

**MARION COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** Tuesday, July 27, 2021  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.  
**Logistics:** Zoom meeting with limited “in person” attendance due to COVID-19

**PRESENT:**   **Members:** Julie Jackson, Brian Sund, Bonnie Sullivan, Will Posegate, Judy Skinner, Kyle Elwood, Kurt Tackman, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Tim Rice,  
                  **Staff:** Brian May, Tom Kissinger, Rachel VanWoert, Dakota Tangredi, Pattie Phillips,  
                  **Guests:** Carroll Johnson  
                  **Commissioner Liaison:** Commissioner Willis

**ABSENT:**   Keith Bondaug-Winn, Matt Marler, Ryan Zink, Joe Fowler

**QUORUM:**   Yes

**OPEN MEETING**

Kaileigh called meeting to order at 5:47pm (due to technical difficulties). Welcome and introductions made by SWMAC members, guests, and Public Works staff.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion:**   Kaileigh made a motion to approve the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion was passed with correction to minutes showing the correct next meeting date of July 28, 2021.  
                  Voice vote unanimous - motion passed.

**Discussion:**   The meeting minutes say that the next meeting should be July 27, 2021 rather than July 28, 2021.

**Public Input:**   None

**Covanta Contract**

Brian went over the highlights of the Covanta contract suggesting that the budget subcommittee could study the contract further and bring back information for SWMAC to help understand the changes.

The highlights include:

- fixed rate cost,

- three year agreement with two five year extensions,
- ability to leave the contract at specified dates,
- medical waste disposal rate at \$87.45/ton (market rate is \$800/ton),
- law enforcement retains the ability to dispose of evidence destruction and records,
- retain the ability to dispose of a minimum of 125 thousand tons of MSW and still continue to generate power,
- flexibility to explore new emerging technologies

Bonnie suggested that the media's response to the Covanta contract be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Nomination Discussion**

Brian facilitated the nomination discussion because Joe (Chair for Nomination Subcommittee) was absent

There were four parts of the discussion regarding making changes to encourage active participation from council members:

- 1) term limits,
- 2) limit the number of meetings per year,
- 3) having the industry members take on a more advisory role with no voting power,
- 4) converting the Chamber council position to a Citizen-at-Large position.

**Term Limits:** Most of the council mentioned that they did not see the need for term limits, as there are two open positions that are available and that term limits might hurt council membership especially if there was a need to fill industry positions. Term limits could be applied once all of the seats on the council were filled. The current term limits are for a fixed term of four years and there are not many council member's terms that are ready to expire. There was a comment that there has been quite a bit of turnover in the past five years.

Kaileigh mentioned that if the council was marketing itself in a different way, there might be a younger demographic that would want to join to get professional credit and that people don't know enough of what SWMAC does, or they just need encouragement. Members of council might not feel the need to just sit on the council because no one is volunteering to fill those vacancies. There was a comment that there has been advertising for SWMAC volunteers via Marion County's Volunteer Coordinator who has placed ads in the Statesman journal, and online on the Marion County website, on both the Volunteer page, as well as the Environmental Sciences web page. In addition, many people from the Master Recyclers group have made their way onto the SWMAC council.

Perhaps it should be the responsibility of the person in the role who should be responsible for finding their replacement. That would be a benefit, especially if the member has an industry background who knows other people in the industry. Julie said that this council works differently than most of the council or committees that she has been a volunteer. Usually council members are selected by the commissioners who assign the members of the group. The committee itself is not responsible for filling their positions.

The council reviewed the process to become a SWMAC member. The applicant fills out an application and must attend two meetings. Then they are interviewed by the nomination committee and may be recommended to SWMAC for a vote. Kyle mentioned that he has had several people who have applied to SWMAC who have been denied membership. Brian recommended that if anyone knows of someone who is interested in joining SWMAC, then they should apply.

The nomination subcommittee is going to discuss this further.

**Frequency of meetings:** Should SWMAC meet fewer times/year

The consensus of the council was that having planned meetings monthly was the best option but that more meetings can be scheduled as needed. Additionally, future meetings could be cancelled if there was not much to discuss. On that same note, if, during the agenda planning session, it looks like there is nothing on the agenda, the meeting can be cancelled.

Judy said that past meetings had been cancelled without explanation. Brian said that staff will make sure to let the council members know more detail when meetings get cancelled.

Will left the meeting.

**FUTURE TOPICS/EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS  
(Information/Discussion)**

**Staff Updates:**

Dakota shared that he is continuing working on curriculum development for the replacement program for Master Recycler, and working with a variety of experts and local groups to learn and share information.

Dakota also said that the Marion County Fair was successful with prize raffles, and that there were 94 downloads of the app.

Rachel shared that the Unsheltered Resource Manual is coming along well and that she is working with Gretchen from the City of Salem, Church at the Park and other groups as well.

The Immanuel Lutheran project has created interest in the recycling by other organizations.

There are people interested in the tiered system of Earthwise.

Brian shared stats from the hauling of Unsheltered waste to Covanta. Since May, there have been approximately 71 loads (approximately 170 tons ) received and the savings to the non-profit groups is roughly \$13,500.

Kevin shared his update on the MRFF. Building/reconstruction is almost complete with plans to move into offices and are moving the equipment into the building. Their goal is to be up and running by mid-August. The grand opening will probably be mid-September. Kevin suggested that the October SWMAC meeting might be held in the education room at their new facility.

Bonnie put herself forward as becoming the Chair of SWMAC.

**Motion:** Julie moved that Bonnie should be voted in as Chair of SWMAC. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **Council member announcements/updates:**

Judy said that the Marion County Fair was smaller than it has been in the past, but it very busy because so many people showed up.

Kaleigh shared that there was an event called “Really, Really Free Market” which was fun and was basically a big swapmeet. It included food, barbeque, face painting, and included a repair fair.

**Motion to adjourn meeting:** Bonnie motioned to adjourn meeting; Kyle seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous – motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 @ 5:30 p.m.