

**- Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program -
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, June 29, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue Conference Room

Present

Heather Alexander (NCPHD), Kristy Beachamp (Dufur), Kathi Hall (NCPHD), Tracie Hornung (Mosier), Kevin Liburdy (Vice Chair, City of Hood River), Bruce Lumpert (DEQ), Sandy Macnab (Sherman County), Mike Matthews (Hood River County), Mike Miles (City of Maupin), Glenn Pierce (Chair, Wasco County), David Skakel (Tri-County HWR), Karen Skiles (City of The Dalles), Jim Winterbottom (TD Disposal)

Minutes taken by: Laurie Jupe

Welcome & Introductions: Glenn

- Glenn welcomed all present to the 25th meeting of the Steering Committee.
- Introductions were made around the table of all present.

Staff Changes: Glenn

- Heather Alexander is the new Solid Waste Specialist. Heather brings to the program experience with fundraising, resource development planning, public information and marketing for Mosier Community School, Clackamas County Event Center, the Home At Last Program, West Linn-Wilsonville School District, Willamette Falls Hospital and Camp Fire USA and Mid-Columbia Medical Center. We are very excited to have Heather on board for the program.
- Glenn also gave special thanks to the interview committee for all their hard work on this selection. Special thanks to Jim Winterbottom, Kristy Beachamp from Dufur, Bruce and David for all your hard work.

Heather:

- Heather, Karen, and David attended the AOR Conference down in Seaside recently. Heather shared the exciting news that David Skakel had been nominated for Recycler of the Year award. During the conference they had an awards presentation on the Friday evening and although David did not win the Recycler of the Year he won "Individual Recycler of the Year". This award recognizes David not only for all his work with the program but also all his achievements as an individual. We are all very excited for David.
- Glenn passed around pictures and the announcement of David's win. Congratulations David and thank you for all of your great work.
- David thanked Glenn and spoke to the fact that the climate in Oregon is conducive to excellent partnerships and learning.

Approval of Minutes: Glenn

- All present reviewed the minutes. Glenn called for any changes or discussion on the minutes.
- ✚ Kevin Liburdy moved that the minutes be adopted as prepared.
- ✚ Sandy Macnab seconded the motion to adopt the minutes as prepared.
- ✚ The motion to adopt the minutes as prepared was passed unanimously.
- Glenn mentioned in regard to the Intergovernmental agreement that was mentioned in the minutes; the last time we set up a committee of Karen, Glenn, Kristy Beachamp, and Sandy Macnab to review and update the IGA. We have not gotten to that point yet because of staffing changes and trying to get back up to speed again. We will be contacting all of you in the months to come and moving forward with this.
- David mentioned that unless the Steering Committee wants us to push forward as soon as possible on that. Our goal would be to get some work product to the Steering Committee, not at the next meeting but at the following meeting, possibly the December meeting. As long as the Steering Committee is comfortable with that.

- With the new staff coming on board we are taking a deep look at our whole program and we are moving into more of a maintenance mode.
- There will be the Master Recycler training in the fall at the end of October.

Fiscal Report: Kathi Hall

Revenue:

- The surcharge is right now at \$258,041.00. That is 11 months. We are a little lower than what we projected. We are at 81% at present. This is through today.
- Sherman County is fully paid.
- Equipment sold: Not sure what that \$17,000.00. Includes the compost bins. Have over-estimated what the equipment sold would be in last year's budget.
- Postage reimbursement is for the newsletters. \$5,800.00
- Total percent received for the year is 78% or 78 ½%.
- Kathi called for any questions. There were no questions.

Expenditure:

- Personal Services - bottom right - 73% through May - for the year.
- Material & Services:
 - Budget promotion & advertising is \$20,000.00 for 2011-2012 year.
- Contracted services - includes PSE
 - ½ of what was budgeted.
 - Question arose: "Why was it so low?" Greatly over budgeted for this. Need to be more accurate.
 - More in line for next year.
- General Grant: Is spent out.
- Mini Grants: Some left over.
 - The mini grant is in the summary report.
 - We did approve a \$5,000.00 limit - that was a second grant to Home at Last. This will help towards some job creation with creating a part-time recycling person at Home at Last.
 - Question arose: "Does staff approve the grants under \$5,000.00 without coming to the committee?" The small grants currently have been budgeted every year so far at a total budget of \$15,000.00 with a maximum of \$5,000.00 per grant. They were not intended to be large grants. They require the approval of Glenn Pierce.
- Hood River Ranger District: \$4,000.00 there - that may get extended into the next fiscal. We were going to match their government grant that they received, the local forest service up at Lost Lake have been providing some services at Lost Lake. Due to governmental bureaucracy they could not just receive the money, there had to be a contract drawn up. We are working through this at present. It won't happen before the end of this week - which is the end of the fiscal year. Question: "Was that for a service or was that for the actual physical containers?" This was capital for the actual physical containers.
- No Capital Expense: Budgeted \$75,000.00 in capital. Had planned for the paving and fixes at The Dalles Disposal at the HHW facility there will be the last major investment in facility improvements. Cost was \$11,000.00.
- Total Expenditures Budget is 37%.
- Kathi called for any questions on the expenses. There were no questions.

Trial Balance:

- Page 3. Bottom of that page - line stating Total Equities: Beginning balance was \$414,743.47.
- Total Debits & Credits: End Balance to date: \$265,941.82
 - When the rest of the expenditures and revenues come in, around August, we will have the final balance. Estimate for end of August: \$250,000.00.
- Copies to be emailed to the committee. Kathi will try to send out the copies of the budget prior to the meetings. Kathi requested a reminder prior to the next meeting.

Hazardous Waste Collections: David

- **Biodiesel Production:**

- Starting to see a real uptake in waste products from Biodiesel production.
- Individual people are making this biodiesel for their own personal use.
- Very high volume and it leaves a big footprint.
- Production can generate up to 2,000 lbs. per year of liquid waste.
- Typically it is glycerin, mixed with water, and methanol.
- Concern is beginning to grow and the question is what can we do with it?
- Is it possible to move towards a beneficial reuse?
- What is the proper disposal method?
- Is it hazardous waste?
- As it is liquid - it cannot go into the landfill.
- We need to know where to refer this issue? Have other communities already looked at the problem, are there solutions out there to be learned from?
- Mike Matthews mentioned **Jeff Fetkenhauer** - he may be a contact person. His lab has worked on testing biodiesel for quality standards. He might have an idea of what to do with the material.

- **Batteries:**

- Alkaline batteries - the non-rechargeable single use batteries have no option for recycling.
- Rechargeable batteries have programs for recycling that are available and have been in use for over a decade.
- Clients have been bringing them in, in the hopes of recycling them.
- There is no ability to locally recycle these batteries.
- The conclusion was drawn that they be disposed of in the landfill.
- The alternative would be to ship the batteries all the way to the east coast. Not feasible.
- It would be nice to have a better local solution than the landfill.
- PSC- have a local regional solution up in Seattle in Nucor Steel company. They take the batteries into the smelting process and use it in a recycling process. For a 55 gallon drum = \$225.00.
- David asked for input from the group as to thoughts on this.
- David asked the committee if we could start taking alkaline batteries.
- Question asked: "Are they considered a hazardous waste?" Not technically hazardous waste. The inside has a mineral mush. There is also a tin coating and zinc. Would like to give it a better purpose than just filling the landfill.
- The batteries are all sorted at the events.
- It was agreed that it would be beneficial to add this effort to the program.
- Sandy Macnab recommended that it would be excellent if a member of the HWR staff could write up a news article stating "New Opportunities in recycling - we are now able to accept alkaline batteries for recycling....."
- Question: "Would you accept them at The Dalles Disposal on a daily basis or just at events?" The recycling bins are typically for rechargeable batteries and car batteries but people have been putting the alkaline batteries in as well.
- Sandy Macnab recommended small placards could be put out at most battery displays where sold that could say "These are now recyclable - you no longer have to throw them in the garbage."

- ✚ Sandy Macnab moved that the Steering Committee approve to accept alkaline batteries in the HWR program and conduct the appropriate educational opportunities to inform the public.
- ✚ Karen Stiles seconded the motion to have the Steering Committee approve to accept alkaline batteries in the HWR program and conduct the appropriate educational opportunities.
- ✚ The motion was passed unanimously.

Rural Depots: David

- We have, under waste connections usage, - 6 - 30 yard recycling containers at various recycling depot sites. One depot is in Odell, one depot is at Mt. Hood Village and one is in Mosier. At each of these depots we have two of these 30 yard containers. All came from DEQ grants.
 - All but the one at Mt. Hood are no longer working. Mt. Hood is working.
 - How can the ones that are not in use be pulled back into service and put to good use in the community?
 - The containers are not in good shape. They need painting and the information on them needs updating.
 - Once placed, the containers are not typically moved. It takes a special truck to move the containers. Waste Connections has a truck to move the containers.
 - The containers could be placed at a large facility such as a college, schools, hospitals etc. where they can be controlled and overseen. Or they could be placed at a large event.
 - Jim Winterbottom felt that a depot, that is labeled and the compartments are done correctly would be a win for everyone. It could be an educational piece as well if labeled properly. With the compartments - having glass on the side is typically more efficient as there tends to be less glass than other items.
 - There needs to be an empty container available when one gets full so can replace immediately.
 - David mentioned that they have done a cost estimate: Local bids were looked at for removing the decals, repainting. Locally was almost twice as expensive as Waste Connections.
 - Waste Connections came in with:
 - \$400.00 per container for repainting at their paint shop in Vancouver.
 - \$150.00 roundtrip per box for transporting the containers.
 - David wasn't sure if the price included removing the existing decals.
 - Glen asked David if there was anything that he wanted from the Steering Committee in regard to the monies for repainting.
 - David felt that we possibly need to go and look at other alternatives. Looking for general support at this point but within our budget.
 - Jim Winterbottom explained that Waste Connections has a large facility in Vancouver that does all the work for the company. Jim stated that he emailed the facility and requested the amount for scraping down and repainting the depots. They will come back with the green of choice and then the transportation was knocked down to \$150.00. Jim stated that he will need to look into the removing of the decals.
 - Mike Miles recommended that the committee move to go with this right now. The job would be professionally done and long lasting.
 - Question: "If we did move forward with getting the depots ready - would we be able to put them to use soon?" "Is there a benefit to getting this on the move quickly, or is this something that is more of a long term goal?" David felt that there was no reason why we could not get them out as soon as they were ready.
 - Question of Jim Winterbottom: "Is there a truck available to facilitate the moving of the depots?" Jim stated yes.
- ✚ Mike Miles moved that the Steering Committee have the depots refurbished through Waste Connections and have them done as soon as possible.
- ✚ Tracie Hornung seconded the motion to have Waste Connections refurbish the depots.
- ✚ The motion was passed unanimously.

Program Vehicles: Glenn

- No decision is needed to be made at this time but we wanted to discuss the possible need for another Tri-County vehicle.
- The Prius is the vehicle for the program at present and it is working well.
- Now with Heather and Karen on board, the Tri-County program has been relying on Wasco County, the Health Department in particular, to borrow their vehicles at times when the Prius is already in use. These are not necessarily always available.

- Looking at options for: 1. Reimburse mileage for personal car use or 2. Should we buy a used or new car to have available to the program.
- Question: "What about finding a vehicle within the County? They are often looking to get rid of used vehicles from other departments?" Glenn stated that that option will definitely be an option looked at.
- Glenn stated that once all the options are looked at we will bring the information back to the group for discussion.

Strategic Planning: David/Heather

- **General: David:** Attended 2 conferences. Will be on the summary reports.
 - 1st was the Annual conference.
 - 2nd Karen and Heather attended a meeting in Gladstone, OR. How to work with schools more effectively. What is our real goal at the schools? How can we work affordably?
- **AOR Highlights: David**
 - **1.** State of Oregon has come up with a "**Climate Action Plan**"
 - As far as the environmental footprint of what we are doing - the recycling and the composting is definitely important but it is less important than the improved processing conditions and improved reuse of manufactured material.
 - Many other counties and cities around the State are looking at Climate Action Plans for their own communities.
 - Bruce Lumper mentioned that the College has just finished and signed off on a Climate Action Plan. Different colleges are involved in this process as well.
 - This is an area that we should look at and possibly formulate something for our region.
 - Overall there was good discussion about resources in the State, and sharing of information. Budgets are down in many areas but the marketing, advertising and messaging piece, which is a lot of what we can do; there was excellent information on in regard to sharing resources and borrowing each other's ideas.
 - **2.** Another area that seems to be at the forefront of discussion: **Drug take back**
 - Drug take back is related to Hazardous Waste, it is related to watershed health; it is also a human health issue.
 - There is a youth epidemic of prescription drug use in the 12 - 17 year old category.
 - We need real access for people to properly dispose of unwanted medications.
 - Bruce Lumper mentioned that Linda Stahl with MCMC is proposing to have a local take back in October as part of their health fair. If their planning committee approves that possibly Tri-County could partner with them.
 - Drop boxes, for returning medications, can be set up at police stations (this satisfies local law enforcement concerns). The boxes are made by the same companies who do library drop boxes for books. Each box is approximately \$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00.
 - We have not broached this subject with local partners as yet. Would like to have this conversation with the police departments at the city level to see if there is any interest in the three county areas. If so, David will bring it back to the Steering Committee to see if there is an interest in this.
 - The drop boxes are for preventing people getting access to illegal drugs. They allow parents, who are properly prescribed these medications, a safe way to dispose of these medications.
 - Karen Skiles spoke to the concerns of waste water treatment facilities who want to keep all the medications out of the rivers. Karen will be doing some publicity for the Public Works department when the new budget starts in July which will touch on this issue.
 - David mentioned that Tri-County is hesitant to take a lead role in this at present as the department is not looking at expansion at the present time. But it is very possible for us to work with and provide support to our community partners as we all work together on this issue. This type of collaboration is happening in other areas around the State as well.
- **New Staff and strategic planning: David**
 - With the new staff in place it has given us pause to really look at where we go from here. We have been in a phase of expansion and taken on the second part of our mission with recycling waste reduction.

- We are going to take some time to look very closely at the program, what we are doing, and how we want to move into the future.
- Glenn mentioned that this restructuring and organization is a part of the Intergovernmental agreement.
- We are doing weekly staff meetings which dovetail in with the monthly staff meetings with Glenn.
- Sustainable Schools Conference: Heather
 - One of the areas that we are looking is: How do we work with our schools in our area to help promote the messaging that we do.
 - The schools are currently stretched to their maximum with their budget constraints.
 - The question for us is: How we can work to aid the school staff in promoting and nurturing the next generations in a culture for reducing waste, reducing consumption, and recycling.
 - Questions that we are asking ourselves: Are there ways that we can all work together? How can we be more effective? What curriculum pieces or other resources are out there to offer to the educational staff?
 - The conference helped to show us what some other non-profit groups and other school districts, throughout the State, are doing for taking on sustainability initiatives.
 - State of Oregon Educational Department has developed a program called “Essential Skills”, which has an environmental component built into it. There are a number of curriculum opportunities that have been aligned officially to the Oregon Department of Education’s standards of requirements.
 - So we have some resources now to offer to teachers. It is a matter of building those relationships.
 - One of the challenges within the schools is sustainability - staff retire, are laid off, or move, students change schools.
 - Question: “Are you thinking just the Oregon side of the river or are you crossing into Washington and looking at what the other schools in the Mid-Columbia are doing?”
 - Heather is looking at what other schools are doing. They may have ideas that we can borrow and share.
 - All material used needs to be tied to the Oregon benchmarks in order for the teaching staff to make viable use of it.
 - There is some legislation coming down that started at the Federal level called “No Child Left Inside” and Oregon at the State level has taken this on as well.
 - Can we be a positive resource for the local schools during these difficult times?

Progress Report:

- Generally: Hazardous Waste Collection: David
 - The paint care program is in place. Paint Care is collecting about ½ of the hazardous waste that comes in to our events.
 - ¾ of the paint care that comes in is Paint Care paint. ¼ of it is other paint - automotive paint, it has no label on it, it’s not covered by the program. We are still covering the cost of approximately ¼ of the paint that comes in.
 - To date we have collected almost 84,000 lbs. It looks as if collection will be up about 20,000 lbs. for this year.
 - Volumes and participation are both up this year.
- Facilities: David
 - David showed pictures of the final fix to The Dalles facility.
 - Paving to the outside of the building area, traffic flow has changed.
 - Paving area now on the side of the building for drop off of large items or trouble loads.
 - Sandy Macnab asked if it was possible to get the large heavy duty plastic bags that can cover a 55 gallon drum to help avoid spillage/leakage. What we use now are the steel over pack not plastic. David has not heard of these and will look into them. Both facilities have Spill Kits.
 - Both facilities are working well. Do not anticipate any further maintenance.

- Grants Programs: David/Glenn
 - Home at Last - for the \$4,800.00 that was provided to them - they returned \$10,000.00 that year. With the extra that we are providing them for the containers - the revenue from the containers will result in the hiring of a new staff member.
- Legislative: David
 - **1. Bottle Bill: Had a last minute success.**
 - It broadens the requirements and collects a lot more of the drinks and juice containers.
 - The last fix brought in water bottles.
 - Changes may take approximately 4 - 5 years to finally be in place.
 - **2. OR E-Cycles Bill: Electronics Recycling Bill**
 - They expanded the program to add: Printers and peripherals. That includes mouse and keyboard.
 - Not sure when then bill comes in to play. Need to be careful about reporting this until we know when it will be in effect.
 - **3. Mercury-Containing Lighting Bill**
 - Watered down to such an extent that the proponents of it just pulled it.
 - **4. Plastic Bags Bill**
 - Did not pass.
 - Association of OR Recyclers: At the conference we attended they agreed to put together an advisory group of stakeholders to look into plastic bag solutions and impacts.
- Dirt Hugger Update: Heather
 - On June 16 Dirt Hugger received approval of their Type III permit from DEQ which gives them the ability to collect post-consumer food waste. (The food left over from your plate)
 - Prior to this they have only been able to collect pre-consumer food waste.
 - They are now the 10th full food scraps permitted facility in OR.
 - Working with Waste Connections on a roll out plan.
 - One of the areas that they are working on now is there is a lot of material out there that says it is compostable but it does not break down very well. If it does break down - what does it produce in the process?
 - They have sold out of their first three batches of their compost to date.
 - Currently they are working on their fourth batch of compost.
 - They hired their first employee on June 22.
 - Heather reviewed the numbers and offered to send copies to each of the attendees and members.
 - Full year of 2010, Jan. - Dec.: A total of 65.12 tons of Hood River County waste was diverted from the landfill. So far for this year (in 6 months) they have had 326 tons of Hood River County waste has been diverted from the landfill.
 - Looking at Wasco County, Jan. - Dec. 2010: 172.61 tons of Wasco County waste was diverted from the landfill. The first six months of this year 379.66 tons of Wasco County waste has been diverted from the landfill.
 - With them doing the food waste & scraps now - that material produces a lot of methane gas in the landfill which now will be diverted.
 - No information on the Google site option at present.

Wrap Up

- Glenn asked David if he had mentioned about Gorge Shred receiving their federal certification. David stated the information is included in the Summary Report.
- Bruce Lumper mentioned that Karen Murray has been the representative from the Steering Committee on the Open Burn policy for the City of The Dalles. Bruce was the rep. for DEQ for Air Quality and Solid Waste Program. That work has been completed and a proposal has been forwarded to the City Council for July 11. The proposal is to ban burn barrels in the City of The Dalles and to restrict open burning of yard debris to two times per year. It also proposes to expand the area out to include the urban growth boundary with Wasco County. Dirt Huggers was a rep. on the committee as well.

- Glenn mentioned that he had, had one request. Kristy Beachamp, representative from Dufur, was asking about going before her city council and giving an update on a periodic basis.
 - Kristy discussed with Glenn the types of things that she could say.
 - Glenn mentioned that possibly the progress report that is put out for the Steering Committee might be used for this purpose. Essentially it would be a program update with a local component.
 - It was discussed that it would be important to include specific local information for each of the areas to show what is being done locally.
 - We would like to make this available to all members of the Steering Committee for them to present to their city or counties.
 - David, Heather and Glenn have not finalized a solution, or exactly how it will work as yet. The details are still being discussed and ironed out.
 - Each report would be tailored for the specific City or County for each member.
 - David proposed that a Steering Committee representative and one of the staffers could present to each city or county once per year.
 - Members also liked the idea of a quarterly report which could be presented locally as well.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.