

Tri-County Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program
Steering Committee Meeting Wednesday
June, 25, 2025 9 AM
Wasco County Public Works Building, Conference Room

In attendance: Kelly Howsley-Glover, Jeff Justesen, Scott Randall, Kevin Liburdy, Mike Mathews, Michael J. Foreaker, Julie Tucker, Jacob Powell, Bruce Lumper,

9am Start

Justesen calls the meeting to order and, with no opposition, confirms September 10th as the next Steering Committee Date. Then with no questions on the March Meeting Minutes, entertains a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Powell motions to approve, and Randall seconds the motion. With no further discussion, the minutes are approved.

Financial Reports

Howsley-Glover reports on the year-to-date financial report as the end of the fiscal year approaches. Some bills are still coming in, which will impact the budget, but it is still healthy. In most cases, we are on target with the budget or slightly in the black with expenditures. Opens the floor to questions.

Liburdy raises a question on the surcharge and revenue as it looks a little lower than anticipated. Then asks if we are seeing decreased volumes at the landfill and the costs related to that. Howsley-Glover informs that it is her understanding that the projection may have been a little high.

Justesen opens the floor to questions and comments. Howsley-Glover brings awareness to the committee that she is interested in offering Fiebig a promotion to Solid Waste Specialist. The program would then have two Solid Waste Specialists, Fiebig being full-time and Riggins being part-time. Fiebig would shift into an interim phase in September, which would slightly impact the end-of-year budget in salary by about \$5,000. Due to both employees being lower on their step increases. Howsley-Glover then gives recognition to Fiebig for all her passion and hard work this past year in the program. Howsley-Glover then opens the floor to questions and comments.

Lumper asks if Fiebig is full-time and Howsley-Glover confirms that she is and that this would be a position promotion. Howsley-Glover then informs the committee that Riggins is currently content with being part-time but expressed a desire in the future to become full-time again. Halsey-Glover then goes on to explain that the program is working great with one and a half employees, but is excited to pass on some work to Fiebig that she has been doing for the past year and a half.

Justesen reminds that the budget is healthy, and this promotion will keep the program moving along with rewarding hard work, and Powell agrees with Justesen.

CRITFC Site

With the chair's permission, Howsley-Glover moves onto the CRITFC In Lieu Site Event. Reminding the committee that permission was granted to modify the budget to allow for an additional unscheduled event at an In Lieu Site, working in partnership with CRITFC. Howsley-Glover goes on to remind the committee that a past employee did an event with CRITFC, and it was very successful. The program is working with tentative approval on the event. Before CleanEarth agrees to the event, they will need a site tour. If approved and if successful, the plan will be for an additional annual event at different In Lieu sites. As well as supporting a year-round oil collection tank at one of their facilities next year. To help support proper hazardous waste disposal.

Lumper gives his support and inquires if additional support will be needed at this event. Howsley-Glover informs him that CRITFC's facility crew will staff the events, working in concert with CleanEarth, in the idea it will be as busy as one of the program's rural events. Liburdy informs the group that the event will be at Stanley Rock (Koberg Beach) in Hood River.

Policy/Legislation/ RMA Updates

Howsley-Glover informs the group that Winterbottom was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict; however, they have been in communication about outreach and education for the Universal Statewide Collection List (USCL). With the additional guidance of RecycleOn, the main Circular Action Alliance (CAA) public-facing education and outreach branch, the program will soft-launch the USCL due to the PRO's not being in place. Fiebig made an information flyer to share amongst the government employees who are interested in what is currently happening. Current intent is for harder outreach in November when the PROs will supposedly be in place. The program plans to incorporate current and relevant information into this year's Roadshow to update all our jurisdictions.

Lumper inquires what PROs stand for. Howsley-Glover informs that it's the producer's responsibility organizations, which are the folks that will be managing the harder to recycle items added to the list, which will have specific drop-box locations for.

Matthews expresses concern that the information flyer for governments is not suitable for the public due to a high reading level. Howsley-Glover assures Matthews that suitable information for the public will become available once outreach starts.

Justesen moves the conversion to the legislative session. Howsley-Glover informs that the session is almost over, in which the program has been tracking 4 bills. 2062, the battery EPR is likely to move through; two bills died in committee, and the sharps and solid waste being consolidated together is waiting the governor's signature.

Lumper inquires about 2062, that if this bill gets passed, to hold off on new battery education as not to confuse the public. Howsley-Glover confirms to return to prior battery education.

Miscellaneous

Justesen is moving the conversation to the AmeriCorps update. Howsley-Glover reminds the committee that the RARE program has been defunded, and Oregon Green Schools would be incorporated into another 501C3, so all pursuits are indefinitely on hold.

Howsley-Glover reports on the marketing report on behalf of Fiebig. The social media ads have been successful, and the program will continue to do them along with print media and online media. Another status update is the pilot program to test a recycled art class. Even with partnerships and outreach, there was no interest from the community; however, Fiebig made contact with the local Girl Scout troop to work on their recycling patches. Fiebig's promotion will include going into the school to educate children on the new USCL.

Mathews mentions he has recycled art made from old mining materials and would be happy to share pictures for inspiration. Howsley-Glover gives thanks and informs the committee that if they have any ideas on content for the socials, to reach out to Fiebig.

Howsley-Glover moves the conversation to the Rowena Fire as it pertains to the hazardous waste program. 56 homes, 91 structures, and over 100 automobiles/RVs were lost, with serious damage to 16 septic tanks. There is a serious concern about the household hazardous waste component of house fires. Thus, Winterbottom has been working with his environmental engineers to produce some outreach messaging about individual property owners and what the process is to bring debris to the landfill, since debris will not be accepted at the transfer station due to needing to be tested for asbestos. Winterbottom is anticipating that debris will need to be taken to Arlington. Since Wasco and the Governor declared this an emergency, we can use DEQ funding. Howsley-Glover informs that this has been a learning process and that she will be putting together a long-term recovery group with the expectation of producing documentation for future events, in particular, regarding hazardous waste and management after the fact. This will be useful for all our districts, and not having to create the information in response will be a critical piece to our program, by having the information available.

Lumper gives his appreciation, while Powell does as well, and informs that the OSU extension program would be happy to support this effort and any extension publications that can be shared. Powell then shares that there is a statewide fire prevention program that has four or five specialists around the state. He also thinks that there are not enough resources, as there should be, as this is a statewide issue that will continue to get bigger.

Matthews states his interest in working with the North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) on what they will do with the septic systems on those sites. Howsley-Glover informs that there will be a department meeting with NCPHD about fees and other items, which she will mention Matthews' interest.

Foreaker asks for guidance on the RMA on whether there would be funding for rural communities to help brave the cost of operating recycling facilities. If so, how would one go about applying for it? Howsley-Glover mentions that she will do some research and get back.

With nothing left on the agenda, Jutesen opens the floor to any questions, concerns, or thoughts. Liburdy gives thanks to the team and the marketing analytics report to see all the work being done. Justesen also gives appreciation to the efforts on the social media outreach. Howsley-Glover mentions that the May Hood River event was sold out and that The Dalles got close, meaning the program is back to pre-COVID levels, which has been a target for the committee for the past couple of years. Tucker also gives her support for Fiebig's efforts by reposting videos on the Gorge Sustainability page. She also mentions that to help not confuse citizens with the RMA, her program has stopped taking hard-to-recycle items.

Powell mentions for the good of the order that East of The Dalles, there was a company that distributed ag chemicals and then took back triple-washed containers from customers, which may become an issue since that distributing center is closed. Powell will continue to connect farmers to Agriplas, but alarms the committee that this might become more of a problem than it has been in the past. Howsley-Glover thanks Powell for the notices and informs him that the program has connected Agriplas to the Weed department, due to the amount of triple-washed containers they create. She also informs Powell that the program hopes to receive this kind of information with the targeted AG mailer going out in the fall.

With no other comments, Justesen confirms the next meeting for September 10th and adjourns the meeting.