

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9th, 2015
Wasco County Planning Department
2705 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles, OR

Committee Members Present

Steve Kramer (Chair, Wasco County); Kevin Liburdy (Vice Chair, City of Hood River); Mike Matthews (Hood River County EH); Gordon Zimmerman (City Manager, Cascade Locks); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); and Kathie Richey (City of Maupin).

Non-Voting Members Present

Bruce Lumper

Staff Members Present

David Skakel, Tri-County HWR
Jensi Smith, Planning Department, Tri-County HWR staff

Guests Present

Bob Danko

At 8:30 a.m. Chair Steve Kramer, Wasco County Commissioner called the Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program Steering Committee meeting to order.

Summary of Actions Taken

Motion by Gordon Zimmerman, second by Kevin Liburdy to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2015 steering committee meeting with correction to page 5.

Vote: 6-0
Yes: Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Pat Bozanich, Kathie Richey
No: 0
Abstain: 1 – Linda Miller
Motion Carried.

Motion by Gordon Zimmerman, second by Kevin Liburdy to approve the Financial Report with noted adjustments.

Vote: 7-0
Yes: Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Linda Miller, Pat Bozanich, Kathie Richey
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Motion Carried.

Motion by Gordon Zimmerman, second by Pat Bozanich to approve the small grants program. Clarification about where the money was coming from with approval.

Vote: 7-0
Yes: Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Linda Miller, Pat Bozanich, Kathie Richey
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Motion Carried.

Motion by Gordon Zimmerman, second by Mike Matthews to approve MHTH application for small grant. With note of a one year report added to proposal.

Vote: 7-0
Yes: Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Linda Miller, Pat Bozanich, Kathie Richey
No: 0
Abstain: 0
Motion Carried.

Welcome and Introductions

- Steve Kramer welcomed everyone. Round table introductions.

Schedule Future Meetings

- The next regularly scheduled steering committee meeting will be on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Location will be at Wasco County's Planning Department).
- Future quarterly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Location will be at Wasco County's Planning Department)

Fiscal Report

- David reviewed the revenue and expenses.
 - The HHW surcharges are low, with only 2 months revenue showing. There should be an additional 2 months reflected on this report. This revenue has been steady; it has not been going down. This revenue comes from a standard rate from the landfill, not from the hauler. We have an agreement with Sherman County so they are will pay the same rate per capita as Wasco and Hood River. A comparison of the costs to customers verses what the land fill pays – these seemed comparable.
 - If Hood River changes to roll carts, there would be a decrease in revenue to the program. Our income comes monthly from agreements with the landfill. This has not changed since 2006, even though the scope has changed.

- It was noted that a meeting with Wasco County's financial officer had been scheduled to get the Financial Report updated to reflect any changes.
- The cell phone expenses have not been morphed together yet. Discussion of charges reflecting office vs. cell phone. There may need to be a procedural adjustment to count policy to correctly identify these expenses.
- The costs of collection were discussed (75K), identifying that with an additional staff person, we should be able to hone in on actual expenses, with the long term duty of the staff to find ways to put some of these costs somewhere else.
- The large encumbered amount listed so these expenses can all be listed on one Purchase Order for collection costs.
- Motion to approve with the caveat that it would get the corrections

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2015 meeting was approved with correction to a typo on pg. 5 – under the Hood River Waste Work Group section: should read '*consider to switch from*' not form.

Staff Position (new hire-Jensi Smith)

David stated the timing was good for a new hire, as we don't have a lot of collection events until spring. It is a good time to have training, a chance to get familiar with the subject matter.

Goals & Policy Sub-Committee

- David shared it isn't on the agenda but the budget committee needs to be reactivated. Bruce, Steve and Kevin joined. David will send out doodle poll to schedule meetings. Task is to prepare draft budget for March Steering meeting.

Grants: policies, procedures and forms

- Steve commented that Bruce and Pat had done a great job, with him cheerleading from the side. David stated a good deal of time had been spent to bring the small grant process back, using documents that had been part of the large grants program in the past.
- Pat asked to add a sign-off by the grant requester's board (if applicable) to the grant application form. It was noted individuals can now apply for these grant funds, so it would apply to groups. Steve noted that is by consensus that this should be added.
- Motion to approve with clarification about where the money is coming from.
- Previous grant application from Home At Last (HAL). Review of amount requested, current status and recommendation for next steps. Would there be a moratorium on grants awards to HAL (answer-no). Home-At-Last has other funding sources but have also proven they have a great model. Comment that if we have funds left for this year, should HAL be invited to bring their application back. Also to assure that others in the community are made aware of these funds.

MHTH Grant application:

- Bob Danko, representing the MHTH grant application, was introduced. He is a long time volunteer to the program. Bob presented a summary of the proposal. This site has been a

rural recycle depot since 2006. People have been educated on what is accepted and they now have a volunteer living close to help when folks come to donate. They had noted there were a lot of nickels being deposited, with these funds going somewhere else. The group decided it would be good for their organization if they volunteered to do the work, they could fund renovations to their facility.

- Transportation should not be a problem, but they need funds to get a trailer. Their annual budget is 40K. They are now able to fund a part time manager and custodian, to help keep things looking nice, allowing for more rental income. *Opportunity Connections* will use totes for the glass, versus boxes. This saves on labor. MHTH would deliver to Opportunity Connections. Bob would like to not have all his eggs with OC, as they get half the money.
- The container is designed to be very cleanable, with dividers to help sort items.
- Discussion on community partners that could help MHTH receive the full redemption value. Bob hopes to involve OBRC truck to pick up directly from MHTH eventually.
- There were also concerns about the gleaners who come to remove items to collect the redemption values. They have been notified that once the container is in place they wouldn't be able to continue to retrieve the items. Currently there is a consensus they would rather have the gleaners get the money than have it leave the area. MHTH is working on ways to address the needs of some of these low income folks who are doing the gleaning.
- Pat noted she would like to see the final report in December versus February, so data could be collected. Bruce noted it might be good to have an annual report. Bob said he would be happy to share all kinds of data with David, who could share what he thought was necessary.
- Bob is dealing with CARS, using a local source for the trailer. These folks gave a \$500 discount on the cost of the trailer. The check will go directly to MHTH.
- Gordon Zimmerman made a motion, Mike Matthews 2nd. with the one year report added to the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Miscellaneous

- **Sherman County representation**
 - Sandy McNab is near retirement, but he would be able to attend the March steering committee. He has requested that they start looking at someone else to represent Sherman county. Steve will push to have them re-appoint Sandy or get someone to replace him. Sherman County may not continue to be part of the Tri-County group.
 - Financially there could be a loss of 10K with the cost savings of about half of that. The hope would be that Sherman County would stay with us.
- **General Update**
 - With additional staff, we can focus on training and preparation for events, with focus on the outreach. We are currently the Green Schools coordinator, but will not be able to go to all the area schools.
 - We don't have the capacity to start the Master Recyclers program, but possibly reach out to those who were involved in the past.
 - There is a cost to take the Recycling 101 course, between \$60-\$75. We have purchased discounted blocks of five registrations. with \$1000 committed to subsidize registration fees and some direct funds for this. This was designed to replace Master Recycler trainings.
 - Master Recycler Potlucks have been used in the past to share information.

- The Strategic Plan is updated annually, with specific focus areas and expenditures of funds. This helps the Steering Committee guide staff for next year's activities.
- March meeting will look at the budget; June meeting can address the Strategic Plan.
- PowerPoint noted recent activities, focusing on safety concerns at events.

- **HHW Operations**

- We will work on analyzing data already collected from collection events. This work will start in the next couple of weeks, with some information available by the March meeting. This will include information about outreach and education events.
- Money was saved by going to quarterly events instead of monthly. Hood River events are typically 30% busier than The Dalles.
- Appointments can be available for those who are not able to attend the scheduled collection events, but items must be brought to The Dalles. We do not charge for these. Striving to be part of the solution.
- David showed photos of the East coast redemption centers (in Maine).
- LEGO Robotics team challenge for this year is trash. David has worked with youth groups in the area. One group came up with the idea for a smart phone app that tells you where recycling centers are located, information on hazardous collection events, thrift store options, etc. Google is involved. Another team advocated for 'best practices for recycling' curriculum in Oregon schools.

- **Ag Events –**

- These are once a year: Moro in May collects everything. Hood River and The Dalles events are in November. The extension office was great in getting the information out. The turnout was really good. Total bill was about 15K, which is average. We continue to look at ways to offset the costs.

- **Lighting**

- Security issues – No lighting on the outside at the event sites. David will explore options to provide lighting. He will bring costs and options to the next meeting. The consensus is it should not cost more than \$1,000.

- **Mel's Sanitation Service**

- This is an ongoing change of service with the loss of recycling opportunity out there. Steve noted we are working on the recycling piece. Tomorrow's conversation will hopefully have some resolution. Steve is hearing that taking it to the landfill is cheaper than recycling, so how are these solid waste issues going to be resolved. How do we want to do this in our local area? We need to look at ways to get recycling into the rural areas.
- An inquiry about a local site in South Wasco that might be similar to the MHTH. Steve noted there is - the South Wasco Alliance. The old Tygh Valley school is now the community center. He is hoping someone will step up and say "*let's put it here*".
- Will the Maupin site be just for Maupin or a south county depot? There is continuing work on this. As it is unincorporated, the county will need to be the lead on this. Tygh Valley may be able to use the MHTH as an example.
- Recycling Tri-fold: The tri-fold flier mailed out, with mention of Mel's left off.

Hood River Waste Work Group

- City of Hood River looking at changing from blue bins to roll carts. This would include food and yard waste, resulting in lost revenue for our program. It plays well with our mission but does impact finances. Dirt Hugger would be the likely place to take this kind of waste. Waste Connections would be the collector. We could make some estimates on the impact this will have, taking another look at how our program gets our fees (tonnage or hauler's service fees)
- In survey conducted, data used only from from Hood River residents. Found those folks were in favor of changes, and were also willing to pay more for the service to discard food and yard waste. We would work with Waste Connections on the contamination issue.

- **AOC Solid Waste Sub-Committee**
 - David shared that product stewardship is a form of revenue via cost avoidance. Metro is proposing a statewide EPR bill for household hazardous waste. This is also being engaged on a national level. It's complex figuring out who is going to pay for what. What would be the cost savings to our program? 2016 will be informational with possible action in 2017 in Salem. EPR for batteries got squashed a few years ago because some stakeholders had objections. AOC is looking at statewide EPR. Lane County is starting a demo program for meds collection. Hoping that to eventually be funded by the pharmaceutical companies.
 - We continue to be burdened by sorting collected batteries. Certain kinds need to be handled differently. We want to track the data on the costs. We had to get an additional employee in for a couple of days to get caught up. Rechargeable batteries cannot be sent to landfills. Single use batters are now sent to Seattle, where they are used as a fuel. EPR legislation in other states is being passed, with manufacturers asking legislatures to make a law that applies to domestic and others.
 - Steve stated there had been a suggestion to have our message shared with *YouthThink*. David will share our drop sites with them so they can include this information on their fliers.
 - Port of Hood River reportedly interested in co-generation at water treatment plant center.
 - Washougal – Stericycle's sorting facility for hazardous waste. They have to have it sorted and dispersed within 10 days. To view, you need to make an appointment. They are still doing medical waste.

- **Other**

11:21 a.m. Meeting Adjourned

Minutes taken by Jensi Smith