

TRI-COUNTY HAZARDOUS WASTE AND RECYCLING PROGRAM
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #24
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011
9am-Noon / Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Kristy Beachamp, George Fischer, Tracie Hornung, Kevin Liburdy, Sandy Macnab, Mike Matthews, Glenn Pierce, Karen Skiles

Staff Present:

Cindy Brown, Kathi Hall, Karen Murray, David Skakel

Guests Present: Bruce Lumper, Jim Winterbottom

Meeting Began at 9:03am

Welcome and Cindy Brown Resignation:

Glenn welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves. Glenn announced Cindy Brown's resignation and acknowledged Sandy Macnab's participation in the situation; Cindy will now be working for Sandy Macnab and the Sherman County Extension Service office with Youth Development and Agriculture Education. Glenn clarified that it had been no secret that Cindy wanted to find work closer to her home in the Moro area with the price of gasoline on the rise. Sandy Macnab had been her mentor before....he had even introduced Cindy to the idea of applying for the job here at Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling! David acknowledged the fact that Cindy had written a detailed, 15-page, "Owner's Manual" after he prompted her to elaborate on paper about her job description. The overall feeling in the room was that Sandy Macnab will enjoy "working for Cindy." Everyone was invited to a "Cindy Celebration" potluck at Karen Murray's house at 6pm on March 12th.

Minutes:

- 3 sets of minutes were approved: Sandy Macnab moved and Kristy Beachamp seconded that the minutes of October 27th meeting be approved and motion passes unanimously.
- Karen Skiles moved to accept the minutes of Organics Subcommittee meeting. Tracie Hornung seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Sandy Macnab moved to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting in December. Mike Matthews seconded the motion and it, too, passed unanimously.

Budget Discussion and Approval:

Certain items were pointed out and discussed in the budget : The COLA and Insurance figures were high but the committee agreed to leave them unchanged. Sandy Macnab asked if part of

the carry-over could be put into long-term savings to be used as a “cushion,” in case the program needed the funds later. He had known a program that did that, in case they needed it.

It was pointed out that the carry-over was steadily declining throughout the years and that there was no reason to believe that there would be an “up” side soon.....things would stay “flat,” for a while and the program would have to “tighten its’ belt.” The two HHW sites were mentioned and besides some paving at The Dalles Transfer Station HHW site, there was no need for capital improvements. (Paving should happen by this summer, 2011) This paving will allow PSC to use a forklift easier and safer.

Kevin Liburdy moved to accept the 2011/2012 budget and Karen Skiles seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The 2011/2012 budget was approved. Glenn thanked everyone and Kevin thought the staff had done an admirable job.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement:

Karen Skiles asked if we were going to be working on updating the language of the Inter-Governmental Agreement to better reflect what the program is really doing. A subcommittee was formed of Karen Skiles, Glenn Pierce, Kristy Beachamp and Sandy Macnab to review and update the IGA. Basically, the steering committee would authorize the committee and the committee would wait until the new staff was on board (June 2011?) to do the review and update. Karen Skiles made a motion for the IGA update and Sandy Macnab seconded it and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Progress Reports:

David gave a report on hazardous waste and how the volume has increased dramatically over the last year.....60% increase and volume but only a 20% increase in cost. Why? The program has started doing monthly hazardous waste events in both Hood River and The Dalles and even doing some special collection days for orchardists, businesses and the rural communities. Also, with the addition of the latex paint into the program, the program does not pay for that portion of the collection. David mentioned that we are still getting newcomers into the collection program and Sandy Macnab mentioned that with farms increasing in size and “new guys” taking over, the “clean-out” by the new guys can be extensive. A lot of the “old stuff” is dropped off at the Hazardous Waste sites.

David was directed to amend the language on one of the paragraphs clarifying that the overall collection costs went up but the charges to Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling only went up 20%.

David mentioned that he was staying involved on the statewide work on “Product Stewardship” as it relates to mercury-containing lighting, packaging, bottle bill, paint, pharmaceuticals and plastic bags.

Karen gave an overview of the numbers of Master Recyclers in our program and how many have gone on to become “certified.” Certified Master Recyclers have volunteered 30 hours or more back to the program. Right now we have 8 certified Master Recyclers with several quite close to their 30 hours. Altogether, we have 30 individuals that are keeping track of their hours on our software program. The total number of hours is 573 hours. Master Recyclers are critical to increasing our capacity for outreach. Newsletters will be more frequent and 2 newsletters were shared. Monthly newsletters will be the goal.

David showed off the “Party Pack” of durable wear for groups not wanting to use disposable plates, cups and silverware. We now have buckets with 20 sets of cups, plates and silverware that people can check out through our office.

Cindy made the announcement that DEQ awarded the 6% credit to all 3 counties(Hood River, Wasco and Sherman) for extensive activities in reuse, composting and waste prevention. Bruce Lumper from DEQ mentioned that in the future, Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program may only have to do one combined report.

Cindy shared the new guide that is now shared at hazardous waste events to the public.

Jim Winterbottom from Waste Connections, shared information on the pilot program involving organics collection that he has been involved with in Hood River and The Dalles. Jim has actually driven the truck to collect “preconsumer food wastes” to 6 sites in Hood River,(HR Inn, Turtle Island Dairy, Rosaura, a Floral shop, Insitu and one other place. He also picks up from Google in The Dalles.) This materials goes right to the Dirt Hugger site for composting instead of to the landfill.

Jim had on display 3 different sizes of roll carts and spoke of the importance of color-coding the material collected. In Gresham, where he lives, the black lidded cart is the garbage, the blue lidded cart is the co-mingled recyclables and the green lid is the yard debri. The question for this area is, “ **How do we increase participation in recycling, over-all?**” What about garbage collection every week with a specific roll cart (so it can be hooked to a truck and dumped...avoiding the “shagging,”) and then the recycling and yard debri would be picked up every other week? Worker safety factors in and Jim repeated, more than once, that his company is flexible and whatever the community wanted. Jim mentioned that most all the yard debri that has been piling up at HR Garbage has been trucked to Dirt Hugger...like 300 tons of yard debri to be ground....grinded?

It was mentioned by Bruce Lumper that Dirt Hugger was processing A LOT of material...How much was too much? That was something to think about.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen G. Murray