



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Solid Waste

August 12, 2025. 9:00 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Alvin Klausen, Chris Eppley, Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Andrew Johnson, Dennis Mansfield, Brian May, Brian Nicholas, and Cory Swartwout.

Citizen: Kathy Rogers.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

Waste Reduction

- Marion County Data:
 - In 2022, Marion County generated just over 625,000 tons of waste:
 - Including recycled and disposed materials.
 - Recycled materials accounted for nearly 292,000 tons.
 - Disposed materials were 333,000 tons.
 - The county achieved a 46.7% recovery rate:
 - Ranking second in the state.
 - The statewide recovery rate was 39.4%.
 - Marion County's target for 2025 is 64%.
 - Per capita waste generation is approximately 3,600 pounds per person per year.
- Oregon Recycling Laws:
 - The state has changed how recovery is measured:
 - Removing certain credits and making the numbers more accurate.
 - Previous credits for education and outreach (up to 6%) were eliminated:
 - Impacting reported recovery rates.
 - The waste hierarchy and requirements for curbside recycling and education have been in place since the 1980s.
- Recycling Modernization Act (RMA):
 - RMA aims to standardize recycling lists statewide and improve accessibility.
 - Producer responsibility is emphasized:
 - Requiring companies to pay more if their packaging is not recyclable.
 - Marion County is eligible for \$3 per capita in funding for contamination reduction education.

- Additional incentives include reimbursement for glass recycling and potential funding for new or expanded depots.
- Funding agreements (PFAs) are being finalized:
 - Most cities in the county have signed on.
 - Salem and Kaiser still pending.
- Waste Reduction Plan:
 - Options include:
 - Filling in-house waste reduction positions.
 - Contracting with third parties.
 - Relying on haulers and jurisdictions.
 - Flexibility in using funds for technology, education, or outreach emphasized.
 - Collaboration with jurisdictions and haulers is essential for accountability and effective program design.
 - Input from all stakeholders is needed before finalizing the plan:
 - Menu of options will be developed for review.

Solid Waste Fund

- Breakeven Analysis:
 - On hold with some waste reduction activities due to funding constraints.
 - Recent adjustments to transfer station rates aimed to achieve breakeven:
 - Some overhead and administrative costs remain unaddressed.
 - A comprehensive financial analysis is underway to assess the current state of the solid waste system, including volumes, revenues, and gaps.
 - The next meeting will present updated financials and a summary of past decisions regarding costs and improvements.

Next Steps:

- Finalize and submit the Primary Funding Agreement (PFA) to access RMA funds.
- Develop waste reduction options and have input from jurisdictions and haulers.
- Schedule a meeting in September to review options and provide direction.
- Present a summary of past decisions and updated financial information at the next meeting (August 28th).
- Plan public hearing on transportation and disposal rates at the end of the month.
- Ensure accountability and effective communication with all participating cities and stakeholders.

Adjourned – time: 2:12 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White