

**Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program**  
**Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**  
 Wednesday, September 12, 2018  
 Wasco County Planning Department  
 2705 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, The Dalles, OR

**Voting Committee Members Present**

Steve Kramer, Chair; Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River); Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Merle Keys (Dufur)

**Absent Members**

Kathie Richey (City of Maupin)

**Non-Voting Committee Members Present**

**Staff Members Present**

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

**Guests Present**

Matt Slafkosky, DEQ  
 Jim Winterbottom, Waste Connections  
 Julie Tucker, Emerald Systems  
 Bob Schwarz, DEQ  
 Joe Wonderlick, Waste Connections  
 Kevin Green, Wasco County Landfill

**Summary of Actions Taken**

<b>Kevin motioned to approve the Minutes with corrections. Merle 2nd. All in favor.</b>	
Vote	<b>8-0-0</b>
Yes	<b>Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Cindy Brown, Mike Matthews, Pat Bozanich, Gordon Zimmerman, Linda Miller, Merle Keys</b>
No	<b>None</b>
Abstained	<b>None</b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

<b>Gordon motioned to approve the noted changes to the bylaws. Pat 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.</b>	
Vote	<b>8-0-0</b>
Yes	<b>Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Cindy Brown, Mike Matthews, Pat Bozanich, Gordon Zimmerman, Linda Miller, Merle Keys</b>
No	<b>None</b>
Abstained	<b>None</b>

**MOTION CARRIED**

<b>Action Item</b>	David to identify what the amounts listed on budget reports for Insurance and Bonds.
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<b>Action item</b>	Staff to put together info on banning plastic straws and bags, with model language.
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## **Welcome and Introductions**

- Meeting began at 8:38. Chair Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

## **Schedule Future Meetings**

- December 12 – confirmed
- March 13 - confirmed

## **Minutes – 1/25/17 Meeting**

- Chair Kramer asked if anyone had comments or concerns about the meeting minutes from 3.14.18. David noted there were some typos that he had identified on the draft. No other corrections were noted. Kevin Liburdy motioned to approve the minutes with noted typos corrected. Merle Keys 2<sup>nd</sup>. Eight in favor, none opposed. No abstentions. Motion carried.
- Chair Kramer asked if there were any comments from Notes taken on 6.27.18. No comments noted. There was consensus that no further action was needed, as these were not official minutes.

## **Financial Report**

- **FY 2017/18-**

David reviewed the end of the year report. He explained the difference between the budgeted and the actuals amounts shown on the report. David also noted there has been an increase in revenue, more than projected. It was stated that the Surcharge revenue came in about where it was projected, approximately \$405K. Some decrease in tonnage at the landfill from the new organics collection in the City of Hood River and also the small increase in tonnage from comingled being landfilled was noted.

Regarding expenses, David noted there was an increase in health benefits. He noted the budgeted amount was an error that never was corrected, resulting in an overage in that line item.

- **FY 2018/19-**

David noted this is Year-to-Date, observing the difference between the budgeted amounts verses the actuals. There currently isn't anything on actuals because the County hasn't updated, as they haven't completed their audit from last fiscal year. David noted the amount listed in Insurance and Bonds, stating he would find out what this amount reflects.

## **Bylaws**

Chair Kramer stated there is a need to address the bylaws. David reviewed the documents – one original and one redlined copy. David stated the quorum is the main issue to resolve, and providing convenience by allowing participation by email or phone.

Chair Kramer asked the group to review the document page- by-page with a consensus on each page updated. He noted the technology can help eliminate the need to travel. Chair Kramer stated anything can be updated in the future, if needed. David noted on page two – the word ‘protect’ may be a red flag, sounding regulatory. Kevin stated that maybe we should have updated the bylaws before the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan but wasn’t too concerned with that language. More discussion about using the term ‘protect’. There was consensus that Page 2 was good as written. Page three was reviewed, noting section two: Would the non-voting members or alternates appointed by the committee members represented be allowed to represent that IGA member, with the same authority. It was noted that the IGA members can chose to send an alternate. Gordon asked if someone attended from each of the IGA communities represented, would they be allowed to vote. Cindy said she felt this is a complicated process, not likely to be able to just get someone to come in to represent. David explained each member jurisdiction would be able to choose how they appoint an alternative. Director Brewer stated the language infers the IGA the organizations, not the individual steering committee members. There was more discussion about how alternates would be appointed or chosen. Chair Kramer said that Wasco County appoints people so they have representation at committees. Chair Kramer noted that each jurisdiction could decide how the alternate is appointed, stating the minutes reflect what has been happening at the meetings. Chair Kramer stated the point of this is to help spread the information, as well as the quorum issue. He also stated it would be helpful in case something came up, it gives an opportunity for the IGA members to decide if, and how the alternate is chosen. Mike Matthews stated he liked it, as the members aren’t going to be here forever, this would give an opportunity to train a replacement. David noted that each community could decide how they want to handle this. Kevin stated the Assistant City Manager from Hood River liked the idea, so he is supportive. The consensus was that these updates were good (Page three).

Page four – Kevin asked about Vice Chair selection at the *first* General Meeting. He asked if that is annually? David suggested striking ‘at the first general meeting’ and use something like ‘as needed’. Gordon noted that it currently states a two-year term. The consensus was to leave it as is and David noted this on draft.

Page five – David had some questions about ‘1C – regular meetings’, wondering about the Executive Session. Chair Kramer stated the public could attend the meeting, break for executive session without the public and come back to general attendance when business is completed.

Page six: Pat noted concern about special meetings. It was discussed that it is state law and can only be called on short notice if it were an emergency. Merle suggested that emergency could be added to the language. Pat said she would like it added. David stated that the Grant proposals would be an instance where the group may need to have a special meeting. No emergency language to be added.

Section two: There was discussion on proxy votes, would they be recognized. Chair Kramer stated the proxy vote would be to fill in for someone at the last minute verses an alternate. Gordon said he hasn’t seen any language defining the proxy vs. alternate. The alternate would have the same power and authority as the Steering Committee member according to David.

There was a discussion about 'Article Seven – majority rule'. Is it the majority of the members or the majority of member presents? Gordon said that it needs to be the majority of the committee, not just those who are at the meeting, commenting this is how the Cascade Locks charter is stated. David said he wants this section to be clear. Gordon suggested the word quorum muddies the waters. David suggested putting 'five members' in the language to clarify. Cindy suggested to place it after the word majority, (five) in parentheses. David noted on draft bylaws document. Kevin asked if we want to mirror this in the amendment of the bylaws. The consensus was yes.

Gordon moved to adopt the changes to the bylaws. Pat seconded. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Recycling Advisory Meeting**

- **Beta Testing cardboard baling at Cascade Locks (Emerald Systems)**

Julie introduced herself and explained the services that Emerald Systems provides. They are doing baling of cardboard for Hood River. They also do recycling of styrofoam; waste audits, helping businesses turn waste into revenue, operate the Dufur depot. Merle explained how the depot is running, stating it is going very well. Julie stated there is a baler there as well.

Chair Kramer asked about the project in Cascade Locks. Julie said they are learning, noting they need a bigger space. Julie shared they have a big baler, and recently had a large delivery of cardboard from Hood River Garbage. Julie said they have routes to pick up materials. Julie stated the cardboard only sits outside for a short period of time before it is taken inside. She explained they have made some improvements as they are learning the needs, noting they have cut down their time to do the work. Julie reviewed how they do the routes to pick up materials, listing some of their clients. She stated they want to support The Dalles Disposal, to work closely with them. Julie stated they have about twenty companies they work with to sell the materials.

Chair Kramer asked for feedback from Jim at Waste Connections. He said he thought this has been a learning process for Emerald Systems. Jim said he needs to have constant access to dump the materials. He explained it hasn't been working very well so far. Jim stated that when they do their cardboard route, he doesn't know what volume it will be. If the containers are full, they will need to dump it, so that creates a problem if they can't off load.

David asked if there were any other locations in Cascade Locks to move to. Gordon said the building is shared, so if the other business leaves, Emerald Systems could possibly have access to the whole building. He said there are other buildings but not currently available. Gordon said they are running out of room, but there are possibilities.

Pat asked Jim what percentage of his volume is Emerald Systems able to take. Jim stated the amount doesn't even move the needle. Chair Kramer said he would like to help facilitate, but these are two businesses that will have to work together on going forward.

- **Next Steps? Recycling Menu?**

David said there have been two meetings of the Recycling Advisory group, noting he wants the DEQ's perspective as well. The group has identified the issues and what to do to move forward. David said the group would meet again before the next Steering Committee meeting. David noted the grants program is something that can be leveraged, if needed. David stated there are no proposals at this time for the general grant funds. David said there are no changes for recycling at the moment, but is likely there will be in the future. He would like to be clear - the program doesn't have authority in this matter. The IGA members have franchise agreements that have a voice in this, with the program only being there in an advisory role. Pat noted that we do need to do education, so we need to know what is happening. David noted things are changing; the markets have changed with many places closing down their imports.

- **Plastic Ban Update?**

Bob Schwartz introduced himself – he is the acting materials management representative for DEQ here in The Dalles. David asked the status of the sub committees. Bob said no sub committees have taken place yet, but will be soon. Bob noted a previous recommendation from David that the British Columbia model be reviewed. Bob said consultants will study four or five systems. The request for proposals will go out soon with the reporting coming sometime in the beginning of 2019. David said that he is not advocating for a certain model, but to do the review of what is out there to compare. David shared what the British Columbia model looks like – primarily that it is EPR.

Director Brewer had a question about the timeline. Bob said it would be approximately April 2019 for the report. Director Brewer asked what the sense of urgency is. Bob stated they have temporary approvals (for landfilling some recyclables), but would like something more definitive, needing cleaner recycling streams or no one will take the materials. Bob stated there are monthly phone meetings where people share their knowledge. Director Brewer said there may need to be an emphasis to reduce and reuse, noting it sounds like contamination is still the primary issue. Gordon stated that DEQ will look at the information, but it will take a major legislative action before the changes will come. Some discussion about when this will make it to the Legislature. David said he believes the legislative approach is what is needed. David said locally it is also about capacity. Kevin Green said it is an economics problem - what we were doing isn't going to work, as the costs have fundamentally changed. He hoped China would have shifted by now, but they haven't. China is working on their own infrastructure to process their own materials. Some areas have chosen to pay more to keep their recycling. Director Brewer asked what people are paying more for. Kevin Green stated that some communities are paying more to send their materials to facilities that provide heightened sorting and processing, as the supply needs to be cleaned up, to fix the product to make it sellable. He noted more is going out-the-back to the landfills. The processors have added people, which cost more money. Pat noted that education is needed at the front end to help with this. Kevin Green noted that the Metro hasn't changed their menu of items accepted, so we haven't changed locally. Processors have asked for 3-7 plastics to be pulled. Metro doesn't want to change it right now. Eugene is willing to pay more but want to get the items that will not make it to recyclable from the stream. Chair Kramer stated the consumer in Metro pays less than we do. They are

willing to pay more, so this makes it where Metro is 'driving the bus' on this. Kevin Green noted the difference in cost between what they have to pay to dump MSW and we do because of the travel. David noted that this is beyond a regional discussion, and this won't happen quickly.

Pat asked Kevin Green if the Chinese are buying U.S. pulp mills. Kevin replied this is happening more on the east coast. China has a need to handle these materials. So they have to go around figuring out how to do that, so some companies are buying facilities here. Pat asked Jim if the commingled materials here going to the landfill? Jim stated that it is. He noted it is a financial impact driving the materials to the landfill. He stated that if the consumer wanted to pay for the cost to process the materials, they could then recycle these materials. Jim stated that the IGA members have franchise agreements, so they may look to see what their friends and neighbors are willing to pay for their recyclables. Jim stated the contamination amounts to the wrong materials being put in the bin as well as dirty recyclables. There was a discussion about how the recycling process has been historically, whether source-separated, how it is collected, etc. It was noted that the infrastructure on the West coast is mostly designed for commingled.

Chair Kramer wanted to discuss banning bags and straws. He asked if the Steering Committee would like to take a look at doing this. Chair Kramer would like to hear from other members and stated he will advocate with individuals going forward. Chair Kramer is not asking for a decision today, but would like to discuss this in the future. He would advocate for the banning of plastic straws and bags because of contamination, commending Hood River and Mosier for their movement on this issue. Linda said she thinks if you keep it in the public eye, it wouldn't be that big of a change. Steve noted that each IGA board will need to make that decision. Chair Kramer said he would like to hear from the group and agree to have conversations and send out a white paper with the points, also asking that in return from the IGA members. Pat said it she thinks it a great idea. Jim reviewed the processes at the facility when plastics get into the equipment and all the work needed to fix it. Linda noted a large piece of equipment got shut down (at the landfill) because a bag was caught in the pump, which is very expensive to fix. Cindy said it is something that should be a statewide discussion. Merle noted that we need to start somewhere. Director Brewer stated that it is an education issue, a long term issue. Pat said the ban is good because of the people who aren't paying attention. David said the staff could put together some information on this, what a process might look like, the model language. David said the breakdown of film plastic will still be an issue. Chair Kramer noted these are pieces to include in the newsletter. Kevin Liburdy asked if Chair Kramer is considering banning straws. Chair Kramer responded this needs to be part of the discussion.

Linda asked about Keurig coffee "K" cups? David said British Columbia is beta testing a process to recycling these. Gordon asked if the plastic bag ban would be the ones that you get at the grocery store. It was noted these are the ones getting into the equipment that is causing the problem, not the garbage bags that go to the landfill.

- **Fall Mailing?**

David said we will be sending out info for the fall, it will be bi-lingual with a hazardous waste schedule of events remaining for the year, organics, etc. It will have information on contamination. He estimates that in the next three weeks, he hopes to get this into the mailboxes. Gordon asked what the plan is for next year. David said we will get the newsletter out there right before next year's HHW events, around the first of February. David stated that eventually we will want these mailings to be six months apart.

- **Facilities Improvements**

David said this year we may look at a new eye wash station inside Hood River Garbage's garage.

- **Electronics collection at hazardous waste events**

David shared a Power Point presentation that he did at the National NAHMMA conference about combining services at our Hazardous Waste Collection events, with EPR programs for electronics and paint as part of those services. He noted there will likely be a proposal for EPR for medicines in Oregon this legislative season, and that the California senate just unanimously passed a statewide joint sharps/medicine EPR bill. David stated that Metro has a proposal going forward for hazardous waste. Chair Kramer said there have been discussions on the opioid problem too.

Director Brewer asked if large electronics are hazardous waste. David said there are parts of the electronics that are hazardous and are banned from the landfill. David noted we process cell phones through Call2Recycle.

### **Miscellaneous**

- EPR Update – David said the discussion above is the EPR update.
- New Hire Update - David shared that Jensi has shifted to the .2 position and it is still in process to get the recruitment notice out.
- Other – Chair Kramer said there will be a discussion on the opioids issue coming this fall. Pat asked if there is money at the state or federal level to pay for this. Chair Kramer said he thinks it would be a pay up front and get paid back. Chair Kramer said it would be an EPR program, as that is what the Association of Oregon Counties would push for.

### **Adjourned at 11:10**

Minutes taken by: Jensi Smith