

TRI-COUNTY HWR STEERING COMMITTEE

**Meeting
Date:**

Wednesday September 22, 2021 9am-11am

Virtual Meeting meet.google.com/vxc-knsh-abi

Phone Number (US)+1 417-929-2156

PIN: 537 736 968#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ↓↓↓

Place ☒ next to
your name & sign

***All Guests Participated Remotely
in Response to COVID**

GUESTS ↓↓↓

Please PRINT
name below

☒ Steve Kramer _____

☒ Jim Winterbottom

☒ Kevin Liburdy _____

☒ Laurie Gordon (DEQ)

☐ Jacob Powell _____

☐ Steve Carlson (GRC)

☒ Mike Matthews _____

☒ Wallace Wenn (GRC)

☒ Gordon Zimmerman _____

☒ Julie Tucker (Emerald Systems)

☒ Mike Foreaker _____

☒ Heidi Venture (Emerald Systems)

☐ Linda Miller _____

☐ Greg Valitchka _____

☒ Merle Keys *53 _____

↓↓STAFF ↓↓

↓↓NON-VOTING MEMBERS ↓↓

☒ David Skakel _____

☒ Bruce Lumper _____

☒ Kelly Howsley-Glover _____

☒ Morgaine Riggins _____

Summary of Actions Taken

Approval of 6/9/2021 Quarterly Meeting Minutes	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Foreaker, Merle Keys
No	None
Abstained	None

Emerald Systems Grant	
Vote	4-2-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Foreaker, Merle Keys
No	Steve Kramer, Mike Matthews
Abstained	None

Gorge Rebuild-it Center Grant	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Foreaker, Merle Keys
No	None
Abstained	None

Action Item	6/9/21 Quarterly meeting minutes approved.
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Action Item	Approved Financial Reports
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Action Item	Approved Grants: Emerald Systems
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Action Item	Approved Grants: Gorge Rebuild-it Center
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Action Item	Approved M.O.U. pertaining to refrigerant
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Action Item	Approved enacting the Work Plan Sub-Committee
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9 am Welcome

Chair Kramer opened the meeting with a welcoming statement and introductions of committee members and attendees to welcome the new Interim Planning Director, Kelly Howsley-Glover, and Communications and Outreach Assistant, Morgaine Riggins. Meeting was recorded.

Schedule future meetings

- December 8th confirmed
- March 9th confirmed
- June 8th confirmed

HWR Program- Staffing

David Skakel confirmed this item was covered via the introductions

(1) Minutes

- (2) Quarterly Meeting Minutes 6.9.21

A motion was made by Merle Keys to approve and adopt the June 9th meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mike Matthews. There was no further discussion. Chair Kramer called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

(2) Financial Reports

- a. FY 2020/21 Year End (draft) (9:10)

David Skakel provided a year-end report for the previous fiscal year, highlighting that the surcharge revenue shows that only \$371,000 was brought in, but that the final year-end surcharge revenue for the landfill of almost \$39,000 had not yet been accounted for in that figure. Kevin Liburdy asked if the landfill surcharge revenue fell under the miscellaneous receipts figure of \$12,000, and David confirmed that it was.

- b. FY 2020/21 Surcharge Revenue (13:07)

David Skakel shared that when the program began, they had looked at a number of different funding sources and landed on a surcharge that had an automated CPI adjustment. The report provided showed how the surcharge has been doing over the years, with increases in the fee reflective of inflation. He brought to the committee's attention an error he noticed, that the total for this fiscal year says the revenue is \$420K versus the \$370K that the Year End Report shows, with the error being on line 11 at \$39,000 when it should be \$29,000, most likely due to human error but that it will be fixed. The final surcharge revenue is then \$410,000 which is

approximately \$10,000 less than what was budgeted, possibly due to COVID-19, and that this current fiscal year, the budget will be for \$400,000.

c. FY2021/22 Year-to-Date (17:12)

David Skakel stated that the county has moved over to a different reporting system and as we are getting to know it, he's hoping it'll do better on the reporting side, however the reports are longer than preferred and he's working with the finance department to get a more condensed report. Chair Kramer asked for consensus and consensus was given.

(3) Grants

- Emerald Systems (21:29)

David Skakel provided an overview of the Emerald Systems grant, which is to provide operational improvement with a focus on tightening up business practices and reporting, as well as a better understanding of what the landscape and opportunities are within Oregon's new recycling systems. With the changes of what can be put in the blue bin (ripple effects from the National Sword policy), Emerald Systems is filling in the gaps of what can be recycled.

Julie Tucker, owner of Emerald Systems, stated that she has done minimal reporting to the DEQ due to lack of systems to track how much and where the materials are coming from. The grant would help track the materials and what counties there coming from for DEQ, and to do a study to see how the new bill (SB582) affects how they collect materials, as well as evaluating public access to pop-up events for source-separated materials.

Bruce Lumper asked for confirmation that the grant will be looking at business practices as well to better track materials and form a more sustainable operation. Julie Tucker confirmed and Heidi Venture added that the reason business practices is important is because of the new bill requirements.

Gordon Zimmerman added that he, too, noticed that the grant was to help Julie run her business, and that regardless of what the senate bill is doing it will be helpful for her, and he thinks we can invest \$10,000 (doubling the original \$5,000) to keep this waste out of the waste stream and is all for this grant.

Kevin Liburdy asked if their analysis of SB582 will be completed by March, and Julie confirmed this. David Skakel added that SB582 has already passed and that implementation of it is up for interpretation, and is partly affected by ensuing rulemaking and that it will take some time to see how it will affect local communities.

Chair Kramer stated that he did not agree with the proposal, that it is not what our counties and cities should be doing to further Emerald System's business model. He mentioned that, in their SWOT analysis that Emerald Systems has "documents that detail the potential impacts of 582" and asked for that information to be shared with the committee. Chair Kramer stated that he will

be voting “no” against this opportunity. Heidi Venture added that the detailed document is a goal and not something they have on hand, and will be a measurement of how they’ve been successful. Chair Kramer entertained a motion. Merle Keys made a motion that the committee accept the proposal and Kevin Liburdy seconded that motion. Chair Kramer raised a concern prior to voting that, supporting the grant and Emerald System opens a can of worms in regards to recycling efforts and franchise agreements, and that we will have to be cautious with that as we move forward. Heidi Venture commented that they are very aware of the franchise agreements and will do nothing but collaborate with Waste Connections on how to serve both companies well, and will not be interfere with anything that has to do with Jim Winterbottom and Waste Connections. Chair Kramer called for a vote. Kevin Liburdy, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Foreaker, and Merle Keys voted “yes”; Chair Kramer and Mike Matthews voted “no”. The motion carried.

- Gorge Rebuild-it Center (36:11)

David Skakel introduced the grant, stating that the Rebuild-it Center serves our mission well by keeping useable building materials in play and out of landfill, and affordably into the hands of the community. He detailed that their financials are in the right place and that they’re keeping up with the influx of materials that is being brought to them.

Wallace Wenn stated that he sees this as a “house-keeping” grant to move along to the next step. This entails getting gravel down, lightning, and signage. He said that the Rebuild-it Center is doing well, they’re getting their revenue up but could use some help to get “solid material” done. He mentioned that the education piece is a relatively cheap tuition grant to get employees in an apprenticeship where they can see another facility and learn.

Kevin Liburdy commented that under bullet 3 for LED lighting, which calls for a permit, he appreciates that, but that they should also, get a permit for the signage change as well (bullet 4).

Mike Matthews asked if the gravel will be donated by the property owner and if they are participating since it may benefit them as well. Wallace Wenn stated that no, the owner is not participating and that Rebuild-it Center has the gravel, but the grant money will be going to get it spread.

David Skakel commented that the gravel will be beneficial not only to customers, but mainly for employees when operating the forklift.

Chair Kramer called for a motion. Kevin Liburdy called to approve the grant request, subject to inclusion of moneys towards a permit for the change in signage. Gordon Zimmerman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(4) Legislation and Policy

- Refrigerant (M.O.U.) (49:30)

David Skakel noted that this is something that's been on the HHW "future" tab for a while, but that we now have the ability to afford it. The proposal is that the HHW program improve a current issue of the proper disposal of items with refrigerant (refrigerators, freezers, a/c units) impediment is the current price tag of \$25-\$35 at The Dalles Disposal, which can be a barrier for some people. To resolve this issue, it is being proposed that The Dalles Disposal and Hood River Garbage have their collection price at \$10, and invoice the HHW program for the difference. Last year approximately 640 units were collected, and if we proceed with this change, it could be expected that the number increases, however it's been budgeted that we could support up to 700+ units. Jim Winterbottom commented that the current rates for units containing Freon at The Dalles Disposal is \$36.02 and \$37.73 at Hood River Garbage. David mentioned that Kelly Howsley-Glover had asked legal to review the MOU. Kelly confirmed that it had been reviewed to make sure that it is non-binding, and it was verified that it represented the spirit and intent of an MOU. The current timeline is that Waste Connections will offer \$10 collection and charge HHW the difference, and will reimburse Waste Connections at the end of this fiscal year. This spring, the success of the program will be reevaluated to determine whether or not it will continue for another year.

Mike Matthews asked if there is a plan for outreach with this. David commented that he wants to do outreach and that the newsletter being sent out for fall has the information in it.

Bruce Lumper complimented the collaborative process between Chair Kramer, Jim Winterbottom, Kelly Howsley-Glover, David Skakel, and the committee.

Laurie Gordon asked Jim Winterbottom if they've received any of the new appliances with R600A refrigerant. Jim said that as far as he is aware, they have not, but they have asked their processor whether or not there is anything they need done differently on the preparation of the appliances. Laurie mentioned that Jefferson County has, and that while it is better for the environment, from a worker standpoint it is not, and that it is highly combustible.

Kevin Liburdy asked for clarification on refrigerated items. Jim Winterbottom said that it's any appliance with Freon that needs to be evacuated by a licensed processor. Kevin suggested that the newsletter call out not just refrigerators, but also freezers and a/c units. Kevin asked if we budgeted \$30,000 for this program and Chair Kramer confirmed.

Chair Kramer entertained a motion. Merle Keys made a motion to accept the MOU. Mike Foreaker seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

- OBRC/Bottle Drop (1:00:00)

David Skakel stated that he's noticed that a lot of the bottle return centers are stressed, mostly COVID related. The centers are managed by OBRC (the statewide distributor association), David has asked them about it and the issue is a lack of dedicated "Bottle Drop" stores, and the obstacle to that happening in the Gorge has to do with the distributor, who is not a member of their organization. David does not know who the distributor is, but wanted to bring this topic up to see if the committee was interested in addressing this in some fashion.

Chair Kramer is in favor of collecting more data on this subject, and in the mean time looking for site than can house a store, and that it may be something that we need to use elected officials on.

Jim Winterbottom commented about the green bag system success in the Portland Metro Area.

- AOR Legislative Committee (1:09:23)

- Recap

David Skakel recapped that it has been a busy season with over 50 bills weighed in on. The legislative summary is in the calendar meeting invite. David highlighted bills that were considered: EPR for HHW and mattresses, right-to-repair, single-use plastics, carpet, and Styrofoam.

- Future

David commented that moving forward, we are left to interpret and prepare for implementation of bills that have passed, and specifically SB582A/B which modernizes Oregon's recycling system. Another notable bill is an EPR bill for medicines, implemented July of this year, which the HHW team is discussing how to leverage and amplify it. A bill that didn't make it this year was for abandoned RV's.

Laurie Gordon asked if David had spoken to Michael Lee at DEQ who heads the drug take-back program that focuses on areas that do not have drug drop off and possible collections at assisted living and senior centers. David said that he has spoken to him, as well as participating on a national call with him hosted by Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) regarding medicines. David said he wants to get the medicine EPR integrated into the HHW program at our events, which it already is, but the program is funding it and it would be nice to have the EPR pay for it. He will follow up with Michael on the subject.

(6)Miscellaneous

- Committees- Work Plan Committee

Plan to have a draft budget by March meeting and a completed budget by the June meeting. Will need to form a committee between now and December 8th meeting, to come up with a preliminary report on what the conditions are externally, what our capacity is in the program, and what the issues we should be working on going forward. David Skakel will create a doodle poll

to set up a meeting. Chair Kramer asked for volunteers and Gordon Zimmerman and Kevin Liburdy volunteered to participate, and other members who are interested should contact David.

- Hazardous Waste Collection

Hood River continues to be a friction point as it is a busy site. David is wanting to examine if we should maintain that site or switch locations, or if we need to increase events at that site. A doodle poll for a meeting will be set up to discuss this topic.

- Hood River HHW site

David mentioned that when they switched from monthly to quarterly events, due to cost issues, money was saved on hiring contractors and more hazardous waste was collected.

- Other?

The rural events are going well, attendance has been pretty close to historic. Drop in attendance at The Dalles and Hood River events had decreased, most likely due to COVID. The recent Tygh Valley event was relocated to the fire department, due to Cycle Oregon event, and could potentially be a location for next year. Finding out what avenues for marketing are better for each event. Mosier event will close the season for HHW, and the Ag collection events will happen in late October.

Chair Kramer called for anything for the good of the order. No discussion. Meeting was adjourned.

11:00 am Adjourn