

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

Voting Committee Members Present

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

Absent Members

Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Sue Knapp (City of Maupin)

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

None

Staff Members Present

David Skakel, Coordinator
 Jensi Smith, Program Assistant

Guests Present

Matt Slafkosky, DEQ

Summary of Actions Taken

Merle Keys motioned to approve Minutes from 9/12/18 with correction. Kevin Liburdy 2nd. All in favor.	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Merle Keys, Cindy Brown
No	None
Abstained	None

MOTION CARRIED.

Kevin Liburdy motioned to approve special meeting Minutes from 10/17/18 as submitted. Mike Matthews 2nd. All in favor.	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Merle Keys, Cindy Brown
No	0
Abstained	0

MOTION CARRIED.

Gordon Zimmerman motioned to approve the work plan as submitted. Merle Keys 2nd. All in favor.	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Merle Keys, Cindy Brown
No	0
Abstained	0
Action item	David to see why we are over on Insurance & Bonds and report back at next meeting.

Action Item	Staff to research compost bins for type of materials made from and cost.
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Action Item	March meeting to include power point presentations not available in December due to room change.
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Action Item	Staff will inquire about over-budget expense regarding insurance and bonds.
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Action Item	Budget Committee to meet and prepare draft FY2019/20 Budget for consideration at March 13 th Steering Committee meeting.
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Welcome

- Meeting began at 8:33. Chair Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

- March 13th – confirmed
- June 26th - confirmed

Minutes – 9/12/18 Meeting

Chair Kramer asked for discussion on minutes from September 12, 2018.

Kevin Liburdy requested a correction on Pg. 3 to say Assistant City Manager.

Merle Keys motioned to approve Minutes from September as corrected; Kevin Liburdy 2nd; 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions. Minutes approved.

10/17/18 special meeting Minutes

Chair Kramer asked for discussion on minutes from October 17, 2018. None noted.

Kevin Liburdy motioned to approved Minutes from October 17, 2018 as submitted; Mike Matthews 2nd; 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions. Minutes approved.

Fiscal Report

David presented the latest financial report. He noted the beginning fund balance was not available until last week, sharing there was \$217K budgeted, showing we are \$128K over. He believes it is due to the strong economy, plus the increase in CPI adjustment, not the recyclables going to the landfill, which is a small part of the total. David also noted the expenditures for staffing which he inquired about with the Finance department. Jensi's .2 and the 1.0 for the Solid Waste Specialist are both included in the one reported number for solid waste specialist. Chair Kramer will work with Finance to get a separate line item for the program assistant. David also noted we are over on the insurance and bonds. He was not sure why but will do research and bring back info to the next meeting.

Also relevant, David would like to purchase more compost bins, recognizing it isn't in the budget. It has been 2.5 years since the last purchase and we are getting low. Kevin wondered if the new hire would be able to help find a new home for those no longer needed in Hood River. Mike said the home daycares that he inspects are still composting. Merle asked how many were purchased last time we got them. David said about 70. Gordon asked what the difference would be to get 50 instead of more. It was noted there was a price break to purchase the larger quantity. Mike asked if they were made from recycled materials. David said he wasn't sure. Gordon noted his concern that \$7K is a lot to not be allocated in the budget already. Cindy asked if it could be from the capital expenditures line item. It was noted those monies were for the eye wash. David noted we would have to make an adjustment and request to the Board of Commissioners. There was discussion about where it would come from in the budget. It was noted that all supplies are listed in Office Supplies. Steve questioned if staff should do a little more research? Merle noted it might be good to try to find some that are made from recycled materials. Consensus was to have staff research and report out in March. Mike asked if the remaining 15 would last until July. David believes we will run out of composters before the March 13th Steering Committee meeting. He will update the group at that meeting.

No other questions on fiscal report.

Work Plan

- Review FY2019/20 Work Plan

Chair Kramer noted the group met, and info is included with packet. David said the embedded comments are obviously not viewable on the print version. We don't have the projector to show the excel document. He also shared the document that is being called the "parking lot" tab.

David stated the Work Plan has been re-tooled with items from the Strategic Plan placed in the first column because some overlap more than one goal. There is a catch-all column showing if it is new, required, safety, relies on additional staff, etc. There is also a priority column, with required activities at the top. Other columns have an estimate of staff time, estimated cost and status. Gordon asked about the additional FTE as identified on the sheet. David stated that will be for the already approved new hire. David noted we will do the Master Recycler's "lite" once we have the additional staffing. We would rely on Recycling 101 for trainings, and would focus on those that have already been trained, with regular meetings. David said every time he sees one of the former Master Recycler's, they are excited and would like to get more involved again.

David shared another activity is re-use. At the next meeting he will present a power point that demonstrates some compelling examples of communities that are doing a fair amount of re-use. He stated that in the past due to the great recession, we needed to de-emphasize recycling, so we identified a re-focusing of program priority upon organics. We are in a similar situation now, and need to have a discussion on focus areas that might provide opportunities. On the policy side, there might be opportunity with construction & demolition waste (C&D) which in other areas (Metro, for example) can't be sent to the landfill. These are moderately specific work activities but he wants to get the Committee's approval on.

Kevin asked if this will focus on the activities list. David said administratively he would like guidance on the review of contracts and agreements. Staff is taking a closer look at agreements that are tied to the program, to understand the role of everyone involved, with the bi-lateral approval processes. Currently contracts would need to be approved by the Steering Committee and the BOCC. David would like to clarify if the Steering Committee wants to review in detail all the contracts and agreements each year. Kevin asked if Director Brewer wanted to make it a Number 1 priority. Chair Kramer stated it was more about how the process flows. Does the Steering Committee want to go through them or have David, Director Brewer and Chair Kramer review them and report their findings the group? This could streamline it for the group. David asked should he send a report out to the group following internal meeting on the contracts & agreements? Does the group want a sub-committee or have staff bring info to the group? He doesn't think there will often be dramatic changes to our core contracts or agreements. Most include automatic renewals. He believes they are well greased and things are going well with our partners. David noted the maintenance fee as one that will need to be looked at. He doesn't feel that it is a contract, rather an appendix to our operations agreement with Waste Connections. This isn't a budget concern, but we need to clarify what it entails - who does what. Chair Kramer stated that the County is going through all IGAs and agreements to make sure nothing is overlooked. He thinks Director Brewer's question is "does the committee want get into the weeds or do they want staff to review and come back to the group?". He noted some agreements state a person instead of a position, saying those types are simple fixes. Gordon said he is very comfortable with Chair Kramer, Director Brewer and David doing the review and reporting out. David said he wasn't sure the Steering Committee needed to annually 'approve' existing contracts, as most have already been approved and are renewed automatically. Gordon noted it would only need to be brought to the group when the contract is up to expire, so they can make a recommendation for approval. David said that all the contracts and agreements are supposed to be reviewed annually for the County. Gordon noted it is good to do a blessing of the contracts but no need to bring them in for annual approval. David said the Stericycle 'pricing matrix' is a menu of services they offer us, not a contract. He feels this price sheet should stay flexible because there are changes such as batteries, asbestos, etc. It requires our signature, so he wants the group to be aware. Chair Kramer said Wasco County wouldn't take this over. He pushes it as a nine-member IGA that does what they want to do; "*We are in control of our own destiny with the lead agency just helping with legalities*". He wants to be clear that Wasco County is not taking over. Gordon stated we are policy and direction, Wasco is managing. Merle said that if something is annual it will be brought to the group and discussed anyway. David said annually the contracts and agreements will be brought to the Steering Committee to review the status, noting this will get much easier as we move forward.

Gordon moved to approve work plan as submitted. Merle seconded. 6 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions. Work Plan was approved.

- Restart Budget Committee

Chair Kramer noted Bruce and Pat have volunteered to be part the Budget Committee. Kevin will also help as well as Gordon. David noted this is parallel with Wasco County. It will be brought to the March meeting for the whole group to approve, then on to Wasco County.

Legislative

- Opiads – Unwanted Medicines

David stated in the past there were conversations at the Associate of Oregon Counties (AOC) about legislative matters through the solid waste sub-committee. With the breakup of that committee the discussion went into the dark a bit. It had been running with regular calls and discussions. David is not sure who will pick up this work. He went to a meeting of folks from the Associate of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) who is looking at possible legislative work on many areas including hazardous waste and recycling. There may be some legislative action about Opiads. Chair Kramer said the talk in the halls is that it is positive, with AOC heavily involved. He thinks things are moving more easily, with Pharma asking when they can come to the table. Pharma's concern is do they want to work on one plan or 36 plans. He said they are hoping to get this statewide. They aren't sure about the mechanism, with some regulatory issues with DEQ. It may go through Public Health or Public Safety. Kevin asked if this would be producers paying for it. Chair Kramer said it would be manufactures paying, with the takeback at the pharmacies. David shared a list of where these types of EPR laws are being presented across the county. It started in California, moving across the country. Pharma sued but lost in Federal court and was not heard at the Supreme Court. Pharma doesn't want to have it different all over the place.

- Household Hazardous Waste

David noted there is also legislation on HHW and mattresses. Mattresses are potentially another EPR this season. There was discussion about mattresses and disposal needs. Chair Kramer stated that even though there is no subcommittee, there is still activity happening. There was discussion about the impact of these laws to revenue. Mike asked if we accepted mattresses, would that increase the amount of hazardous waste brought in. David noted it was the case with electronics. The medicine and sharps are still an issue, with sharps hidden in other things. Hazardous Waste EPR would be a good thing for us not changing what we do but being a cost avoidance.

- Single-Use plastic bags, straws, service ware

David has heard there are numerous cities that have placed bans on some single serve plastics. He said he thinks we could be informative at our Road Show. There may be one or several legislative bills coming statewide, so we can wait and see what happens. Chair Kramer asked for opinions whether we work on information at the road shows, look at doing an information campaign, or do we look at adding items. He would like to hear from the group, now or offline later. Gordon has a new council that is more liberal that may be more interested, but not all of the council. They would be willing if it is a state mandate. Cindy said if the momentum is up to the state level, it is better. Merle asked his council and 50% were supportive, with some asking what kind of plastic bags does Dufur generate? He told them everyone has some. He didn't think they were opposed. Kevin said he hasn't heard anything new about straws. There will be three new councilors coming in, but felt they would be supportive if it came from the state. David said our role is just informative at this point. He has heard others have contacted the state and wants them to deal with it at that level. Other discussions about straws have focused on how

they are distributed, like not having them out but can be given if requested. Gordon said this will also be a Code enforcement issue – who’s going to do this? If the state creates the ban, they would have to be the ones to enforce it. Gordon would like to have this information shared at the Road Show. Mike thinks his group would be on board if it comes down from the state. Cindy noted she doesn’t see a lot more things coming down that will need to be enforced. Consensus was it will be presented at the Road Shows. David noted Washington State has something coming and noted to keep an eye on Connecticut. It is bound to come here eventually.

- Paper & Packaging

The other big one that won’t happen this year is extended producer responsibility (EPR) for paper and packaging. He noted it is going well in the system up in British Columbia, Canada. It pays for the recycling system in that region. David said there is a lack of money and resource for recycling in rural areas in Oregon. He noted there are proposals in other states, so look out in the next few years that could potentially solve some of our problems. He noted British Columbia’s recycling rates, which are pretty compelling, keeping intact a franchise system. If we had that type of system, there would be a high level of access to recycling everywhere. Right now the dynamic is typically the garbage company asks for money to expand services. Now it costs more so they would need more just to sustain the same level of service. Mike asked what they do with their stuff up in Canada. David said they process a lot of it domestically and have invested in one high end super MRF with presorting little MRFs. They are also investing in domestic processing. Mike stated he was disappointed that we weren’t recycling here, just shipping somewhere else to be dealt with. Merle asked if corporate pays for this. David said it is just like our PaintCare and E-Cycles. When a producer sells in the region, they have to pay into a Stewardship group that represents the manufacturers that pays for end of life for the materials. David noted that DEQ has convened a recycling stakeholder steering committee that is looking into this with different models, at EPR laws for paper and packaging. Matt stated that by the end of January there will be results from the research on this. Some want a larger, some want smaller scope. He hopes there will be more info by the end of January. He noted that Metro has given a lot of money to Pioneer for optical sorting that could lower cost, possibly for the Gorge. This equipment should be able to sort 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. David stated Waste Connections doesn’t go through Pioneer.

- Legislative strategy generally (post-AOC Solid Waste Sub-Committee)

Chair Kramer wants approval from the group to share our data at AOC, in order to light a fire where maybe he can generate a contract, to further material management. David and Chair Kramer will work together to bring the info to them like the Road Show. He would like material’s management brought back into the mix with his colleagues around the state. He stated the Transportation Sub Committee and Community Development are now one committee. Solid Waste Sub-Committee has been morphed and has downsized staff as a result. He would like to resurrect that. Cindy said that it is always good to promote the program – it is working well and is in the black, a great program to showcase. Gordon said it would be more impactful to bring other areas that also have these types of programs. Cindy said if you have a program that works, you need to talk to people about it. David said not all counties are on the same page with EPR, with some of that coming from their outcomes with PaintCare. It would be good to have a conversation with rural counties to see what their needs are, so as to not have obstacles. Gordon said we all have the issue because of China’s policy and these things that are going on could unite us in this effort. David said there are a variety of interpretations on this. We can report to others about how it has positively impacted what we do, have saved money and helped us to collect more materials. Gordon

said there are a lot of ways to sell this, the program is working and has the funding. He noted there are good programs in the east, central and south of the state. David said there is mutual benefit for programs working with EPR, and these may be a way to help us out of the recycling crisis. We have to have these conversations. Chair Kramer noted his former co-chair, Commissioner Sweet, is starting to turn around.

Miscellaneous

- 2nd HHW event in Cascade Locks

David has received a customer request for a second event in Cascade Locks. Gordon stated he wasn't sure the cost and time outweigh the need for more waste recycling but also doesn't have a preference. David shared the annualized report for Cascade Locks, showing the service at the events since 2006. Since 2017 we have been way up, attributing it adding electronics, as is consistent with other rural communities. He also noted our event location has moved to the parking lot across from City Hall which may be part of the increased which is more than doubled the annual attendance, providing good access. David also noted that Cascade Locks is growing. He would like to note on the written surveys when people attend other community events to see how many are coming from Cascade Locks. He will dig into the data a little more. Gordon stated a second event might dilute the overall attendance, noting the E-Waste numbers were down from 2017. David said he would like more data and then if a change is needed, we could make the change in 2020. He also noted we could target businesses in Cascade Locks to attend our AG events in November.

- Recycling Advisory Update

David said the group has met twice with Waste Connection's Jim Winterbottom and Emerald System's Julie Tucker. Prior to this meeting, David checked in with both of them. Jim did not have anything new. David is getting conflicting info about the handling of the cardboard. Julie said she is taking all of Hood River Garbage's cardboard at this time, much like AP used to do, from big generators and all the curbside cardboard from Hood River Garbage. The question would be what about the cardboard from The Dalles Disposal? David doesn't have info on that right now. David got confirmation from one of Julie's buyers that all the commodities except mixed paper have positive value (when source-separated). With the comingled, 'the sky is falling' but is positive on source-separated. Mike said we could encourage that if we decided the only thing we are going to recycling is one item (plastics for example). What do we do with the rest of it? It is difficult to untrain behavior that we have worked for so long to teach. David said Metro is holding the line, others are retracting their menu, or retracting the menu at the curb, but at transfer station having a source separated site. Source separated markets are for the most part holding. Mike asked if that means we would go back to paper collection separate or maybe don't do paper. David said this is a discussion with stakeholders. Kevin asked about the timeline for this discussion on paper? David said we have talked to Waste Connections and Emerald systems. Not sure how to catalyze more discussion on that. Maybe the road show might generate more discussion. He noted Dufur's source-separated seems to be working well. Merle agreed. If communities want further agreement on it, we could facilitate more communication on it. David said on the source separated side the question is who is going to do it. Julie doesn't have a place to do it. Merle asked if Cascade Locks has a site for this. Merle stated he placed the site with source separated and the community embraced it, noting there are only 600 citizens. David stated it doesn't have to play out the same in each community, but we can report on it to others. Cindy asked about DEQ opportunity to recycle reports. Matt said the

recovery rates are coming out soon. Things didn't changed that much in 2017, with statewide recovery rates going up, plastics continue to decline, electronic declining even more. David said that may also be that electronics are getting smaller, with old matrix being based on pounds, where it might need to be changed to units, as computers are turning into phones. David said we can report on what is happening regionally. Some proposals may be years off but have examples of what is happening here. Through the reps on the Steering Committee, they can engage with their communities. We could be there as advisors to them. Kevin said that Jim has stated if they want to pay more to get it to the MRFs. Matt said that the cost at the curb wouldn't be high, it is more what would they charge at the transfer station. Kevin said that question will be next, and that might be something to bring up at the Road Show. David said this will be something for decision makers to decide if they want to increase the costs. Jim said it will have to be across the board if there will be any changes.

- New vehicle

David is looking at vehicles to purchase. Cindy asked how many miles are on the Prius. David replied close to 100K. Kevin asked if the battery had issues. David said there haven't been any issues noticed.

- New Hire

David said the current status is that it has not yet been published for recruitment. Chair Kramer noted it is a waiting game to see what happens with Building Code. That needs to be figured out to see where to make room. Once that piece is sorted out, it could move forward. David said part of what the new person will do is target businesses for our AG events in November.

- PowerPoint: Recent hazardous waste events

David could not present because of change of rooms as there is no projector to present. David said he would have liked to share with the group how well the lighting is working out. He said we are getting on the edge of safety with record attendance in both Hood River and The Dalles this fall. The light has been very helpful. Mike asked why for the record attendance? David said that we had just done the second mailing, in both English and Spanish, with it going out to all customers a month or so before may have had something to do with it. It could also be through the social media with The Dalles Chronicle and Hood River News. He shared that when we post on Facebook, it shows up on the newspaper's feed as well as national media in our zip codes. He shared the data shows we are getting a lot of hits on the national sites. He met with Chelsea from Eagle Press, not to expand but how to utilize what we currently have. He stated that may include a regular column that could then be posted on our Facebook page as well. David said there are some discussion about why are at capacity at these event? We are talking with stakeholders to try and figure this out. Mike asked if we advertise on the Hispanic radio stations. David replied no, but that would be a good approach. Mike noted that community is afraid, not coming into the Health department.

- Other: David introduced Chris McNeel, the new Wasco County Code Compliance Officer who works with the program on the abatement grant. This is voluntary for people who have had a complaint against them, to help them with the cleanup for recyclables and hazardous waste. This is another potential model when we get more data on it. Chair Kramer noted Chris retired as our chief deputy to come to this position.

Adjourned at 10:39 am Minutes taken by: Jensi Smith