

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Wasco County Planning Department
2705 E. 2nd Street, The Dalles, Oregon
December 11, 2019

Voting Committee Members Present

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

Non-Voting Committee Members Present

Bruce Lumper

Staff Members Present

David Skakel, Program Coordinator
Angie Brewer, Planning Director

Guests Present

Julie Tucker, Emerald Systems
Jim Winterbottom, Waste Connections
Ron Doughten, DEQ
Eric Clanton, DEQ

Summary of Actions Taken

Gordon Zimmerman motioned to accept 9/11/19 Minutes. Linda Miller 2nd. All in Favor	
Vote	9-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Cindy Brown, Linda Miller, Gordon Zimmerman, Pat Bozanich, Mike Matthews , Mike Foreaker, Merle Keys
No	None
Abstained	None

Pat Bozanich motioned to allow Chair Kramer to work with staff to figure out what's happening with the vacant position and overall staffing needs. Linda Miller seconded. All in favor.	
Vote	9-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Cindy Brown, Linda Miller, Gordon Zimmerman, Pat Bozanich, Mike Matthews , Mike Foreaker, Merle Keys
No	None
Abstained	None

Action Item	Re-start Budget Sub-Committee, for purposes of developing a draft FY 2020/21 Program Budget for consideration at the next Steering Committee meeting (and by the Wasco County BOC). David will schedule a Budget Committee meeting.
--------------------	---

Welcome

- Meeting began at 8:33. Chair Kramer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions. Commissioner Kramer asked for a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

Schedule Future Meetings

- March 11th – confirmed
- June 10th - Confirmed

Financial Report

Year-to-date thru December 3, 2019. David shared a few notes: Revenue shows 37%; we have not actually posted more than five months of revenue. We are on par with last year. Gordon asked why the postings were so far behind. David and Steve Kramer explained that it is a timing issue with Finance. David noted the second mailer will go out this Spring. *Contracted services* is also delayed in invoicing, but from the Stericycle side. Slow season right now, we pick up our events again in February. *Travel and Mileage* is over in part because we bought snow tires for the new car. Pat Bozanich asked why the vacant position was held. Angie Brewer explained previous delay was due to capacity issues with the Department (taking on Building Codes); but that the position is currently on hold until we better understand the future of the Program in light of the ongoing Baling Facility/Program transfer proposal.

8:43am

Future of Recycling Program

Chair Kramer said that he would exercise his right as Chair and that the baling facilities concept will not be discussed today. He explained that previous minutes confirm that he was given the authority to go to all of the Program's jurisdictions to ask whether (the baling facility proposal) was something we were going to move forward with or not. He explained that Mr. Lumper has been presenting a different view and sending memos to Councils; he would like to have a copy of those documents. Chair Kramer considers the issue moot at this time. To be picked up at a future meeting.

8:44am

Collaborations, Conferences, and Legislation

An overview of upcoming conferences and registration was provided by David, including:

- **Statewide Recycling Steering Committee (RSC):** There is some indication that there will be additional involvement of producers in the solution. David said he is grateful for DEQ's staff commitment to this process. David will continue to represent this program for the duration of the process. Pat Bozanich said she is glad David is leading this effort and was complimentary of his expertise.
- **Association of Oregon Recyclers Legislative Committee:** David is in second year of representing the rural local government perspective. Heading into the short session, we are not aware of a lot going on short of the bottle bill being amended for wine in cans, possible shutdown of Covanta incinerator, and EPR for mattresses.

- **AOR 2020 Conference & NAHMMA NW 2020 Conference:** David has been invited to present at both conferences, and is in the process of finalizing presentation topics. One topic David has suggested is a panel discussion about collecting batteries (most all batteries). He explained that from a program perspective, batteries are an increasing cost issue and safety concern too, especially with the proliferation of the more unstable lithium batteries. David said that access to the Codes Enforcement truck allows us to collect lead acid batteries at remote hhw events and divert them to the transfer stations.

Emerald Systems

Julie Tucker presented a written update. She explained that she needed to move out of Cascade Locks location due to financial downturn stemming from very low cardboard prices right now. But that the business is financially doing ok. Emerald is being flexible. Not so market driven. Julie said for now she is focused on communities and customer needs. Long-term goal is to have a sorting facility in the Tri-County area.

Julie responded to the following questions:

- Pat Bozanich asked: Are you still collecting recyclable materials from our three-county area? If so, what? Julie Tucker responded: Yes. We are still collecting cardboard, various grades of paper, tin and aluminum, 1-7 plastics, film plastics, Styrofoam, etc. Julie says she's collecting same as before.
- Linda Miller asked Julie to clarify what she meant by "cardboard tanked". Julie said last time she was here, she was getting \$70/ton, mail prices were \$100/ton, and it got as low as \$35/ton for her. Jim provided it is now \$10/ton. She is now thinking creatively to best serve the community. She is working through a process to work through this. Customer loyalty, customer needs, business structure...for-profit or maybe non-profit structure.
- David asked about Poly 6 – Julie clarified it included Styrofoam and solo cups.
- David said plastic liners (a printed wrap) on aluminum cans is a new concern for contamination. Julie said one of her new customers from Stevenson has that wrap and it does decrease the value of her product.
- Bruce asked about past markets for Styrofoam. Julie said Agilyx in Portland continues to accept from Emerald, though maybe not from the public.
- Merle Keys said that the City of Dufur is grateful for Julie's services there.
- Steve Kramer asked about her calendar year – she said it's been October to October but she'd like to start off in January as a fresh start. She's been working with a debt consolidation firm who has a plan for her that starts in January. Steve invited Julie back when she's ready this spring to give another update.
- David noted to Ron at DEQ that this work should be credited to the Wastesheds; Ron said yes.

Work Plan Committee 9:14am

David explained that the Work Plan is not a required document but that it assists this program in aligning budget preparation with workload. He explained that a key aspect to our Work Plan is a summary statement placed right above the previous year's summary statement. Gordon Zimmerman said that sometimes it's good to take a year to continue making progress on status quo, improve what we do, and appreciates David's work in putting this together.

Bruce Lumper asked about Jensi Smith's role in this Work Plan. Angie Brewer noted that she moves full-time over to the Planning Department in January; she has met with the Finance Director to confirm his staff can pick up the administrative overhead needs until we have a more certain path forward.

Pat Bozanich asked for clarification of Item 5, and whether any of that work can be accomplished without the new position.

Pat Bozanich Motion to allow Steve to work with staff to figure out what's happening with the vacant position and overall staffing needs.

Second by Linda Miller

Vote: All in favor

Budget Committee 9:25am

Commissioner Kramer solicited volunteers; Linda Miller, Pat Bozanich and Kevin Liburdy raised their hands. David noted his primary concern is staffing levels.

DEQ Opportunity to Recycle Update 9:26am

Ron Doughten manages eastern region Material Management Programs

Mr. Doughten provided an update. He said they sent a letter to the City of the Dalles and the UGB in Wasco County are not in compliance with state law. We would like to see you come up with a plan by the end of the year, and implement that plan by June 30th. Cat was our point person, but they are in the process of recruiting staff to help communities comply. Pat asked if we were the last to recycle – he said yes. She then asked if other counties have farther distances to ship materials – he said yes. Harney County was cited as an example. Ron provided an overview of the work of his team, including a vacant community assistance position.

Commissioner Kramer noted in response to his letter – conversations are being had to formally respond.

Oregon Single-Use Bag Ban (HB 2509) 9:32am

David provided a DEQ handout. He noted that DEQ does not play an enforcement role and that it would be up to local communities to enforce. He suggested the Tri-County program could discuss and decide what kind of role it would like to have in this effort. Ron Doughten confirmed that DEQ cannot enforce, and can only report on the success of the new ban. Data will be collected beginning 2024. Bruce Lumper asked how local jurisdictions enforce this? Pat Bozanich complimented Steve Kramer on his effort to move this forward.

Gorge Rebuild It Center- Grant update from Heidi Venture 9:36am

Ms. Venture provided an overview of the situation at the organization, and described the need. With the \$5,000 grant awarded, Heidi was brought in to help re-vitalize the entire organization. Steve Carlson has been hired as the new executive director. He's increased sales and has a very positive disposition. He has sent a lot of the materials have been sent for recycling. She noted that David has been a wealth of information in their efforts to identify what they've got and where it should go. The grant will help them rebuild their Board. There were two, and now ten in the pipeline. And they have eleven people on an advisory council. They have been able to make progress on their outstanding plans and documents and appreciate the support of the program. Volunteer day is Saturday 9-1; but anyone can volunteer any day during regular business hours.

Video by Hood River High School students 9:43am

Interested in understanding what's going on with recycling. Their work included interview with Jim Winterbottom (Hood River Garbage Service) and knowledge testing to gauge what teachers and students know about the issue.

9:48am Pat Bozanich asked if anyone provides shredding services. Bruce Lumper suggested Staples offers anytime shredding service by the pound; Julie Tucker suggested the Bingen Community Clean Up.

9:49am Commissioner Kramer voiced concerns about Mr. Lumper's recent email sent to the Steering Committee. He voiced concern about a potential violation of public meeting law. Pat Bozanich asked how Bruce's letter constituted a violation of meeting law. Chair Kramer clarified that it "may" violate because the letter asked all Committee members to consider a motion for an item not listed on the agenda. Chair Kramer said he thus wanted to enter the document into the public record in order to protect this organization moving forward from any possible violation.

Adjourned at 11:22 am.

Minutes taken by: Angie Brewer and David Skakel

DRAFT