

Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 14, 2011 from 9am-11:30am
Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue Conference Room

Present

Heather Alexander (NCPHD/Tri-County HWR), David Skakel (NCPHD/Tri-County HWR), Kristy Beachamp (Dufur) Kathi Hall (NCPHD), Tracie Hornung (Mosier), Kevin Liburdy (Vice Chair, City of Hood River), Sandy Macnab (Sherman County), Glenn Pierce (Chair, Wasco County and NCPHD), Jim Winterbottom (The Dalles Disposal) and Tyson Wilcox, visitor from MCMC

Absent: Bruce Lumper (DEQ), and Karen Skiles (City of The Dalles)

Minutes taken by: Karen Murray

Glenn welcomed everyone (it was the 26th meeting of the Steering Committee) and introductions were made around the room. David mentioned sending a Doodle Poll to set-up the next meeting in December after surveying the group on proposed dates within the second and third week in December. Prior to that next meeting, he spoke of the meeting to review IGA agreements in early November with the IGA Review Committee.

Sandy mentioned that the minutes might be easier/quicker to read if they were in paragraph form rather than bulleted style and shorter. Tracie made a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Sandy and unanimously passed by the group.

Fiscal Report

David passed out revenue, expenditure and trial balance pages for 2010-2011 for those that needed them. (Tracie asked that they be sent as a pdf. file instead of Excel file because she couldn't open them.) Heather shared that she is working with Kathi Hall to know what the program's expenditures are on a monthly basis now. Kathi mentioned that there hadn't been much change in the revenue since June because any revenue received July and August for the previous year, we won't see until the end of September when they "close the books." Kathi mentioned that the surcharge revenue was down because the estimates were based previous years and difficult to predict. With construction down, the amount disposed was down and the surcharge was lower. Therefore, for the current year, less money was budgeted. Personal services were at 80% for the year and "Building Repair and Maintenance" category appeared overspent. But, it was pointed out that because the building of a shed was less than \$5000,(\$4080) it could not go under capital

expenditures and had to be transferred into "Building Repair and Maintenance", thus the overspending. Kathi plans on sending out complete financial reports from last year after September with the accurate beginning balance for this year. Overall, we came in "under budget." David mentioned plans to fully discuss last year's budget at the December meeting with the completed figures. Kristy moved to accept the financial statements as presented and Kevin seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Hazardous Waste Collection Summary

David shared the Hazardous Waste Collection Summary spreadsheet and pointed out the PaintCare savings to the program. With the PaintCare Program starting in July of 2010, about 20% of our collection/disposal costs are covered with the savings from PaintCare. Comparing 2010 and 2011 figures, the average poundage has increased and does not appear to be decreasing yet. Half of the people coming to the hazardous waste collection events are new people and the agriculture hazardous waste volumes have continued to increase.

Other

All the work is complete at both the Hood River and The Dalles site and a successful inspection by DEQ was accomplished recently. There was a question on the standard lighting at The Dalles building and we are waiting to see if DEQ recommends more "explosion-resistant" lighting. Since explosives are not accepted at our collections, the issue remains to be seen if a change needs to be made. In related matters, Jim Winterbottom reported that he will have a self-contained eyewash station at the HR site.

Glenn reported that David had successfully completed his 8 hr. HazWoper refresher course and that Heather will be taking the 24 hr HazWoper course within a couple of weeks. David also mentioned that we have been very pleased with the customer relations that PSC has at the events.

We are collecting all kinds of batteries now, even alkaline. PSC has a market in the Seattle area for the alkaline batteries and it is great to be able to take them from the public.

We are now taking paper and documents to be shredded at both The Dalles and the Hood River hazardous waste events (on a trial basis) utilizing Gorge Security Shred locked carts. It is "self-serve" where the public places their papers to be shred through the slot in the locked roll cart and the carts are locked up in our buildings until they are picked up by Gorge Security Shred.

More and more biodiesel waste is coming into our hazardous waste events and David plans on doing more research in regards to being able to sell it as a commodity versus

handle it as a waste product. He wants to be sure that PSC is OK with the idea but the main point is the "cost-avoidance" and better re-use of the product.

David reported on some collaboration that took place in consolidating and re-using some paving-related diesel/tackcoat liquid and the siphoning off of the diesel to be used in smudge pots. The final result was only 5 barrels (instead of 20!) of hazardous waste. The cost savings was substantial with a little bit of problem-solving.

Progress Reports

Kristy shared information about the program with the Dufur City Council and it was well-received. Trying to work with the different communities on when the best times for the hazardous waste collections can be challenging. The May 5th Saturday was suggested as it avoids the Dufur Road Rally. Sandy mentioned that a Friday in early May might work for Sherman County's Haz. Waste event. A Friday/Saturday pairing with 2 outlying/rural communities is a possibility with PSC as it could be cost-saving. Also, we are currently working on advertising and promoting the rural events more than we have in the past.

David mentioned at the event in Odell, over half of the participants (or more) saw the sandwich board reminder and decided to come to the event. Reaching the public in as many different ways to advertise the hazardous waste events is important and we plan on stepping up our advertising of the events in the rural communities 1-2 weeks prior. Sandy mentioned high students, who need community service hours, could distribute flyers.

Heather gave an overview of the promotion, education and business outreach that she has been involved with since she started working with the program. She has been working with the Chambers of Commerce on Event Recycling issues, (especially pre-planning for recycling at the events), advertising hazardous waste collections, working at Farmers' Markets, tabling and providing ClearStreams at County Fairs, helping to plan the celebration for the Gorge Discovery Center with 25th Anniversary of the Gorge Scenic Act as well as working with the different groups involved with MCMC's Drug Take-Back Event for Oct. 1st. The hope for the future on the Drug Take-Back Event is that Hood River's Providence Hospital will host a similar event next year, around the same time, and the drugs can be taken down to the incinerator in Marion County's Covanta together, saving transportation time and energy. (Law Enforcement is required to be the transporter of the drugs to the incinerator.) David asked that there be a motion to approve the support our program is giving to drug take-back events. Kristy made a motion to that effect and Sandy seconded it and the committee unanimously approved of TCHWRP being a partner with such events.

In other program news, Heather pointed out that our presence at Farmers' Markets this summer was very influential in that over $\frac{1}{2}$ of our Master Recyclers for our new class, heard about it at a Farmers' Market table that our program and Master Recyclers staffed.

Inter-Governmental Agreements will be reviewed by David and Glenn, then Kristy, Karen Skiles and Sandy and be ready for review and decision-making by the next December meeting. Improvements of the initial language on the original agreements are expected to bring the agreements up-to-date.

2010 Recycling Recovery numbers for Wasco County were reviewed with a total of 33.9%, just shy of the legislative recovery rate of 35%. The point was made that in our hazardous waste events, 75% of everything we collected was also recycled. In Wasco County, that added 25.5 tons of recycling. In Hood River County, it added 36 tons of extra recycling, related to hazardous waste. In Sherman County with one hazardous waste event, it added .75 ton of recycled material. David pointed out that electronics (E-waste) continues to rise going from 72 tons in 2009 and up to 97 tons in 2010. And, animal waste in terms of grease (like from rendering markets perhaps) has gone from 30-40 tons to 102 tons. Yard debris is also up.

Karen and Heather reported that the fourth group of Master Recycler training started last night with 10 participants. Altogether there are 8 Tuesday night classes for $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours and 2 Saturday field trips. It looks to be a great group for Class 4 with lots of guest speakers.

David reported on small grants given to both the Home At Last Animal Shelter and US Forest Service's Lost Lake Campground, to recover bottle and can deposits, keeping them out of the landfill. Home At Last needs another cargo trailer and Lost Lake needed bear-proof containers. Lost Lake is working with the Boy Scouts on the project.

David reported that we are also working with "JoeBoard", a community on-line classified ads company, to provide an on-line business exchange component. For example, if a company had 5 five-gallon buckets available for free or for a cost, they could post that on-line and another company or individual might want to connect and obtain those items. David has been working on getting businesses to post things on-line.

David reported that DirtHugger now has a part-time employee from the Columbia Gorge Community College's Alternative Energy/Technology Program as well as an intern working for them. They are now accepting pre and post consumer waste. They are not currently taking the waxed cardboard or the compostable containers to keep their Organic Certification but they are looking into a dual-stream set-up for the future. They also have a new aeration system running underneath their wind-rowed piles to speed up the composting process with water being distributed from overhead piping. Their numbers of

of pre-disposed waste that is now currently being recycled will start showing up in our Recycling Recovery reports.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.