

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Notes
 Wednesday, September 13, 2017
 Wasco County Planning Department
 2705 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles, OR

Voting Committee Members Present

Steve Kramer, Chair; Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks)

Absent Members

Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Kathie Richey (City of Maupin); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River);

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Bruce Lumper, John Zalaznik

Staff Members Present

David Skakel, Coordinator
 Jeni Smith, Program Assistant
 Angie Brewer, Planning Director

Guests Present

Jim Winterbottom

Summary of Actions Taken

Vote	
Yes	
No	
Abstained	

No Quorum

Action Item	Send out Doodle poll to set up meetings for the Work Plan Subcommittee
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Action item	Send Summary Report to committee
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Action Item	Jim will discuss with David the possibility of paying for postage for The Dalles & Hood River to do an additional newsletter/ mailing.
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Action Item	David will confirm bids for facility lighting
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Welcome

- Meeting began at 8:35. Chair Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

- December 13th – confirmed
- March 14th – straw poll indicated this was the best date

Minutes – 6/14/17 Meeting

- David asked if anyone had comments or concerns about the meeting minutes:

It was noted that John Zalaznik was not at the meeting as indicated on the roll call, so his name will be stricken from the minutes. There weren't enough voting members for a quorum, so this will be held over for a vote until the next meeting.

Fiscal Report

- David reviewed financial information with the group. The year-end report had noteworthy items highlighted at the top. David explained the shortages, noting there had been a meeting between our Finance office and the Health district. The Finance Manager felt that the numbers presented were correct. David also reviewed the increase in projected revenue. He reviewed the Contracted Service line item, noting that we had budgeted enough to cover the costs of two events from the previous fiscal year. David also noted the percentages at the bottom of the report, explaining the amounts that had 0% of those line items had been calculated to show the number we actually spent. Gordon noted that David had done well.
- David shared the beginning balance on the revenue and expense is showing as zero. Gordon said that in most cases it will not appear until an audit has been completed to verify the amount. David noted the current budget year numbers, showing the surcharge and expenses.
- Linda and Jim noted that with the interstate closed due to fire, less garbage is coming to the landfill.
- David noted the information on health care benefits is incorrect. The insurance benefits should be enough to cover both program positions, so he will work with Finance to correct this budgeted amount.
- The Contracted Services line is showing at 92% because the PO causes the amount dedicated to Stericycle to be encumbered.
- David explained the change to Office Supplies, having all supplies going into this line items-sharing that finance had made this change. David reviewed the purchase of the event recycling containers (ClearStreams). He had hoped to straddle the fiscal year budgets with this purchase but wasn't able to. All of this expense came out of FY 2017-18, he estimates we will be about \$3,500 over on this line item. David also shared that even with this purchase; we still had more demand than we had containers. He also explained the additional purchase of parts and carts to make our inventory complete. Angie noted that we may need to make an adjustment down the road, as we only have 18% of our budget left for the year. Angie shared that when she spoke with David, if we need to make an adjustment, to project a little farther ahead to give room for any other needs. David would like to do more long term forecasting when he works with the Budget committee that will be convened later this year. Angie said the Finance officer is concerned that we could run out of funds down the road. She would like to look at our strategy for the future. Bruce said this model is not good for the long haul. David said another item is to discuss what the FTE should be for the program. Angie said that maybe we can use the Work Plan to help guide the decisions on what we are able to do, considering the budget projections, etc.
- The fiscal report was accepted by the committee.

Committees

- We currently don't have any committees but should get the Work Plan committee together before the December meeting. This would inform the next phase in preparation for the budget build. Steve said we do not need to have a motion to put the committee together. The committee would be David, Bruce, Steve, Pat and Mike. A doodle poll will be sent out to get things rolling.

Work Plan

- David reviewed the Work Plan document, noting how items are tied to our goals and the additional info related to administrative tasks. David said there is concern about the costs of sharps disposal. He noted two issues: a bad contract that Jim inherited and whether we should be taking business sharps. The sharps in Sherman are taken care of at the Moro clinic. This discussion will continue. Bruce inquired about a ranking system. David said that the requirements are at the top. Steve said he has had conversations with the new administrator at the hospital to talk about the sharps issue. We are in the preliminary talks with the stakeholders on this, to find the best approach and what we should do to improve outreach. Bruce asked if Sherman would be at the table for this. Steve said this program would represent our partners. Steve noted we are also talking about the medicine takeback piece. (John Z. joined the meeting – 9:23)
- David shared a report that shows our collection at Cascade Locks since 2006. The big change has been adding the collection of electronics at our events. The cell phones are at no cost to us through Call2Recycle. The medicines do cost us and we are tracking that. The bundling seems to be attracting more customers, sometimes collecting more stuff, but the cost has showed to be less per pound. We have dedicated more Stericycle staff time for safety but with the bundling, it is not costing the program for the extra dedicated staff. Steve noted that the Strut program is moving, to be hosted with another organization.
- We also had on our list to expand our outreach to the marijuana growers. It will be more difficult with the medical growers because of HIPPA rules, but David is working on it. He spoke with a grower last night who said they have a need for our service to dispose of chemicals. John said there is no registered chemical with the EPA for marijuana. He wasn't sure if there was for hemp. Cindy said that because she works at the Extension office, which is federal, she might not be able to keep her position on the board if we were serving the growers. Angie also doesn't want to serve those that have illegal grows. She would be okay with marketing to farmers, as the growers contend they have been granted permission by the state to farm this product. Bruce suggested we work with the chemical dealers so that outreach could be done right there at the desk.

Miscellaneous

- Contamination Plans:

David spoke to the required contamination plan for the waste sheds. He will put together meetings Hood River and Wasco waste sheds to come up with a plan, particularly the City of Hood River and The Dalles. These meetings would include Jim Winterbottom, Jamie Jones, someone from Wasco County and someone from The Dalles. Linda indicated it would most likely be her. John asked what the scope of this meeting would be. David explained that these governments will need to have a contamination education plan – to improve recycling rates. David said that we will not be required to undertake an actual a solid waste assessment, we can extrapolate from what others have done. We will also use some reporting from the MRF where our materials are sent. These will be used to come up with the plan. John asked if there have been items identified as contaminants. David shared some examples noting it was really about how you go about it. David said we can meet the requirement without costing us too much.

- Waste Connections:

David said the recycling markets are having some serious disruptions right now. This is causing some problems in locally and in the region.

- A & P:

With this facility closing, as part of our mission, we can try to shepherd a conversation about what can be done. Jim said they take about 125-140 tons of cardboard to A&P, which will now go away. A&P collects additional amounts to that. Jim will have all of this to be dealt with at the end of this month. There is someone who is interested in taking on the cardboard but is not currently equipped to do so. Linda asked about the Dufur meeting. Jim said that once they found out the cost, the folks at Dufur backed off a little. Jim wants to help out, but he can't provide the service at a loss. Dufur citizens have formed a committee. There was more discussion on the logistics of collection and disposal of these materials.

- Legislative update:

Steve said there isn't a lot on this front. The medicine takeback lost by one vote. He heard the governor is going to make this a priority in the short session. The other, EPR for HHW is ongoing. The subcommittee at AOC, have been granted a phone conversation to put this on AOCs plate for any help. Plan B is to potentially utilizing Mark Nystrom who was let go by AOC to help facilitate conversations of product stewardship. Steve noted he has not has a lot of luck getting the message to his fellow commissioners but continues to work on it. Conversation about what options would be available with DEQs rules, looking for exceptions, how to generate conversations, etc.

- Large Event Recycling:

David shared that we have invested in the containers and we have been very busy with all the events that have been happening – the county fairs and others. He also mentioned that we have a number of containers up in Odell right now to help serve the firefighters that are on site now.

- City of Hood River Update:

Jim said that all in all it is going pretty good. There have been issues, but no changes have been implemented yet. Bruce asked about contamination. Jim said that he had heard from Dirt Huggers that it is the best materials they get. The organics piece is going really well, using the Oops tags informing customers when there is a problem. David noted we had projected a decrease in revenue due to organics diversion. It hasn't had as big an impact, with only a decrease of around \$3K - \$4K a year.

- Chinas National Sword Recycling import ban:

Jim shared the latest information on contamination info from China, reviewing the information he is receiving on current numbers and requirements. The Chinese National Sword is having a tremendous impact the industry. This could be a political issue. There are tons and tons of contaminated bales of recyclables that are not marketable right now. It was noted that it isn't just a local problem; it's a regional and national problem. It may be related to the storms, no way to tell at the time. Jim said it is very informal, we have had two months where it was negative value, paying just to get rid of the materials. Bruce asked if we were able to meet the requirement from China's Green Fence. Jim explained that changes were made but we are behind on meeting the needs with this change. David said conversations are happening, but there will need to be some group dialog soon. Angie said that maybe there is an opportunity with our second mailer, to help educate the average person to understand how important their sort at home is. Jim noted some of the issues he has had with self-haulers, etc. More discussion about the information we can share and the actual affects it has. Some are never going to hear the message, no matter how many times you tell them. David said we need to respond with outreach in a more comprehensive way. We first need to figure out what is going to be allowed and what will not. He suggested that our program and Waste Connections have a joint campaign, putting information out there in the newspaper, radio, etc. Jim said they had three mailers for the roll out in Hood River, with no change in behavior. Steve talked about the three Rs - what happened to Reduce and Reuse? Maybe we need to push that out into the communities, getting back to the essentials. Steve thinks we need to brainstorm our message. Bruce thinks it would be good to have the fall newsletter hit

this message again. More discussion about what the requirements from the state are and what options are available to meet those. David said this is something we need to share again.

- Metro RFP:

250K tons a year may be brought in from Metro. It doesn't affect our tipping fee/revenue because we only collect from local MSW. The county has not taken a position yet. The extra resources could benefit our road department, so it will need to be weighed out carefully. Steve noted the landfill is making improvements.

- Road Show:

Jim noted as a visitor that he felt he presentation last night in Dufur that was well done. David shared an update of where he has visited and where he will go, stating that it has been going well. Steve said that the folks will need to be retrained, if they want to get rid of it, they will need to pay for it. David reviewed the trends that were happening during the great recession. One thing we could be looking at emphasizing Reduce and Reuse, we could also be looking at Repair – waste reduction. There was more discussion about how to get the message to manufacturers and distributors that we don't want the clam shells, excess packaging, etc.

- Other:

David does not have the Summary Report ready for this meeting but will finish up and send to group via email. He also spoke about the annual mailings, reviewing the past publishing history. We have been doing one, but David thinks that we may be required to do two mailings a year. David said we have budget for printing and some of the postage to do an additional mailing. If Jim had the budget to cover the cities, we are interested in doing that. Jim will get back to him about this.

There was more discussion about the options with AOC. The phone call at the end of the month will help decide which options the group will take. Angie asked if the group is interested in shifting David's time towards the policy stuff, with a shift of other resources to cover other responsibilities of the program. There was more discussion about how the tasks are divided within the program. David said now we are seeking clarification from AOC as to what we can expect. What are the long term prospects for keeping the discussion and needs on the agenda? Discussion about what the changing FTE, what the changing roles might look like, and what the work management would look like. Bruce said that if we get to that, we should look at upping the FTE to accommodate that work load. Angie said she would like to discuss with the group things like the Master Recycler's program – would that activity help with our goals for reducing contamination, etc.

Steve noted that he will not run for a third term, leaving in 2021. He said we need to think about what kind of model we want to shift to going forward. Steve said that AOC has been deemed to be overstaffed from the state. Committees have combined, with three committees being staffed with one person. With reduced funding levels at AOC, and a new format, it appears that they are going to go to a platform based lobby group, leaving things at a high level. Everyone is waiting to see what is going to happen.

Abatement Program: The Program has a partnership with Wasco County's Code Compliance to help with abatement of properties that need to address the recycling and hazardous waste issues. David will spend some of his time advising them. Discussion about how the program is structured, how it is financed, youth services involvement, etc. There was also a discussion about individuals that help clean up roadsides, voucher systems, who pays when public locations are cleaned by private citizens. David shared a little about what the Programs responsibility is with the abatement program. Angie shared that the abatement program has purchased the pickup and trailer, but David has identified the need for a lift gate. Angie asked the group to consider what they might be willing to do, considering the purchase of

the lift gate. Jim said he thinks that the trailer with the ramp will do whatever you need the lift gate to do, using a hand truck. David shared that he was concerned about the large barrels and totes and having youth doing this work. Discussion on what the needs would be, how much David would need to be involved and when, how much the program can commit to with David's time. David shared that the trade for this being a Wasco County program, the Program has use of the truck and trailer to be used in the other parts of our service area.

Facility Lighting – David said it has fallen off the list of priorities. Jim said he will still commit to the \$5K for cost sharing. David said he needs to go back to the bids again, with the goal of hoping to get it done for the November events.

NAHMMA conference – David will present at the NW conference that will include a panel that includes himself, a hauler and the hazardous waste collector to crowd share ideas and resources.

Adjourned at 11:29

Notes taken by: Jensi Smith

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