

TRI-COUNTY HWR STEERING COMMITTEE

**Meeting
Date:**

Wednesday June 8th, 2022 9am-11am

Virtual Meeting	meet.google.com/ipz-nucd-fvt
Phone Number	(US)+1 515-726-3238
PIN	867 772 779#

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ↓↓↓

**Place ☒ next to
your name & sign**

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

GUESTS ↓↓↓

**Please PRINT
name below**

X Steve Kramer

Laurie Gordon, DEQ

X Kevin Liburdy

Jim Winterbottom, Waste Connections

_ Jacob Powell

Julie Tucker, Emerald Systems

X Mike Matthews

**Brett Wesson, City of Maupin,
Community Liaison**

X Gordon Zimmerman

Kris Schaedel, Hood River SWCD

X Mike Foreaker

X Merle Keys

X Jayme Bennett *11

↓STAFF ↓

↓NON-VOTING MEMBERS ↓

X David Skakel

☐ _____

X Kelly Howsley-Glover

X Bruce Lumper

X Morgaine Riggins

Summary of Actions Taken

Motioned to approve 3/9/22 Steering Committee minutes. Seconded.	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Matthews, Merle Keys, Mike Foreaker, Gordon Zimmerman
No	None
Abstained	None

Motioned to approve Hood River SWCD Grant. Seconded.	
Vote	5-1-0
Yes	Kevin Liburdy, Merle Keys, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Matthews, Mike Foreaker
No	Steve Kramer
Abstained	None

Motioned to approve City of Maupin Grant #1 and #2 (combined). Seconded.	
Vote	6-0-0
Yes	Steve Kramer, Kevin Liburdy, Merle Keys, Gordon Zimmerman, Mike Matthews, Mike Foreaker
No	None
Abstained	None

Action Item	Approved Financial Report
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Action Item	Approved 3/9/22 Quarterly meeting minutes
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Action Item	Approved Hood River SWCD Grant
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Action Item	Approved Maupin Grant #1 and #2 (combined)
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9 am Welcome

Chair Kramer opened the meeting with a welcome message to Steering Committee members and guests.

Schedule future meetings:

- September 14th confirmed
- December 14th confirmed

(1) Minutes

- Quarterly Meeting Minutes 3.9.22

Mike Matthews made motion, Mike Foreaker seconded. Motion carried.

(2) Financial Reports

a. FY 2021/22 Budget-to-Actual

On financial reporting, general license refers to a reimbursement of funds from contractor Clean Earth due to an overpayment. Hazardous Waste surcharge, \$41,383 for May. Approximately \$30K over first 5 months of year compared to last year. Tonnage seems to be consistent, or up, and CPI seems to be higher, potentially due to inflation. Postage reimbursement from Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal comes up a little short, but we are waiting on a payment that is still in process from Hood River Garbage. The advertising budget is being close to fully spent. One red flag is on office supplies on page 2; it shows that we have spent over budget, and this is due to us pulling funds towards compost bins, which was \$7500. Additionally, sharps and refrigerant are pulled from this fund as well and bills have been received from Hood River Garbage/The Dalles Disposal, and from Call2Recycle for recycling lithium ion batteries. Which equates to \$15K versus the \$12K budgeted for the "Office Supplies" line item. However, we will not be seeing batteries coming out of this line item moving forward; it will be a contracted service with Clean Earth. Bruce Lumper had a question regarding salary and David said he would bring it up to Mike Middleton, county finance director. Kevin Liburdy said it sounded like we have sharps and other material disposal costs and wondered if we should put that under a different line item so it better shows what the program is doing. David said that Mike Middleton had wanted a consolidated line item, but said that he will ask again if we could break them back into their own line items.

(3)Grants

- Hood River SWCD (hazardous waste reduction)

This application came about partly due to our participation in Pesticide Stewardship Program, which is a cooperative approach to managing pesticides on farms. In this case, the Hood River SWCD has a need for smaller amounts of money, where they have ample partnerships doing data collection and mitigating pesticide pollution in the Hood River Valley. Kris Schaedel with the Hood River SWCD discussed the work they do with pesticides and their participation in Pesticide Stewardship Program. They do work with pesticide pollution, education to reduce drift and on farm cost. Because they are a small district, they do not have a tax base and the projects are small scale, and it is challenging to fund these projects in a timely manner. This grant would allow them to plant almost 1200 feet of buffer and would act as a model moving forward. Kevin Liburdy said it looked like they had a partner in matching the funds and Kris said that the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs helps match funds. She said it is more technical assistance money and less on the ground funds. Gordon Zimmerman said that when he read the grant initially, he felt it was a deviation from household hazardous waste, but that he supports the project and will vote for it, however, we should be careful of mission creep. Bruce felt that he initially felt the same way but then realized that we do have the partnership there with agricultural collection by the Tri-County Hazardous Waste and Recycling Program. Mike Foreaker said that he also felt initially like it was out of our wheelhouse, but that the initial reason of the Program was to keep pesticides out of the environment. Chair Kramer agreed but said that it is a stretch for this organization as it is more focused on collection, but does support the project. Kris said she understands where the committee is coming from and how the project could be outside the grant program, and wondered what could make the project stronger such as signage and credit to Tri-County. Bruce suggested including it in their newsletter would be a way to provide credit, and Kris agreed that they would do that. Chair Kramer cautioned on too much advertisement, as it could bring in more applications. Kevin moved to approve project request. Mike Foreaker seconded. Chair Kramer opposed due to mission creep. Motion carried.

- City of Maupin #1 (transportation of recyclables)

David gave some backstory of how Mel's Sanitary used to service South Wasco County but then went out of business leaving a recycling desert. There is a transportation and contamination problem, specifically illegal dumping at the current unmanned site. With the new SB 582, transportation of recyclables should be paid for but that is still in the works. Brett Wesson with the City of Maupin, Community Liaison, introduced himself. They do have a public works yard that is fenced, with room to establish this recycling center. They currently collect cardboard and would move that bin to this recycling center, and they would also commingled recycling, glass, and yard debris. They have decided against collecting scrap metal based on the input of DEQ regarding water contamination at the site. They currently charge a one-dollar recycling fee on their utility bills but may raise that if the project moves forward. Mike Foreaker wanted to

confirm that the first grant was for transportation supplement (\$6000). Brett said that is correct and it would cover two hauls per month, and might change month-to-month, or winter versus summer. The second grant is for a glass-recycling container. Gordon asked about the sustainability of the program with cost of staffing. Brett said they will start with paid staff but will work to build a volunteer base, but that when a program is new it is challenging to get volunteers to staff it regularly. The operation hours will be two days a week for a four-hour window, so there is not a huge cost associated with it, but if they cannot build a solid volunteer component or get a large demand that requires keeping it open longer, then there is some potential for cost overrun. Bruce added that if they needed to raise the bill option of \$2 a month might be helpful and said we should double the funds to take care of the need until SB-582 kicks in. David said that this would be a good pilot project to see what the need in Maupin is and asked Brett if they were going to be surveying attendees to see where they are coming from and to make sure they know what they can and cannot recycle. Mike Foreaker stated that he's conceived this as a bit of a bridge until the new statewide recycling regime is fully implemented, and then funding for transportation would be provided and could influence recycling in the area. He said that they could restrict it to the city of Maupin but felt they would like to open it to the whole of South Wasco County. Laurie Gordon added that the Recycling Modernization Act will be able to help not only with transportation but also with a reload facility, recycling depot, and any manned hours would need to be funded, so could assist with job creation. Chair Kramer said that as we go through this process, we need to remember that recycling isn't free, and if they find that people are coming from other areas in south Wasco County then maybe they enact a surcharge fee. He would like more conversations to happen surrounding this topic. He feels comfortable with the capital investment, and asked if it would come out of the large grant fund. David confirmed yes. Gordon said that one could be a small grant and one could be a large grant, but David clarified that small grants are capped at \$5000. Gordon said let's make it one large grant (by combining both grants) at \$12,500 and made a motion. Mike Matthews seconded. Motion carried.

- City of Maupin #2 (dumpster for glass)

See above

(4) HHW

- Registration

Committed to setting up registration for households and businesses in Hood River and The Dalles. February event went well with registration. This was evident with our May event where we had health issues with both contractor and HHW staff; we had to cancel our event. With registration, we were able to contact everyone who had registered to let them know of the cancellation. We are in discussion with Clean Earth to have a separate business only event before the August event due to filling up on businesses at our Hood River event.

- Cancellation

See above.

- HHW Events: Out-of-Area residents/businesses. Allow/charge?

Question has arisen of whether we should allow out of area residents/businesses. David found documents that say if we track that and find more 2% of attendees are out of area/state then we will need to review that, but that in the past it has been recognize that we do accept out of area attendees. Bruce said that the policy that was put in place with the management plan that it still applied, and that the out of area business waste can go directly with Clean Earth. David stated this is more of a review/conversation of the situation. Chair Kramer said he believes that out of area/state should be charged for utilizing these services as they are paid by Tri-County taxpayers. Chair Kramer said we should bring this topic up for future discussion. Bruce said that this is a good opportunity to inform those residents about services in Klickitat and Skamania County. Morgaine said that we do inform them of their options in those counties, but that there seems to be a lack of trust on whether the materials are actually collected and properly disposed of. Gordon agreed that we should discuss this topic further.

(5) Policy, Regulation & Legislation (Chair Kramer)

ORSAC is now the Recycling Council and they are scheduled to meet in September. Truth and Labelling has had eight meeting over the course of three months, and have submitted their report to legislature. Meeting minutes can be found on DEQ's website. Local governments are meeting with DEQ to discuss reimbursement for recycling as we move forward with SB-582. The bottle bill, SB-1520, is getting a task force put together. He has had a conversation with Eric Chambers of OBRC and has connected him with someone to discuss a redemption center in The Dalles.

(6) Miscellaneous

- Contracts & Agreements

MOU on refrigerants, we were slated to discuss this before the end of the fiscal year. Jim shared that since October 1st through May, The Dalles Disposal has collected 271 units and Hood River has collected 239 units. Kevin asked if that was roughly \$5100 in subsidy for the program and Jim said that is roughly \$12K dollars. Mike Foreaker said that he has appreciated the discounted rate and mentioned how helpful it is for community members. Chair Kramer said he would like to see this continue for another year to have a benchmark for moving forward. Mike Matthews,

Mike Foreaker, and Kevin agreed that we should continue. Chair Kramer said we have consensus and will continue to collect refrigerant.

Chair and staff have agreed to review all contracts and agreements. All are in place with signed documents available, with a few items redlined, which are upcoming leases with Hood River Garbage and The Dalles Disposal facility sites, which expire at the end of the year. We are engaging Waste Connections to discuss the leases for renewal, as well as operations agreements. Included on that is an addendum to our maintenance fee. One thing that came up was asking DEQ for some clarification on the requirement for weekly inspections at our hazardous waste facilities. David was reminded of our hazardous waste operations were dependent on the solid waste permit they hold with DEQ – we are named under that permit. The expiration of those permits is July 2025 but wanted to inform the committee that we are tracking that. Bruce asked about the blank line item. David said there has been a vague and poorly defined maintenance fee, and we are in agreement with Jim to have that conversation to what that fee is and there will be something to show next year.

- Annual Review

All the events have consistent with historical events. Reference documents have been developed for each site, including high and low participation per year, how many staff, if a port-o-potty is needed. These are beneficial for having institutional knowledge of the events. Tonnage and CPI are up. We have been getting good analytics from Google and ReCollect. We have been getting questions about what we do with the collected hazardous waste. David wrote up a piece that has been verified by Clean Earth so that we can provide information to the public about where the material goes.

- Fixes, Updates, and Amendments

- Other?

Julie Tucker invited everyone to an event at the Farm Stand (in Hood River), where Chair Kramer will be speaking, on June 25th from 5-7pm.

11:00 am Adjourn