

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
 Wasco County Planning Department
 2705 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles, OR
 June 26, 2019

Voting Committee Members Present

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

Absent Members

Steve Kramer, Chair

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Bruce Lumper

Staff Members Present

David Skakel, Coordinator
 Angie Brewer, Planning Director

Guests Present

Wasco County Commissioner, Kathy Schwartz

Summary of Actions Taken

Motion by Merle Keys to accept the 3/13/19 Regular Meeting minutes as clarified; second by Pat Bozanich. All in favor. [Clarifications are captured in the notes below]	
Vote	8-0-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River); Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Mike Foreaker (City of Maupin); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Merle Keys (Dufur)
No	None
Abstained	None

Motion by Merle Keys to accept the April 2 nd Special Meeting minutes as presented; second by Pat Bozanich; All in favor.	
Vote	8-0-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River); Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Mike Foreaker (City of Maupin); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Merle Keys (Dufur)
No	None

Abstained	None
Motion by Merle Keys to accept the terms of the proposal by Call2Recycle, accept as listed by David. Second by Pat Bozanich; all in favor. [Staff will confirm whether this requires Wasco County Board approval]	
Vote	8-0-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River); Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Mike Foreaker (City of Maupin); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Merle Keys (Dufur)
No	None
Abstained	None

Motion by Gordon Zimmerman for up to \$1,000 in mini grants 'by administrative decision' for Recycling 101 tuition; Cindy Brown second; all in favor. [Staff will confirm whether this requires changes to the Steering Committee Bylaws]	
Vote	8-0-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy (Vice-Chair, City of Hood River); Cindy Brown (Sherman County); Linda Miller (City of The Dalles); Gordon Zimmerman (Cascade Locks); Pat Bozanich (Mosier); Mike Foreaker (City of Maupin); Mike Matthews (Hood River County); Merle Keys (Dufur)
No	None
Abstained	None

Action Item	Request for David to send Steering Committee information about Battery Solutions.
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Action item	Request for David to provide Steering Committee graphs and/or reporting about: - long-term program revenue & expense, and - long-term hazardous waste data (participants, volume, cost, cost-per-pound, etc.)
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Welcome

- Meeting began at 8:34. Vice Chair Liburdy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Kramer is out of the area and unable to attend; Thus Liburdy is acting as Chair Pro Tem this meeting.

Schedule Future Meetings

- September 11th or 25th – September 11th was confirmed to accommodate the League of Oregon Cities meeting.
- December 11th or 25th? – December 11th was confirmed to accommodate winter holidays.

Minutes

➤ 03/13/19 Regular Meeting

The following clarifications were discussed:

- Bruce Lumper noted that Mike Middleton, Merle, Gordon need to be added to minutes.
- Kevin noted a spelling error on page 3 (should be “marketing costs”).
- Bruce noted an incomplete sentence, 4th line of page 7. Due to the lack of the audio record, the suggestion was to strike the incomplete sentence.

Merle Keys motioned to accept the minutes as clarified; second by Pat Bozanich.

In favor: All (8)

Opposed: None (0)

Abstained: None (0)

➤ 04/02/19 Special Meeting

- No changes suggested.

Merle Keys motioned to accept the April 2nd meeting minutes as presented; second Pat Bozanich

In favor: All (8)

Opposed: None (0)

Abstained: None (0)

Financial Report

• FY2018/19 Year to Date (to June 4th).

After discussion, David Skakel confirmed the numbers do not yet contain the months of May and June and we are on track. David called the Steering Committee attention to the “% Expenditures” category and asked for any feedback. Bruce Lumper asked for clarification regarding the “Market to Market – Unrealized Gains”, Commissioner Schwartz said she would carry forward that question to Mike Middleton. She also clarified the status of the vehicle purchase. Angie Brewer noted that the previously approved upgrades are also in progress but will not be received by June 30 – so those funds will also need to roll over to the next fiscal year. Angie Brewer also noted that Finance Director Mike Middleton has confirmed in writing that he will be processing a budget adjustment to use the funds from this current fiscal year; Commissioner Schwartz read from the Board’s memo, and confirmed that the budget adjustment for the vehicle purchase will be complete today at 1pm. In response to Mike Foreaker’s request for clarification, David explained how the HHW Surcharge is collected and distributed. Pat Bozanich added that the surcharge is also noted on resident’s monthly garbage statements. Linda Miller noted the current CPI is almost \$8/ton at the landfill.

Contracts and Agreements

- Generally
- Call2Recycle

David provided an overview and reminded the Steering Committee that contracts were generally reviewed earlier this year. He added that there is also a price sheet we agree to [Stericycle] that is technically an agreement.

David provided an overview of the handout for “Call2Recycle”. They are offering to take our collected batteries through a reduced cost as compared to the price sheet for Stericycle. Call2Recycle will take them for free as long as they are packaged appropriately. There is no additional cost and the outcome

will improve the rate at which the collected batteries can be recycled (current process only recoups a percentage of the battery and the new process will recoup 100% of the battery). There is some charge for lithium batteries, but all other batteries are at no cost. David noted that this is time sensitive because we have a stockpile of collected batteries that need to be removed to make room for more to be collected at upcoming collection events. Stericycle will continue to collect the batteries at the events, package them, and then leave them with staff so they can be shipped to Call2Recycle. We'll continue to pay Stericycle for labor, but will divert the disposal ourselves through this new program. Linda Miller asked whether UPS is okay with transporting the lithium batteries; David confirmed with proper packaging, they will take them. David shared that at recent conference events, there has been some discussion about the difficulties in processing alkaline batteries. Bruce Lumper requested additional information because he gets a lot of questions about batteries. David said he would share it with the Steering Committee.

Motion: To accept the terms of the proposal Merle, accept as listed by David. Second by Pat Bozanich.
Discussion: Linda Miller asked whether the date on the contract was still valid, David said it was and with approval from the Steering Committee to move forward with this and obtain a current version for signature.

Vote:

In favor: All (8)

Opposed: None (0)

Abstained: None (0)

Gordon Zimmerman asked whether the agreement would need to go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval or be signed by them. Director Brewer thanked him for the flag and agreed to confirm this request with the Board of Commissioners.

Budget

David noted the handout for this discussion was not updated with year to date information; it was produced in March. Vice Chair Liburdy asked Linda Miller if there was any slowdown in the landfill collection, she said no, there is a lot of construction going on. Gordon Zimmerman voiced a concern that there was a lot of money carrying over and that he questions how we are using that money to benefit the taxpayers. He suggested that our challenge for this next year is to figure out how to use that money to maximize the benefits. He said the budget is very healthy, almost too healthy. David said the programs funds have been a bit of a roller coaster because of the market driven components, so there is hesitation to spend the balance down. Gordon Zimmerman requested a graph brought to be shared with the Steering Committee that shows a ten year trend line to better understand the current level of stability. Commissioner Schwartz noted that there is a budgeted position that remains to be filled, which increases the carry over for this fiscal year. Gordon Zimmerman added that a carryover that is equal to our carryover is a concern. There was some discussion that perhaps the scope of work could be revisited in the near future. Angie Brewer shared with the Steering Committee that Mike Middleton has flagged the funding mechanism as a concern because the better we are at our job, the higher the risk of unfunding the program. The Steering Committee then discussed that the goal was always to be so good at their job that the program would wind itself down.

Levels of service were discussed, and the Steering Committee agreed to discuss the scope of work at the next meeting. Mike Matthews said he would prefer to wait to have the vacant position filled before exploring the scope of work. Bruce Lumper voiced frustration about our inability to get the position

filled. Angie shared that the current staffing levels have been able to maintain the core scope of work, David has continued to attend many conferences, and the program continues to limp along and meet requirements. She praised David for his ability to keep the program moving forward. Cindy Brown asked why David's salary numbers are so stagnant. Angie provided some context regarding the County's compensation philosophy, recruitment and retention strategies and an update on the recruitment of the vacant position.

Pat requested a graph depicting the tonnage of the materials collected over the last ten years; not by location but by total.

BREAK 9:39 – 9:50

During the break, David provided a demonstration of the "party buckets" of preserve-ware. He noted an increase in how frequent they are being requested. The program diverts single serve cutlery, plates and cups from the landfill. He also shared state level concerns regarding compostable cutlery. Linda Miller shared the story of "4 Oceans" with regards to the world's plastic problem. A general discussion about materials, recycling efforts and new trends ensued.

- **Legislative**

- **Update regarding specific legislation**
- **Legislative strategy generally**
 - **Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) Legislative Committee**

David is a member of the AOR Legislative Committee and provided an update on that committee's work. He then provided an update on the following bills: HB 2509 plastic bag bill (passed); Gordon Zimmerman requested that David send that bill out to the members of the Steering Committee. SB 90 is the plastic straw choice bill (passed); HB 2772 umbrella bill for HHW (failed for the third year in a row but we will see it again); HB 3273 unwanted medicine bill (pending a vote); SB 276 mattress bill failed; HB 2020 Cap and Trade bill (no discussion); HB 2688 right to repair bill (failed); SB 892 oral rehydration drinks (Pedialyte) and a requested exemption from the bottle bill (failed); and SB 2447 kombucha beverages (passed).

- **Miscellaneous**

- **Eyewash Shower Unit** - David provided an update on eyewash station for Hood River facility. The facility has a water bottle model eye wash station, but does not have a shower. The recent estimate from the plumber is approximately \$7,000 – which will likely require us to go out for bid. Following questions from the Steering Committee, David clarified who would pay for it and where it would be located. He also stressed concern that with this bid, we will not have sufficient budgeted funds to do this project and the shed roof addition. Angie suggested going to bid to confirm costs for both projects and revisiting budget approval with the Steering Committee at a future meeting.
- **New Outreach Tool:** David explained that videos will soon be shared on a YouTube channel that will be added to the website. Commissioner Schwartz commented that from a citizen's perspective, the marketing and outreach is very successful and much appreciated.
- **Recycling Concurrence Update:** Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal have a limited duration approval from DEQ to landfill recyclable materials. David shared that a recent update from Jim Winterbottom indicates that the Hood River waste shed will stop diverting materials to the landfill. Vice Chair Liburdy shared that a 2.61% surcharge and a reduced menu was agreed upon to make this service possible. Mike Foreaker asked about the

prospects of this being pursued in Wasco County; no one had information to this effect. Angie shared that the Commissioners have been presented with the same information by Jim Winterbottom; Commissioner Schwartz did not have any additional information to share.

- **Recycling 101** – This program has been involved in the creation of this tool, and has been covering the costs of folks who are interested in the training. David suggested that funds may be available in the Supplies line item and that we could allocate \$1,000 funds to 20 registration fees. Cindy Brown suggested a scholarship under grants, David explained that it would be cumbersome to manage if we had to review applications and award the scholarship as grants. Gordon Zimmerman suggested taking it from grants instead of supplies, and suggested that through a directive of the Steering Committee, they could be awarded administratively, without a Steering Committee meeting.

Gordon Zimmerman made a motion for up to 1,000 in mini grants for recycling 101 tuition; Cindy Brown second; all in favor, none opposed; none abstained.

- Angie will confirm whether an amendment needs to be made to the Bylaws at a future meeting to allow for this. If changes are needed, she will bring them back to the next Steering Committee meeting.
- **Vehicle Purchase** (discussed earlier)
 - Discussed the age and mileage of the Prius. Still functional for new hire.
- **New Hire** (discussed earlier)
- **PowerPoints** David shared a presentation of photographs for the following topics:
 - Recent Hazardous Waste Events
 - Repair cafe
 - MECCA (materials exchange center for the arts in Eugene)
- **Long-term Recycling/Materials Management Strategies** A general discussion was had regarding DEQ committees, legislative pressures, lessons to be learned from California and British Columbia.
- **Cardboard Markets** – Gordon Zimmerman inquired how the decline in cardboard markets is affecting recent HWR grant recipient, Emerald Systems.
- **Energy Production** – Mike Foreaker inquired as to whether there was any interest in incinerating stockpiled materials to generate energy. The Steering Committee discussed pros and cons of that model and how it has been used in other places.
- **AOR Gorge Tour** – David shared that on behalf of the Association of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) he will be hosting a tour through the Gorge for professionals from PSU National Policy Consensus Center's Vietnam Oregon Initiative this Friday. He invited any interested Steering Committee members to follow up with him.

Adjourned at 11:18am

Minutes taken by: Angie Brewer