

MARION COUNTY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes



Date:
10 June 2026



Time:
12:00 PM – 1:30 pm



Location:
Salem Recycling Center

Meeting Called to Order at 12:10 pm

Attendance	
Name	Present/Absent
Members	
Kevin Cameron (Chair)	Present
Daniel Kohler	Present
Jenny Ammon	Not Present
Linda Nishioka	Present
Ryan Zink	Not Present
Frank Lonergan (Vice-Chair)	Present
Jim Row	Not Present
Walter Wick	Present
Marie Traeger	Not Present
Jordan Ohrt	Not Present
Brian Asher	Present
Walter Perry	Present
Ken Hector	Not Present
Michele Tesdal	Not Present
Treva Gambs	Present
Duane West	Present
Shane Kuenzi	Present
Mark Lowery	Not Present
Sarah Steen	Present
Staff	
Brian May	Present
Cory Swartwout	Present
Whitney Ned	Present
Erin Burt	Not Present
Guests	
Quorum: Yes	

Welcome & Introductions – Kevin Cameron

Chair Kevin Cameron brought the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Administrative

- Agenda Changes:
 - None
- Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes – **Action:**
 - Motion: Daniel moved to approve May 2026 minutes.
 - Second: Duane seconded.
 - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment:
 - None

Updates/Announcements - All

State Sustainable Materials Management Task Force Presentation

Brian May reported that staff would be presenting to a state task force regarding:

- The history of Marion County's integrated solid waste system.
- Progress made on facilities and programs.
- Future planning and projections for the region.

The presentation is intended to inform statewide discussions on regional solid waste management structures and collaboration.

Discussion emphasized:

- The value of regional collaboration.
- Allowing local regions to determine appropriate governance structures rather than imposing statewide solutions.
- The task force's goal of producing recommendations for legislative consideration by September.

Grant Funding Update

Brian May reported that the administrative steps necessary for repayment arrangements had been completed, allowing implementation of approximately \$430,000 in Contamination Reduction funding.

Discussion included:

- Meeting expenditure deadlines.
- Purchasing educational materials such as magnets and informational cards.

- Coordinating procurement timelines.

Shane led the discussion on options for purchasing a new outreach vehicle.

Topics included:

- Considering electric versus conventional vans.
- Challenges associated with sourcing electric vehicles locally.
- Preference for practical solutions that can be implemented quickly while supporting local builders when possible.

Scale House Software Implementation

Cory provided an update on the implementation of a new software system that became operational on June 1 for the Salem, Woodburn, and Browns Island transfer stations.

Purpose of the New System

- The previous system had become outdated and difficult to maintain due to obsolete software and limited technical support. The new system modernizes operations.

Driver's License Scanning

- The council discussed the new driver's license scanning process:
 - Customers present their license during check-in.
 - The license is immediately returned after scanning.
 - The system only reads information printed on the license and is not connected to DMV databases.

Payment Enforcement

- If customers complete payment:
 - Personal information is deleted from the system.
- If customers fail to pay:
 - The system retains their information.
 - Outstanding balances are flagged during future visits.
 - Customers must satisfy previous balances before additional dumping privileges are granted.

Staff noted this addresses recurring issues with unpaid disposal fees that previously were difficult to track.

ZIP Code Collection

- Staff clarified that ZIP codes will continue to be collected for reporting purposes because driver's license addresses may not always be current.

Salem Solid Waste Committee

Linda reported that the Salem Solid Waste Committee has developed a new solid waste policy aligned with the city's Climate Action Plan and incorporating a long-term 2050 zero-waste goal as an aspirational objective.

Public Feedback

- Most public comments focused not on the policy itself but on:
 - Recycling education.
 - Confusion about recyclable materials.
 - Requests for additional recycling services.
 - Questions about collection frequency and container options.
- Discussion highlighted the need for continued public education regarding:
 - Proper recycling practices.
 - Food waste collection.
 - Reducing contamination in recycling streams.

The committee also discussed balancing service levels for households with varying waste generation needs, including larger container options for larger families.

Discussion on Seasonal Collection

- Members discussed whether seasonal adjustments to recycling and yard debris collection could better match customer needs, noting:
 - Greater yard debris volumes during spring and summer.
 - Increased recyclable packaging during the holiday season.
 - The possibility of seasonal container or service adjustments was suggested for future consideration.

Upcoming Meetings

- No meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 12th.
 - Members discussed possibly meeting at the Holman Hotel and having Gamberetti's cater. Duane mentioned Home Builders Association may be able to host as well.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:36 pm