

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Meeting ID: <https://meet.google.com/etc-vyiy-ddp>
Phone Number: (US) +1 224-475-1973
PIN: 770 541 179#

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Steve Kramer (Commissioner/Chair), Kelly Howsley-Glover (Director), Kristina Fiebig (Tri-County HHW), Merle Keys (City of Dufur), Jim Winterbottom (Waste Connections), Kevin Liburdy (City of Hood River), Michael Foraker (City of Maupin), Laurie Gordon (DEQ), Mike Matthews (Hood River County), Matthew Klebes (City of The Dalles), Bruce Lumper.

Absent: Morgaine Riggins (Solid Waste Specialist Tri-County), Jacob Powell (Oregon State), Jayme Bennett (City of Mosier), J. Bennet (City Manager) from Cascade Locks

8:30 Am Welcome and Minutes

Kramer opens the meeting, greets the committee, and introduces Fiebig. Following the agenda Kramer asks to confirm the September 11th meeting, Foreaker confirms—Kramer motions for approval on a set of minutes from 3/13/24.

Keys motions to approve, Kramer seconds motion, no questions, no nay votes, Motion carries.

Survey Results

Kramer jumps to survey results asking Glover to start. Glover greets everyone and reports that the survey was conducted for several months in the Tri-County region. It was published through social media, the newsletter, and the newspaper. Key takeaways include supporting Spanish language translation, aggressive marketing and outreach, and the current work plan. Feedback also suggested modifying the large event days of the week to be more inclusive.

Glover inquires about next year changing up the days in the series (May, August, or November), to provide additional opportunities and flexibility, which would not be on the weekend for The Dalles. Everything else in the report aligned with the marketing plans and the workgroup. Glover opens the floor for feedback on the event days.

Survey Discussion

Liburdy does not have a recommendation on changing the date but supports changing them to help attendance.

Kramer greets Matthews and Gordon for joining and asks for questions on survey results.

Liburdy surprised at the number of improper disposal wonders if it's an area of education on disposal methods or alternatives that exist could be worked on.

Glover states staff is using it to help inform future publications and information, as it was eye-opening.

Kramer asks for any other questions or comments, with no other responses Kramer confirms that staff will work on having a new event day for The Dalles.

Liburdy states he also supports the follow-through of takeaways shared on page five.

Kramer referring to the packet, will continue to prioritize translation services, develop diversion, equity, and inclusion plans, and continue to promote access across sharps, paints, freon, medicine disposal, and all legislated options. Will create stickers or magnet stickers for tabling events on what hazardous waste is. In 2025 will investigate changing one Hood River/The Dalles event date as previously spoken about. Promote newsletter, do more e-blasts, continue with alternative collection methods to reach those with transportation issues and impairments, as well as work with the Native American and Latinx communities.

Lumper emphasizes the support and efforts for those items in particular the tribal communities as there has been work done on it since traditional collection events don't touch those communities.

Kramer states that Director Glover has reached out to Captain Moody with the Tribes to continue our efforts to reach that community.

Contract Update/CleanEarth Costs

Kramer transitions the conversation to updates about the contract with Clean Earth and the related costs.

Glover requests the steering committee's approval to sign off on the review of the final rate sheet increase for Clean Earth (which was the Excel spreadsheet provided), with the board of county commissioners to be the final signatory on it as it's a contract. There are no significant savings

from switching companies right now. This source of cost report was based on the state's new contract with Act Enviro through the comparison of DEQ and Tri-County research of obtained rates of two sources to deduce that the price was comparable.

Current contracts with Clean Earth expired, for contract renewal Glover proposes to work with the county for the next several months, to make the desired modifications. However, due to the Waste Connection amicable process, there's anticipation that it will take some time to complete. Glover opens the floor to questions but restates the proposition to move forward with Clean Earth for one more year.

Kramer asks for any other comments or questions and receives no responses. Kramers announces the move forward on working the contract with legal, to bring back to the committee, then changes the conversation to the update on the Agriplas event.

Lumper inquired if Kramer and/or Glover needed any decision on that update or not until September to get an okay from the steering committee. Glover states she is seeking approval to move forward with signing the rate sheet increases. Klebes asks if he can give approval to the county commission and Glover approves.

Keyes makes a motion to continue working with Clean Earth. Kramer and Foreaker Seconds it. Liburdy inquires if an amendment needs to be made to the motion to recommend to the board of commissioners our support for the increased or escalated cost as requested. **Keyes, Kramer, and Foreaker Second Amendment.**

Kramer asks for any further discussion before voting, with none, Kramer calls for a nay vote and abstention- and receives no responses. The motion carried unanimously. A consensus was made to continue working with legal to bring back to the board and move forward with the Agriplas Event update.

AgriPlas Event Update

The event's goal was to obtain 1,000 triple-washed containers and was grant-funded by the Department of Agriculture, 10 people showed up, resulting in over 3,000 containers obtained requiring them to come back the next day with another truck. Great success in that aspect as well as obtaining information on operations to help facilitate future pick-ups with Agriplas rather than having to do a separate event. Glover takes the opportunity to extend sincere gratitude for the continued and one-off event partnership with Winterbottom and Waste Connections, Winterbottom helped fill the gaps as well as support by being there and unusually utilizing the facility. Glover then opened the floor to questions.

Keyes asks when the next event will be before his retirement. Glover informs Keyes that work will be done with Agriplas on planning the next event date or have Agriplas come to Keyes's location to pick up containers. Keyes expresses gratitude.

Kramer states there's an effort to host a farm/orchard event and asked Gordon for comments.

Gordon states she was glad it was successful since efforts have been made to convince Agriplas to put on more events in different regions of the state, particularly the 18 different Eastern regions Gordon works in. Agriplas is unpredictable by canceling last minute or not showing up.

Kramer offers help to stay on top of it in this region and asks for any other comments to questions with no responses, moves down the agenda.

Policy, Regulation & Legislation

Kramer informed that ORSAC met the day prior. Between DEQ and CEA will hopefully give more time to work on a first draft of the plan before moving into round two. Last Thursday ORSOP, the optimization plan was received. Legislators might open up Senate Bill 582, so an eye needs to be kept on that.

Gordon asks if they mentioned a deadline for the extension. Kramer tells her no but a woman named Nicole will work with the CAA to noodle around it. Kramer goes on to state our legislators were there the day prior, Senator Findley (co-sponsor of the bill) and McLain both asked for us to provide the best report the first time and will follow up on that.

Liburdy asks if there will be any changes to 582's state recycling list, and whether it will affect some of the promotions and educating materials.

Kramer asks Winterbottom for corrections, and informs what needs to be done is to wait for the subcommittees to finish their work. Kramer unable to attend that meeting asked Winterbottom if he detected any red flags.

Winterbottom saw a couple of yellow flags. First, the statewide list will be expanded, Unsure if a pro material will be expanded in the co-mingle mix or be expanded in a stand-alone collection. Not a lot of clarity but where it's at, but wants to get the stream right the first time.

Liburdy comments it's a bigger problem for program staff.

Kramer informs Liburdy will be kept in the loop if/when an extension is or isn't obtained and what those findings will be. Kramers continues to report the AOC and LOC are preparing to

tackle a battery EPR, a presentation done at the AOC earlier in the month by Angie Marzano and Maya Buller both from Lane County was well received. Riggins provided relevant program detail findings from 2023: 1500 lbs of lithium, 1300 lbs of Ni-Cad, 2400 lbs lead acid, and 6200 lbs alkaline batteries were collected costing the program just under \$12,500. Kramer informs that he is moving forward in support of that legislation through whatever comes up. Kramer opened the floor to any questions and comments, but with no responses agenda moved to the miscellaneous items starting with the tire collection event.

Miscellaneous: Tire Collection Event

Kramer informs that conversations have been happening around the county about updating ordinances. Tire collection is an issue, littering the landscape all over. Kramer is working with Josh Thompson at Soil and Water Conservation District along with the NRCS, to put together a tire collection event. Kramer opened the floor to questions and comments, but with no responses, the agenda moved on to paint care events.

Miscellaneous: Paint Care Event

Glover informs that paint continues to be a significant product at events. To combat this Glover has asked Paintcare to consider us for their pilot program targeting the Spanish-speaking population for a creative reuse event, but due to a lack of funding, it may not be possible. Another idea staff would like permission to evaluate having a separate paint-only collection event which would be potentially at one of our retailers that participate in the paintcare program. Glover inquires if the steering committee is in support of continuing investigation options.

Lumper in support of the idea since current drop-off sights are obscure, an event can help with publicity and paint collection.

Kramer inquires if there are only two in the region.

Glover confirms that The Dalles Ace is no longer a participant but the Sherwin-Williams/Habitat ReStore center is. In Hood River, the locations are Swell City Decor and Gorge Rebuild it. Kramer tables the conversion due to more work needing to be done, asks Foreaker for approval, and receives.

Liburdy supports the efforts and wonders if event advertising should change to remind folks about the other local retailers. He also suggests utilizing Radio Tierra.

Kramer informs that it has been discussed at staff meetings and has been moving forward with it.

Glover inputs that we have been advertising on Radio Tierra for the past 3 years, for accessibility.

Gordon adds she fusses about the lack of advertisements to the Paintcare coordinator, and wonders if it can be reused locally. Glover states she's unsure but will make connections.

Gordon notes that she had made those connections before for those who do not have an option for disposal. The Dalles is potentially big enough to partner with hobbyists for paint reuse and will brainstorm on a repository where the paint can be housed for access if Glover starts making connections.

Glover agrees to terms, then elaborates how Gordon connected Glover with the EPR person at DEQ to discuss paint

Kramer asks for any other comments or questions on paint care. Matthews inputs that during COVID they established a strong social media presence and have been maintaining it. Matthews offers that any message we send to him can be re-posted.

Miscellaneous: Overview Sheets

Glover refers to a couple of information sheets containing slightly different audiences in anticipation of the Fall roadshow. Requests the committee to analyze if it can be useful to inform what the program is for boards, councils, other colleagues, and the general public.

Kramer asks for comments or questions, with no responses referring to the bottom right-hand corner of the second page, which shows we're close to keeping 1 million pounds of hazardous waste out of landfills since 2019.

Lumper brings up two items: first, not talking about the budget for the rest of this year's cycle despite it almost being done but wonders if there was anything that should be highlighted.

Glover states that there shouldn't be any surprises but not all of the bills from Clean Earth have been received for the events from this physical year so it will overrun in that category, however, there are savings in other categories to prevent any surprises.

Lumper asks Klebes for an update/status about the possibility of developing, implementing, and probing a curbside green waste curbside collection program for The Dalles urban growth area.

Klebes and Winterbottom had a conversation about it a couple of months prior, it hasn't gone anywhere since, but they would be happy to speak more about it.

Kramer spoke to Councilman Randall and Richardson who both seemed eager, but Kramer does not feel that it is a county responsibility or the Solid Waste Advisory Committee's responsibility other than to support the councilors. Kramer sees it as a good idea but gave it to Randall and Richardson due to a prior commitment, which has not gone anywhere.

Foreaker asks in that regard to his recollection that Hood River is unsure if the City or County implemented in part of their curbside recycling program and how successful that has been.

Liburdy says the program has been successful and we can learn more about the details and data through Winterbottom but offers future-specific answers of how the program is run.

Foreaker mentions that Maupin's recycling center is being affected since many people do not have transportation, hazardous waste events aren't practical but curbside recycling pick-up and outreach are. There is suspicion that households are doubling as hazardous waste dumps that only become known when someone moves or dies and wonders if expanding outreach would change the program's scope.

Kramer dually notes his concern shifting back to the compost/organics and notes that Winterbottom is in support and will move once the city moves. Then asks if there is anything else for the good of the order.

Liburdy is pleased to hear Glovers mention a roadshow as a city manager inquired when it would be, so he will inform them it might be in Autumn.

Kramer informs that they are looking forward to getting out and meeting everyone and new folks who have joined the councils and commissions.

Kramer Adjourns the meeting at 9:30 am