

MARION COUNTY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes



Date:
29 Oct. 2025



Time:
12:00 PM – 1:30 pm



Location:
MC Courthouse Square

Meeting Called to Order at 12:05 pm

Attendance	
Name	Present/Absent
Members	
Kevin Cameron (Chair)	Present
Daniel Kohler	Present
Jenny Ammon	Present
Linda Nishioka	Present
Ryan Zink	Present
Frank Lonergan (Vice-Chair)	Present
Jim Row	Present
Walter Wick	Present
Marie Traeger	Present
Jordan Ohrt	Present
Brian Asher	Not Present
Walter Perry	Present
Ken Hector	Not Present
Michele Tesdal	Not Present
Treva Gambs	Not Present
Duane West	Not Present
Shane Kuenzi	Present
Julie Jackson	Present
Staff	
Brian May	Present
Cory Swartwout	Present
Toni Whitler	Present
Guests	
Kennedy Jantzi (MVHA)	Present
Cat Rhoades (DEQ)	Present
Derek Neliton (D&O and MVHA)	Present
Cindy Rogers (Republic Services)	Present
Kathy Rogers	Present – Via Teams

Quorum: Yes

Welcome & Introductions – Kevin Cameron

Vice-Chair Frank Lonergan opened the meeting at 12:05 PM, noting that Chair Kevin Cameron was delayed due to an extended Board session.

Frank acknowledged the full council, staff, and industry attendees and thanked the group for their flexibility, noting that the October meeting date had been shifted due to scheduling conflicts. He emphasized that this was an important meeting with several significant updates and discussions planned.

Chair Cameron joined shortly thereafter and added brief remarks thanking members for attending and recognizing the busy schedules of council representatives.

Administrative

- Agenda Changes - **Action:**
 - No agenda changes were requested.
- Approval of August 2025 Meeting Minutes – **Action:**
 - Motion: Ryan Zink moved to approve the August 2025 minutes.
 - Second: Dan Kohler seconded.
 - Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
- Public Comment:
 - None.

Disposal Fee Increase – Brian May

Brian provided a detailed overview of the financial impacts associated with the closure of the waste-to-energy facility and subsequent system adjustments.

Key Financial Impacts

- The Covanta facility previously generated over \$7 million annually, subsidizing multiple areas of the county's solid waste system. Its closure created a significant structural deficit.
- While transfer station tip fee increases went into effect (new rate: \$130/ton), the county still faces a \$5.3 million shortfall even after adjustments.
- Brian passed around detailed handouts showing:
 - Revenue loss
 - Cost-per-ton comparisons
 - Projected budget forecasts
 - Restricted vs. unrestricted reserves

Leachate Management

- Disposal costs are approximately \$0.35 per gallon, with 2.5–3 million gallons per year needing treatment, representing a major budget driver.

Landfill Closure & Future Capacity Planning

- Browns Island and the ash monofill require closure designs.
- Closure and construction timelines indicate significant activity beginning around summer 2027.
- Brian reviewed ongoing statewide concerns regarding long-term landfill capacity, referencing recent closures and operational changes across Oregon.
- The county may need to consider future partnerships involving rail, barge, or long-haul transfer strategies due to shrinking regional capacity.

Council members asked clarifying questions regarding reserve balances, projected shortfalls, ratepayer impacts, and long-term planning.

Message from Commissioner Danielle Bethell - Recording

Key Themes from Commissioner Bethell's Message

- Concern over statewide policy decisions affecting Marion County, particularly legislation impacting waste-to-energy operations.
- Appreciation for the MMAC's role in educating elected officials and the public about Marion County's historically high-performing materials management system.
- Encouragement for council members to continue advocating for the county's interests during statewide rulemaking and legislative engagement.
- Commissioners expressed that system changes have significantly affected not only Marion County but other jurisdictions as well.

The message underscored the importance of MMAC's work, collaboration, and public education efforts moving forward.

DEQ Contamination Reduction Program Goals & Elements – Cory Swartwout

DEQ-Approved Statewide Goals

Cory presented the two mandatory goals jurisdictions must adopt:

1. Zero High-Risk Contaminants in Recycling Streams

These items pose significant safety hazards.

2. Lower Overall Contamination Rate to 10% by 2033

- Current statewide average: ~15%
- Marion County estimated at ~16%
- DEQ will measure progress through annual reporting and educational interventions.

Funding Overview

- Combined countywide funding from Circular Action Alliance is projected to exceed \$1 million annually.
- Eligible activities include:
 - Cart tags
 - Education and outreach campaigns
 - AI/camera auditing systems
 - Standardized container labels and colors
 - Multi-family housing support
 - Commercial contamination reduction
 - Depot improvements

Council Discussion

- Haulers expressed strong concern about any return to driver-led cart inspections, citing past negative experiences.
- Cities emphasized a need for cohesive, countywide messaging.
- Members agreed that the most immediate and feasible interventions included standardized labels, consistent container colors, and broad educational outreach.

Council Direction

- The council agreed that adopting both DEQ goals is necessary for regional consistency and funding eligibility.
- Haulers will return with a prioritized list of project options and estimated costs at a future meeting.

Updates/Announcements - All

- Members briefly discussed the importance of regional planning.
- The next MMAC meeting date will be circulated once confirmed.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:33 pm

Next Meeting: TBD