







## TRI-COUNTY HWR STEERING COMMITTEE

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8:30-11:30am

Virtual Meeting [Meeting ID](https://meet.google.com/mcr-uzdc-qmz) meet.google.com/mcr-uzdc-qmz  
[Phone Number](tel:+17244003147) (US)+1 724-400-3147  
 PIN: 268 596 118#

All Guests Participated Remotely in Response to COVID

<b><u>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</u></b> 	<b><u>GUESTS</u></b> 
Steve Kramer <u><i>Present</i></u>	Laurie Gordon (DEQ) <u><i>Present</i></u>
Kevin Liburdy <u><i>Present</i></u>	Leith Gaines, Executive Director, Columbia Center For The Arts
Jacob Powell <u><i>Present</i></u>	
Mike Matthews <u><i>Present</i></u>	
Gordon Zimmerman <u><i>Present</i></u>	
Mike Foreaker <u><i>Present</i></u>	
Linda Miller <u><i>Present</i></u>	
Pat Bozanich <u><i>Absent</i></u>	
Merle Keys <u><i>Absent</i></u>	
 <b>STAFF</b> 	 <b>NON-VOTING MEMBERS</b> 
David Skakel <u><i>Present</i></u>	□ _____
Angie Brewer <u><i>Present</i></u>	Bruce Lumper <u><i>Present</i></u>

## Summary of Actions Taken

Motion: "Approve the minutes, both sets, as presented."	
Motion made by Linda Miller, second by Mike Foreaker	
Vote	7-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Jacob Powell, Linda Miller, Mike Matthews , Mike Foreaker, Gordon Zimmerman
No	None
Abstained	None

Motion: "Approve the grant request"	
Motion made by Gordon Zimmerman, second by Linda Miller	
Vote	7-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Jacob Powell, Linda Miller, Mike Matthews , Mike Foreaker, Gordon Zimmerman
No	None
Abstained	None

Motion:	
Vote	7-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Jacob Powell, Linda Miller, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Matthews , Mike Foreaker
No	None
Abstained	None

<b>Action Item</b>	Approval of Quarterly Meeting Minutes 4.22.20
--------------------	---

<b>Action Item</b>	Approval of Special Meeting Minutes 5.27.20
--------------------	---

<b>Action Item</b>	Approved Financial Report by consensus (no motion)
--------------------	--

<b>Action Item</b>	CCA Grant Request
--------------------	-------------------

<b>Action Item</b>	Staff directed to schedule subcommittee meeting prior to December Steering Committee meeting. The subcommittee will continue discussions of the study, as well as the work plan for 2021.
--------------------	---

# Meeting Minutes

## 8:32 am Welcome

Chair Kramer opened the meeting and welcomed committee members to their quarterly meeting.

### (1) Schedule future meetings

- December 9<sup>th</sup>
- March 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>?

Steering Committee members discussed the future meeting dates of December 2020 and March 2021. The future meeting date of December 9, 2020 was confirmed. Committee members agreed to hold on confirming the March 2021 date until it was closer and a more accurate poll could be taken by Doodle Poll to be initiated by staff.

### (2) Minutes

- (Attachment 2-A) Quarterly Meeting Minutes 4.22.20
- (Attachment 2-B) Special Meeting Minutes 5.27.20

Chair Kramer called for discussion on the draft minutes prepared by staff; there was none. Linda Miller moved to “approve the minutes, both sets as presented”. Mike Foreaker provided a second for the motion. Chair Kramer called for any remaining discussion and there was none. Chair Kramer called for all opposed, there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

### (3) Financial Report

Program Coordinator David Skakel noted three documents attached to the meeting agenda and calendar invitation relevant to this discussion. The first financial report is the fiscal year to date report. He noted that we are only two months into the fiscal year, and only see one month of revenue on this report. He also noted that the expenditures reflect about 15% use of the current budget. The second document is the Year End Budget to Actual for FY19/20. He noted that the beginning balance shows about \$18,000 more than projected. He highlighted other areas of budget health, including DEQ funds, vacant staff position, postage, grant program funds, and others. Bruce Lumper requested clarification of the administrative costs. Coordinator Skakel said that the number is derived from an agreement reached by the program and the county during the initial transfer from Public Health to Wasco County as lead agency. Mr. Lumper confirmed that response was sufficient. Chair Kramer requested an update from Planning Director Angie Brewer about the recruitment of the vacant position. Director Brewer confirmed that budget approval still exists for the position and that she and David had met recently to discuss the next steps necessary to pursue recruitment. In light of COVID, there may be some small revisions the scope of work for this position, as well as the physical office space to accommodate COVID safety measures.

#### **(4) Grant Request by Columbia Center for the Arts (CCA)**

Coordinator Skakel introduced Leith Gaines, Executive Director the Columbia Center for the Arts, and summarized the work funded by a recent grant from the Tri-County HWR Program to encourage the reuse and repurposing of materials into new uses and objects of value. He noted that COVID has required the original program to go online, increasing technology costs. Director Gaines thanked the Committee for their support. She provided additional information noting the work connects art with natural resources. With help from other funding sources, they have expanded their \$4,000 budget to \$6,000. She noted that projects include clothing made from items such as picnic table covers and chip bags, bowls made from records, bird houses and planter boxes.

Chair Kramer called for questions from the Steering Committee. Kevin Liburdy asked whether the video production was being done locally. Director Gaines confirmed that the work would be done by John Hardham, a White Salmon based videographer. Linda Miller commented that she was initially concerned about the proposal but now supports the educational goals of this work.

Director Gaines noted that she would like to add information to the videos to highlight the Tri-County HWR Program. She added the Program is already on their website and listed as a sponsor. Coordinator Skakel shared information about the Program's existing videos and opportunities that exist to cross promote. Kevin Liburdy asked how this work can be shared with local school districts. Director Gaines was open to that concept and encouraged Committee members to review the videos. She confirmed the videos can be accessed from the Center for the Arts website and that all of the videos should be available in the next eight weeks.

Chair Kramer said that his initial reaction to the requested funds was not favorable, but now that he understands there is an option to promote the program, he is supportive.

Gordon Zimmerman moved to approve the grant request; Linda Miller second. Chair Kramer called for any discussion. There was none. Chair Kramer called for any opposed, there was none. The motion passed unanimously, approving the grant request. Chair Kramer thanked Director Gaines for her work and efforts to further the goals of both organizations.

#### **(5) Legislative Update**

Coordinator Skakel described his role with the Oregon Association of Recyclers and the work of that organization. He noted that OAR met last week to discuss upcoming legislation. They expect Oregon DEQ to propose a recommendation for law based extended producer responsibility for paper and paper packaging. Single serve, cutlery and similar materials may also be addressed. A bottle bill fix may also be on the horizon due to the wine industry recent use of aluminum cans. He noted that there was an EPR bill for mattresses last year that will come back for reconsideration and that a bill on sharps is likely coming next year. Coordinator Skakel also noted some work to address carpet, explaining that it is made of materials not

readily recyclable but there is interest in exploring this, particularly in California. He said he could report on this in greater detail at the December meeting.

## **(6) Recycling Updates**

- Statewide Recycling Steering Committee (RSC)

Coordinator Skakel said that the attachments include a draft proposal born of consensus of almost two years of work by the DEQ hosted Recycling Steering Committee. This work was in response to the Chinese Sword. He described this work as an intelligent and thoughtful evaluation of what's working and realistic for our need. He encouraged the Committee to read it and said it will give you a vision of what's around the corner for recycling. Kevin Liburdy inquired as to whether Coordinator Skakel would like be nominated to the Governor's task force. Coordinator Skakel thanked him and noted how much time and work those advisory group members have contributed. Kevin Liburdy asked how the Program might support or thank the advisory group for their efforts. Chair Kramer thanked them for the discussion and reminded everyone that the result of this work will be a user fee and we should keep it in mind. Coordinator Skakel highlighted the reports calling out plastics and plastic based packaging as the primary problem needing to be addressed.

- Future of HWR Recycling Program

Coordinator Skakel suggested referring back to the subcommittee meeting notes on this topic. The conclusion of that meeting was that there is still a void following A&P closure. David suggested the subcommittee should meet at least one more time before the December meeting of the Steering Committee to make a formal recommendation. Chair Kramer confirmed this direction and directed staff to send a Doodle poll to arrange the meeting.

- Wasco Wasteshed

Coordinator Skakel reported that the cities of the Dalles, Mosier and Wasco County have all amended their recycling menu and rate surcharge to match the changes made in Hood River County. This ensures compliance with state laws and consistency in the Program service area.

Linda Miller noted the recent HWR mailer was the best document that has ever come out to inform residents and complimented staff. Coordinator Skakel shared that he received some feedback from the public that there was not enough information about hazardous waste, which was not the intent of that particular mailer. He summarized other successes of the outreach. Linda Miller also noted new tools employed by Waste Connections to reduce contamination at the curb. She described oops tags, an interactive app, and other tools. Chair Kramer suggested revisiting the marketing and outreach budget at the December meeting to further this work.

Bruce Lumper asked for the status of Sherman County's wasteshed compliance. David shared that he thought changes had been made but would like to confirm; Jacob Powell confirmed. Laurie Gordon confirmed that Sherman County has come into compliance.

## **(7) Other**

Coordinator Skakel suggested wrapping the work plan subcommittee into the work of the study subcommittee. Director Brewer said she would participate if work planning is added. Consensus was achieved that this would be an efficient path forward.

## **(8) Capital Projects**

- Hood River-Eyewash Shower Unit
- Hood River- Shed Roof

Coordinator Skakel provided an update on the Hood River facility eye-wash shower unit and shed roof projects. He noted the reasons for project delays and the traffic changes of recent events utilizing new COVID protocols. He shared that he and Director Brewer had recently discussed the need to take a deeper dive into the constraints of the location before making a financial investment. He added there is nothing that requires a decision of the Committee today. This topic will be back on the December agenda to discuss a summary of problems and possible solutions.

Chair Kramer suggested that paint contributions may be partly to blame for traffic volumes at collection events, and that we may need to consider splitting that out into a separate event. Coordinator Skakel noted that allowing people to bring in everything at one time improves participation but that yes, there are many participants that are only bringing paint. He also suggested messaging drop off centers for paint care participants. Linda Miller noted that there is more paint coming into the Hood River events than The Dalles. She asked about the number of drop off sites in Hood River. Coordinator Skakel shared there are at least two sites, including Hood River Supply and Home Town Paints. Director Brewer asked about the accountability of local paint collection sites. Coordinator Skakel summarized his understanding and suggested he could do some outreach to confirm in time for the December meeting.

## **(9) Miscellaneous**

- Compost bins

Coordinator Skakel shared that we have received a recent order of compost bins.

- Hazardous Waste Collection?

Coordinator Skakel summarized the efforts to host recent collection events following a COVID related hiatus. He noted the changes made (additional Stericycle staff), consistent participation, and upcoming meeting dates. Overall, the events have been successful and there may be some COVID related funding sources to cover increased costs. Chair Kramer thanked David for his efforts to maintain the events.

- Other?

Coordinator Skakel noted SWANA is reaching out hazardous waste clean-up following the recent wildfires. Director Brewer shared a recent conversation with city managers who've lost communities to wildfire and inquired as to whether the program has ever taken an active role in disaster response. She shared that the Program's contact information has been shared with affected residents in the event they have questions or concerns about household hazardous waste. Laurie Gordon noted that DEQ and the federal agencies are working through these issues. She added that there will be a lot of waste that needs to be dealt with.

**10:10 am Adjourn**