

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Notes 6/27/18
Wasco County Planning Department
2705 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles, OR

Voting Committee Members Present

Steve Kramer, Chair (Wasco County); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Merle Keys (Dufur)

Absent Members

Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River)
Cindy Brown (Sherman County)
Linda Miller (City of The Dalles)
Kathie Richey (City of Maupin)
Mike Matthews (Hood River County)

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Bruce Lumper
John Zalaznik

Staff Members Present

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

Guests Present

Will Norris, City of Hood River

Welcome

- Meeting began at 8:40. Chair Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

- September 12th - Confirmed
- December 12th - Confirmed

Minutes –

- **3/14/18 Meeting** – Postponed for quorum

Fiscal Report

- David presented the financial report. Bruce asked about revenue – do we show excess over budgeted amount. Gordon explained that if we collect more than we budgeted for it will show in parenthesis. David said we don't have the last month of revenue for surcharge, but he is confident we will be approximately \$100K more than we estimated in the budget.
- David shared the fiscal expense summary from 2013 – present. He noted that much of the savings has been from PaintCare, but also the items we are diverting that are not being disposed of by Stericycle – fire extinguishers, propane tanks, etc. Another item is the lead acid batteries, which are heavy and are charged per pound to dispose of. David called out the items that are saving us money. He explained the partnership between Stericycle, PaintCare and the state E-Waste program with our

program, noting the cost avoidance we have by bundling the services with additional services without additional cost. Pat asked if paint is part of the increase in hazardous waste. David said that it is part of the increased volume in hazardous waste. Pat asked about medicine collection. David explained that at the events we have a contractor who is trained to recognize the controlled substances, which are then given back to the customer along with a pouch for them to return these medicines themselves. The other medicines are collected and disposed of, at a cost to the program.

- Angie asked about the time that items are stored at the facility. David explained that DEQ has rules and have approved the collection and storage of hazards at our facility. There is a clock on items, with a different time line for different items. David also explained that we pay per container, so if possible, we store until the containers are filled before disposal. David also noted that we don't keep items too long as we have events every three months that clean out items.

Grant Request

- Hood River Valley High School: Bruce asked about any matching funds as part of the grant. David responded that there isn't a match requirement for non-profit but there is for any for-profit organizations. David also noted that he received a call from a newly formed board from the Gorge Rebuild-It Center. He explained that they have asked us to meet with them, partly about the grants program and also to get a better understanding of where to go here, as David used to manage the business. He feels this type of business is in line with our mission but plans to take it slow.

Bylaws

- David noted that Kevin Liburdy had mentioned the wording; he red flagged the word Protect. David felt that he thought Kevin's concern was that Protect sounds regulatory. David isn't sure if we need to take another look at the Strategic Plan's Mission statement. Director Brewer noted on page 4, it talks about charge for administrative services, whether it was taken out annually, quarterly, or monthly. David noted on the financial report, it shows that 100% has been taken out – at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Recycling Advisory

- David noted there are some issues with decisions on what to do with recycling, as there is a big difference between urban and rural. He said British Columbia is running with EPR, their system is all handled at one MRF. Results are compelling, and deserve a thorough comparison with Oregon's.

Miscellaneous

- New Hire: This will be moving forward in the next month or so. Director Brewer shared that she is working with HR to complete the process. David mentioned that at the AOR conference, he met a few people who may be candidates.
- Marketing Plan: This is in the works and tied to the marketing budget. It will be implemented more with the new hire, working on social marketing.
- EPR & Compliance Truck: Impact on rural HHW collections: Mentioned in other conversation.
- EPA's E-Manifest System: David shared that Stericycle has informed us that the EPA has changed this process. Manifests will need to be run through the governments E-Manifest system, which will incur costs to the program.
- Beyond Toxics: David attended a presentation from a community in California which is a certified organic approach to weed management. This is happening now in some cities and counties. This came from concerns for children's safety at schools. Merle noted they manage the schools well in

Oregon. Pat asked if we are passing out the hazardous waste guides at our events. David shared that we giving them out, but has a capacity issue at the larger events.

- PSI/EPA Plastics Reduction Guide: David will share this with the group. It comes with case studies about durables verses disposables.
- Facilities: Lighting Update: Bruce noticed the lighting project has been completed. (Round of cheer from the group). David noted that the garbage company did a cost share with us on this.
- DEQ- Contamination Plan(s): Pat asked if DEQ is going to set standards. David noted the DEQ had developed some task forces to work on it. Chair Kramer shared that he felt that DEQ has heard the message that they are needed as partners in this, with less emphasis on just a regulator. David said he will look into the current status, find out where they are in their decision making process. This has been confusing and complex, making it difficult to move forward with implementing standards. He noted the Dufur recycling site. David also explained how the paper recycling is doing currently.

David noted we now have a contamination flier that has been approved by the garbage company and has been translated into Spanish. They are being given to customers that come into their offices. David is working with the garbage company to increase the use of tags at the curb. Bruce noted it might be good to put the contamination flier on the cart when they get an Oops tag. David said some changes are coming that may make it necessary for these materials to be updated.

- Other: Bruce mentioned the issue of commingled being hauled to the landfill. David stated he was aware. David said that it has been out in the media, also sharing that it is a contamination issue as well as a market issue. David also explained that it has been an additional concern with the closure of A&P. David explained that the garbage company didn't have a lot of options, only having the option to take the cardboard OR the contaminated commingled to the MRFs. David also mentioned the expansion of the bottle bill. He noted the bar codes will show redemption value but the labels are not required to be changed until the end of the year. Another thing that is changing is re-fillable bottles (Double Mountain Brewery).
- David shared with the group that he has been invited to speak at the National NAHHMA conference in late August. This was somewhat started because of a panel he sat on to present about EPR and local partnerships at the local NAHHMA conference.
- Chair Kramer shared that Mosier has banned plastic bags and straws, as well as the Hood River plastic bag ban. Chair Kramer said he is considering initiating a similar ban for Wasco County. He asked the city representatives at the table to take that back to their communities in the hopes of being unified regionally and to take on the contamination issue.
- Director Brewer asked about the eye washing station at HRG. David said it is in the budget and he will follow up with Waste Connections. This is not something that has a strict deadline.

Adjourned at 9:51 am

Notes taken by: Jensi Smith