

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

September 26, 2006 at 6:30 PM  
Courthouse Square, Senator Hearing Room  
555 Court Street NE, Salem OR 97305

**Routine Business:** Nora Schliske called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Members Present:** Susie Riches, David Furr, Judy Skinner, Glenn Zimmerman, Bob Anderson, Nora Schliske, Bonnie Sullivan, Russ Johnston, David Phelps, Gregg Dart

**Members Absent:** Mary Kanz, John Matthews, Mike Clark, and Thomas Smith

**Public Signed in:** Marian La Bounty

**Staff Present:** Jeff Bickford, Carol Ault, and Bailey Payne

<b>Minutes:</b>	Nora Schliske, Chair, asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the August meeting.
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<b>Results:</b>	Seeing none, the minutes were approved as written.
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**Public Input:** None

**Ongoing Items List:** No discussion.

**E-Waste and Recycling in Marion County:** Report from Bailey Payne, Recycling Coordinator for Marion County

Bailey gave an overview of the electronics recycling in Marion County and some proposed changes. The program began in July of 2000. One of the principle reasons the program was started was public interest. Another main reason is the changing nature of the waste stream, with electronics becoming part of our lives over the years.

Initially it was decided that we could only accept computers, monitors, and peripherals. Although there are a lot of other materials the recycling company accepts, “baby steps” seemed the safest way to begin this new program. The fear was that we would get totally inundated if we accepted telephones, VCR recorders, fax machines, stereo equipment, and other types of electronics. We now have begun accepting these items.

We currently accept, at no charge, computers, monitors, laptops, PDA’s, printers, cables, keyboards, mice, Mp3 players, GPS units, speakers, and video cameras at the Salem Transfer Station. Bailey explained the procedure for recycling these items. Once the boxes are full, they are put into a large, secured container, and more empty containers are put out. Eventually, when the security box fills up, it is set aside and an empty one is put in its place. We fill up a security box about twice every 7-10 days.

Our electronics-recycling program has seen a lot of growth since it was created in 2000. The total tons of material collected are reflected in the graph. (See attachment #1) This year we expect to collect more than one million pounds of electronics.

We are also collecting cell phones and printer cartridges separately since we can actually receive payment for these items. Funds raised from these items are donated to the Oregon Green Schools Program. The printer cartridges are refurbished and resold by a local company. This year we will receive approximately 2,000 cell phones and about 600 printer cartridges.

We have also been working with Garten Services to develop a way for people to recycle their CDs and DVDs as well as VHS tapes.

Ellen Twist has been working with some of the Big Box stores to put an informational sticker on the box of the new computers so the customers will know they can recycle their old one.

Since the program began in 2000, we have been working with a company called Computer Drive Connections (CDC). CDC has taken all of the material mixed together at no charge to us. They sort through the parts and separate out pieces that can be resold. The metal circuit boards, cables, and steel cages are sold as scrap metal to a larger metals dealer, like Metro Metals. CDC also sorts the monitors by size and sells them to individuals who export them to Eastern European and Asian countries. It is fairly labor intensive to recycle monitors and televisions, which is part of the reason that they export these items. Another problem with recycling monitors and televisions is that they contain a lot of lead in the glass cathode ray tubes (CRTs). The monitors that CDC collects are sold on the open market, so the buyer changes from shipment to shipment. This makes it difficult for them to provide us with any type of documentation about what is ultimately happening to them. While there are companies abroad that are very reputable and are monitored to ensure that they are complying with environmental and public health laws, not all of these foreign companies are as responsible. A few years ago, a Seattle-based group, Basal Action Network, and another California-based group, the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, began documenting cases in China and other countries where public health and environmental conditions were compromised. While our materials are not necessarily going to these types of businesses, the lack of documentation is a concern for us.

The second reason we have been interested in working with another company is because CDC is not able to accept televisions. We are anticipating a growing interest in television recycling as residents discard their old televisions when they purchase the new high definition televisions (HDT) that will soon become the standard. This will probably require us to charge a fee because it costs approximately \$18 - \$25 to recycle a television. Beginning a new program like this involves a lot of guesswork. "How many TV's are out there?" "How many can we expect to get recycled?" To better understand this, other area's work was reviewed. Snohomish and King Counties in Washington and the entire state of California have television recycling programs up and running, but there is one big difference; they have a CRT landfill ban, which Oregon does not have.

How much we charge for recycling these items is another problem. When we begin charging, this brings up another set of challenges that could potentially lead to a higher incidence of illegal dumping, which would be an expensive and troubling predicament.

The third reason we are looking to change the program is that we are also hoping to integrate a reuse element into the program whereby parts would be tested and reassembled into new computers. These computers would then be given to schools and/or people otherwise unable to purchase new computers.

Linn-Benton Community College (LBCC) has a training program. The college typically places these students in positions in the community, but some individuals do not have the skills requested or there are not enough placements available. In these cases, they are trained at the college.

We are negotiating with LBCC in which our material would be sent to them to be dismantled. The students would test the various sound and video cards, modems, hard drives, etc. Useable parts would be separated and unusable ones would be recycled. Then the usable parts would be used to create “new” computers. Students that successfully complete the job-training program would be given a working computer. The additional computers will be given away to low-income families, donated to schools, or sold inexpensively at the new Juvenile Department Market. The unusable scrap metals and plastics will be sold to a larger recycler, like Quantum Resources or Metro Metals. Agri-Plas may even be able to process the plastics.

There are still a lot of details to work out. One of the major ones is how the monitors will be handled. If the LBCC program can process the monitors, this will bring down the overall cost of the recycling program substantially.

One issue that we will need to resolve is data security. Our department probably won’t want to get into data destruction, but we will probably post a sign that warns customers that we do not guarantee data destruction and while we make every attempt to ensure that the information on the hard drives is erased, we cannot offer a document of destruction. This might be an opportunity for local businesses, like Garten Services, to fill a niche that our program doesn’t cover.

The whole presentation is available on cassette tape at the Environmental Services office at the Public Works campus at 5155 Silverton Rd. NE in Salem. For more information, you may contact Bailey Payne at 503-588-5169, ext5991 or email: [bpayne@co.marion.or.us](mailto:bpayne@co.marion.or.us)

**GRANT INFORMATION:** Bailey Payne

These grants are funded from the processing of medical waste from out-of-county.

- Farm Worker’s Development Housing Corporation: This is an organization that helps farm workers find affordable housing and eventually help them become home owners in the area. \$29,127
- A.C. Gilbert Discovery Village: This will be to provide education in the next two school years targeting Title I Schools outside the Salem-Keizer School District. \$16,950
- Stayton High School: Developing a recycling program to buy the bins and recycling stations. \$3,598
- Salem-Keizer School District: To provide seed money for incentives for schools to start recycling programs. \$19,425
- Habitat for Humanity: Opening a reuse store so home remodelers and local contractors can buy used construction materials. \$57,328
- Linn-Benton Community College: Assistance to implement the computer monitor recycling project described in Bailey’s report. \$9,630

- Marion Polk Food Share: To help increase amount of produce distributed to families in the area. \$20,000 + \$20,000 pending from DEQ.
- Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center: To improve their recycling area. \$10,842
- Oregon Environmental Council: This is to provide help in collecting mercury thermostats and set up a collection program at the Lowe's Store. This is a pilot project and if it succeeds here, they will consider doing it nationwide. \$10,000 from DEQ
- Agri-Plas: Purchase equipment for plastic recycling. \$150,000 from DEQ (pending)
- 10-10 Films: To produce a statewide DVD that will target construction and demolition waste. \$83,119 from DEQ (pending)

## Q & A

Q. What do you do with the CRT tubes?

A. At this point, Computer Drive Connections is taking them all. Then they sort them out by size and sell them abroad for reuse.

Q. Suggestion to have the vendor of new TV's give the customer a \$10 coupon , which can be used for the cost of recycling their old TV. This money would then come back to the county.

A. Bailey agreed and said that there is a committee from the DEQ that is looking at this option.

Q. Why not charge for CRTs, TVs, etc. like we charge for tires, refrigerators, etc?

A. Jeff said that with the appliances and tires, there is a state disposal ban on those items. The disposal sites cannot accept them, so they have to be recycled. This ban doesn't exist for the computers, yet.

Q. Have you looked at a different fee for different sizes of TVs?

A. That's something that will be taken into consideration. This is done already with tires, with a different fee for larger tires, as opposed to the smaller tires.

Q. Does the county publish a list of E-Waste that is accepted at no charge at the sites?

A. Yes. It's on the web site.

## **Illegal Burn/UGB Backyard Burning Update**

The question was, "Can someone take a picture of the illegal burn and give that photo to an enforcement officer to cite the individuals?" Jeff talked to Legal Counsel and they said that a photo wouldn't work. Whoever is doing the citing has to witness the violation. Bob Anderson said that the subcommittee would have more information to share at the October meeting.

## **Membership**

There were two applicants interviewed for the vacant Citizen-at-large position on the SWMAC. Fred Stearns and Marian LaBounty were interviewed. It was a hard decision, as both applicants were great.

MOTION:	David Furr moved to recommend that the BOC appoint Fred Stearns for the vacant Citizen-at-large position on the SWMAC. The motion was seconded.
Discussion:	David Furr gave a brief summary of the applicant, Fred Stearns.
Dissensions:	None
Abstentions:	None
Results:	Motion passes.

Marian LaBounty has requested that her application be kept on file. Should another Citizen-at-large position come available, Ms. LaBounty will be considered.

Jeff said that an application has been received for the Community Organization position. This individual is a member of the League of Women Voters. The Membership Subcommittee schedule an interview.

At the last SWMAC meeting, Kyle Elwood (public) expressed interest in being re-interviewed for the vacant Citizen-at-large position. Jeff said that he received no response on the two voice mails and email message he'd left for Mr. Elwood to set up an interview time.

**Council Input/Announcements/New Business:**

- Holiday Dinner – Carol Ault and Susie Riches volunteered to put something together. An update will be given at the October meeting.
- Bonnie Sullivan thanked Judy for inviting the council to the Agri-Plas Open House. John Matthews was the emcee and Judy was awarded for all her contributions in helping in the office. Bonnie asked Jeff if he could set up a tour of the Agri-Plas plant.
- Bonnie talked about an article in the Jefferson Together Newsletter regarding backyard-burning season, which opens October 1. Bonnie suggested that similar newsletters be done for other small communities as well.
- Bonnie has an email that she will forward to Jeff regarding disposal of microwaves. The article also tells about some of the things that happen when you microwave your food.
- Russ talked a little about the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Last week the WTEF went through their second year of Oregon OSHA Sharp, which is a safety and health achievement recognition program and are accepted into the Sharp OSHA program for another year. The US EPA is a program, which works with businesses that are above their standard for emissions across the United States to award facilities for their performance. Last week the WTEF went through the last audit for the program and will be making application during the month of October. Hopefully it will be accepted by early 2007. A copy of the information will be included with the minutes. See Attachment # 2.
- Gregg said the first Platinum LEED building just opened in Portland. Jeff said that the Courthouse Square is a Bronze LEED building.
- Susie said the food drive that the garbage haulers do will start in October. The empty bags will be distributed and can be put out with the blue recycling roll carts. There will be two pickups next month. Not all areas will be included in the drive.
- Jeff said that there might be a weekly drop at the Transfer Station every Sunday for Styrofoam. This will be sponsored by PC Plastics and held at the HHW Facility at the Transfer Station. The HHW Facility will be closed that day, but the loading dock will be

used for this event. There is also a Styrofoam event coming up on October 14 at the Morningside United Methodist Church. This event is not sponsored by Marion County.

- Bob Anderson said that DEQ passed an amendment to their Clean Air Mercury Act, which applied to incineration, in 1998. The new amendment will regulate the amount of output at the coal incineration facility in Boardman. Bob has been asked by the DEQ in Portland to serve on their advisory council. There are 500 of these coal-fired facilities in the United States, but only one in Oregon. Bob will bring more information on this to the next SWMAC meeting.

**STAFF UPDATES:** Jeff Bickford

- HHW Event in Woodburn will be September 30 from 9-3 at the WalMart Store.
- The vegetation crew found an old landfill south of the old demolition landfill at the North Marion Facility. There were huge stockpiles of old tires ranging in sizes from small to tractor size. Approximately four 30-yard drop boxes and two 40-yard drop boxes of tires were removed. Besides the tires, there were also asphalt shingles and scrap metal.
- There will be an annual Advisory Board Training on December 1, 2006, from 8:30-Noon in the Senator Hearing Room at Courthouse Square (555 Court Street NE). The SWMAC members are encouraged to attend. Please send your RSVP to Jeff.

**Agenda for next meeting:**

* Membership subcommittee report	15 min.
* Illegal burning/UGB Backyard Burning update	30 min.
* Holiday Dinner Discussion	15 min.
* Coal Burning Power Plant Emissions – Bob Anderson	15 min.

**Meeting review:**

- **Meeting went smoothly**

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOTION:</b> Bonnie Sullivan moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded.
<b>RESULTS:</b> All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned.