered to continue spearheading the effort to streamline the public odor complaint process.

Public Comments

- **Tom Easley:** Expressed concern regarding fugitive greenhouse gas emissions from the Coffin Butte Landfill. Highlighting a report by Paul Niefeld and Ken Eklund, he noted that Coffin Butte emits nearly six times the methane of the modernized Columbia Ridge facility, despite Columbia

Ridge having four times the waste volume. He urged the county to model modern infrastructure networks like Lane County's "CleanLane Strategy" or Portland Metro to achieve 60–80% waste diversion rates before Coffin Butte hits its remaining 10-year lifespan.

- **Nancy Whitcombe:** Suggested that DSAC propose a re-evaluation of Benton County Zoning Code Chapter 77 (Landfill Site Zone) to the Board of Commissioners. She noted the chapter has not been updated since 1983 and lacks standard modern formatting like setback, parking, and signage requirements. The committee requested a formal email summarizing her points and agreed to schedule her for a detailed presentation at the next meeting.
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Greenhouse Gas Emissions & CarbonMapper Presentation

- **Regional Landfill Gas Survey (Paul Nietfeld):** Presented a multi-landfill survey utilizing 2023 EPA and 2022 Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) data. He found that Coffin Butte vents approximately 1.8 to 2 billion cubic feet of landfill gas annually into the environment. He noted a major reporting discrepancy. Coffin Butte claims an 88% final cover capture ratio efficiency to the EPA, which does not match real-world observations from Carbon Mapper. Breaking news was shared that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) finalized and signed Coffin Butte's Title V permit renewal on September 1, 2026, effectively permitting these emission levels for the life of the permit.
 - **Carbon Mapper Observational Data (Ken Eklund):** Introduced Carbon Mapper, a science-based non-profit providing direct observational data of methane gas plumes via aircraft and satellite overflights. Observational plumes provide concrete origin leak maps compared to accounting calculations. Eklund highlighted emerging concerns regarding toxic PFAS compounds escaping alongside venting landfill gases. Mr. Eklund recommended two motions for the DSAC:
 - **Motion #1:** I move that the Committee designate a person or subcommittee to:
 - Track and compile data about Coffin Butte Landfill as it appears at data.carbonmapper.org;
 - Update the Committee about the progress of that data at DSAC meetings going forward, so that we can keep the Commissioners informed about developments in this channel.
 - **Motion #2:** I move that the Committee designate a person or subcommittee to:
 - Move that the Committee, after due consideration, have Bailey Payne forward the “Using Carbon Mapper’s Data” paper to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. Bailey should note that the Committee has reviewed the paper and recommends that Commissioners include it in their evaluations as they move forward with County policy on waste disposal.
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Landfill Operations & DEQ Status Updates (Paul Koster)

- Communications are ongoing regarding penalties and structural monitoring. Bureaucratic delays persist due to a lack of technical proficiency within certain channels at the DEQ.
- In response to a June 4th DEQ letter, Republic Services' third-party groundwater engineering consultants are compiling a highly technical response. The final response will be released to DSAC once officially approved by the state.
- Republic Services has installed 40 new vertical gas wells so far, with 10 more scheduled alongside re-drills for pinched lines. Cell 6C (Part 1) construction is practically complete, pending third-party survey validation and a month-and-a-half window for DEQ trash placement approval.

- Final design work has begun to permanently cap 25 acres on the eastern boundary. High-density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane will be heat-welded directly to the gas pipes to completely encapsulate the zone like a sealed plastic bag, fundamentally reducing neighborhood odors. As a temporary measure against mass soil sliding, 50 acres across the top of the landfill are scheduled for hydro-seeding next month.
 - Following an post-operational heavy equipment fire the previous week, public concern was raised regarding late-night Red Flag fire watches. Republic stated they currently do not see a need for an after-hours fire watch since crews are on-site until 6:00–7:00 PM and return at 3:00 AM. Members requested a formal copy of the Adair Fire Department's incident report for review.
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Subcommittee Updates & New Business

- **Funding Adjustments:** The county confirmed it lacks adequate funds to run fingerprint spectra gas site emission studies. The Odor & Methane Subcommittee will pivot to petitioning the state for research funding.
 - **Regional Plans:** The **2025 Environmental Monitoring Report** has been officially approved by the DEQ. Due to size constraint download errors, a digital workaround is being established for committee access.
 - **Task Force Update (Bailey):** Presented on the Joint Task Force on Municipal Solid Waste in the Willamette Valley (established via House Bill 3794). The 7-county group is focusing on regional infrastructure needs for when Coffin Butte eventually closes. They are heavily weighing the **Waste Infrastructure Partnership Act (WIPA)**, which leverages low-interest state bonds to fund local intermodal facilities to transport waste outside of the Willamette Valley.
 - **Board of Commissioners Outreach:** DSAC is coordinating an official audience with the county commissioners to introduce the committee's scope and pass along crucial reports. It was noted that Commissioner Malone's replacement takes office in January, but the committee hopes to loop them in early.
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Next Meeting & Adjournment

- **Next Meeting Agenda Items:**
 - Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) structural vetting and membership boundaries.
 - Zoning Code Chapter 77 Presentation by Nancy Wickham.
 - Establishing and locking in a firm 12-month committee calendar.
 - **Next Tentative Date:** November 3, 2026.
 - **Adjournment:** The meeting was officially adjourned by the Chair.
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Summary of New Action Items

1. Paul Nietfeld / Bailey: Submit the detailed LandGEM engineering calculations and spreadsheet data into the official committee record.

2. Bailey Payne: Circulate the direct link for the extended DEQ Title V public comment registry to all members.
 3. Dave Livesay: Partner with county staff to place a coordinating call to DEQ's Mary Camerata regarding missing well data queries.
 4. Community Engagement & Odors Subcommittees: Draft a comprehensive joint proposal to restructure the citizen odor reporting protocol.
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Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm (Robert K., Dianne C.)