

**MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

January 26, 2016

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Senator Hearing Room – Courthouse Square

555 Court St. NE

Salem, Oregon

Members Present: Bob Anderson, Bill Brauer, Jeanne Collins, Joe Fowler, Todd Irvine, Brian May, Darby Randklev, Judy Skinner, Bonnie Sullivan

Members Absent: Thomas Smith (notified staff), Brian Sund (notified staff)

Public Signed in: Will Posegate

Staff Present: Bailey Payne

BOC Liaison: Janet Carlson

MOTION: Bonnie Sullivan moved to approve the November 24, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Jeanne Collins.

Discussion: None

Abstentions: None

Dissensions: None

Results: Minutes approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Action):

- Commissioner Carlson welcomed Bailey Payne, chosen as staff liaison from ES. The board of Commissioners was delighted he was picked as he has tremendous skills in communication.
- Commissioner Carlson indicated the board has been meeting and discussing solid waste issues with Public Works over the past several months and will continue to clarify SWMAC's role. Jolene Kelley, Board's Office, is here to discuss the communications plan. The board also has discussed the possibility of SWMAC holding public hearings around some of the larger issues such as Covanta and Metro and making recommendations to the board.
- During the public comment period, members of the public were asked to introduce themselves:
 - Will Posegate, CEO for Garten Services.
 - Jim Hutchison, Republic Services.
- Bonnie Sullivan requested a new membership list. Jeff Bickford had also promised to get her copies of the bylaws. Bailey indicated he would send her the bylaws. Commissioner Carlson agreed it would be good to update the handbook.
- Bonnie Sullivan added it would be good to update the volunteer coordinator of the different positions lacking.

SOLID WASTE PROGRAM DISCUSSION TOPICS:

- Bill indicated Matt Marler from Covanta and Wendy Veliz from PGE were not present.
- Commissioner Carlson asked if anyone had an update on the Metro hearing? Brian May responded there was a council work session and staff was looking at future technology and what to do with solid waste from the Metro region. They asked Metro council for permission to talk more and were giving the go-ahead. Darby Randklev added they broke it down to two topics: advanced recycling and energy from waste. It didn't sound like they were interested in the

advanced recycling because of the large area and amount of capital needed. Todd Irvine added it was also because there are so many source separated programs. Darby Randklev added food waste was a big topic and Matt is on a subcommittee to discuss energy from waste and Brian May indicated he was, as well. Darby Randklev stated there was still a lot of concern on the environmental side.

- Commission Carlson stated the legislative session started and there was a negotiated settlement, in part, where a number of environmental groups wanted to put a measure on the ballot that would require PGE to stop using coal by a certain year and other standards. PGE board is meeting and that is why Matt and Wendy are not here.

WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY PRESENTATION:

Darby Randklev played a video on the Covanta Waste-to-Energy Facility and continued with a slide show:

- Covanta has 45 facilities mainly in North America with partnerships in China and a new huge facility being built in Ireland that will increase Covanta's capacity by 20%.
- They have 3,500 employees and capacity for 20 million tons of waste and produce about 9 million megawatts of power, enough to power about a million homes.
- Covanta Marion was built in 1987, has 36 employees, processes about 550 tons a day and generates up to 13 megawatts of power an hour which is sold to PGE for renewable credits that are available in 2025. The facility recycles around 7,200 tons of ferrous and 375 tons of nonferrous metals each year. Marion County has 60% recycling rate.
- There are two options for post-recycled waste: landfill that has methane and leachate issues or waste-to-energy with a 90% reduction in waste by volume, clean energy, recovers metals from recycling, and considered an off-set of carbon dioxide and creates more power per ton of waste.
- European countries have more data as they have been using burners more and do very little landfill as the cost is too high.
- Marion facility was used by the EPA to create some new pollution standards as it was the first facility to use new technology. Emissions numbers dramatically dropped when this technology was used.
- Marion facility: lead is 1.9 and federal limits are 400 (Oregon limit is lower); dioxin is 30 for the federal limit, Oregon limit is 15 and the facility typically runs less than .5. Mercury – 97% below limits. These low numbers are due, in large part, to the work of the Council getting these materials out of waste stream. There is expensive technology now available to bring these numbers down even lower and the facility is incorporating those piecemeal as the technology is new, requires some retro fit and capital.
- Members discussed impact to the facility if it is decided to bring in metro waste, as the county has special programs to take out materials such as sheetrock, PVC, mercury lamps, etc. Darby replied that is one issue Matt is working on in the subcommittee and making sure that the same programs, or better programs, are in place if the waste is brought here.
- Covanta also has Oregon coast drop boxes for fishing equipment, prescription drug disposal free of cost, mercury collection events, and a list of companies that have zero waste or close to it.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN / PUBLIC HEARINGS / OUTREACH:

- Commissioner Carlson indicated there are decision points facing the board dealing with solid waste. Options include continuing to use the waste-to-energy facility, continuing education and recycling, etc. However, there are budget issues with that option with a deficit looming. Conversations started with the board and Public Works about increasing fees but should other changes be made as well?

- Commissioner Carlson stated the second issue is waste from Metro. The county has its own capacity issues that will be reached in the next 10 years requiring either another landfill or to increase capacity at Covanta.
- The third issue is ash management. Trying to site a new landfill would be very difficult. A member indicated it could take up to 10 years to get through that process. Commissioner Carlson stated the county has an RFP out for a pilot program to use the ash as a product like cement, as is being done in Europe. Do we want to continue to send ash to Coffin Butte? Can we get a better deal? The market is very volatile and not good now.
- The last piece is electrical revenues. The county is getting less than half of the revenues received before.
- How do we ensure we are getting the best deal? If metro comes in, where do we set a host fee? Can we make up some of the difference lost with current revenues down?
- Commissioner Carlson continued that if rates go up citizens will be upset. It all creates the potential for negative publicity yet it is hard to get people's attention. She would like to discuss creating a timeframe of what to do. Who is the audience? What are methods to use like social media, inserts in bills? What is the message we want to get out? What do we need from Jolene Kelley to use in the next few months to move forward? How can SWMAC help get the word out?
- Judy Skinner asked if the board would like to take it all as one piece rather than looking at fees for medical waste that is below market? Janet responded we need to keep it on a very high level and not talk about just one issue at a time. People will want to know why their garbage bill is going up while people from Portland are bringing their garage to the county? It is important for people to understand where their money is going.
- Commissioner Cameron (at a previous meeting with staff) suggested contacting other jurisdictions and getting the positive message out, which will help when people call their local representatives.
- Bailey suggested getting time in front of local media before a rate increase to talk about the current predicament, use their radio show and Waste Matters publication.
- Members discussed when a rate increase would happen and how that might negatively impact the haulers. Commissioner Carlson indicated this information should be brought back to the next meeting so everyone can understand what is happening and when.
- One member stated there has not been an adjustment in the disposal rate since 1993 and another member suggested showing how we compare to other jurisdictions that don't have as much recycling. Members commented the 2014 numbers came out around the holidays and, as a result, didn't get much attention.
- A member suggested someone from the council should attend the city meetings and another suggested as everyone feels that landfills are not a good idea, how little we landfill should be used as a talking point (Commissioner Carlson asked to confirm the exact number).
- A member stated as the county ships out very little and reduces our carbon footprint, is that an issue to consider for not taking Metro waste – the transportation cost and impact on the burner cost? Do we use our limited capacity for Metro when the county will need an expansion in the near future? Or will accepting Metro waste help offset the county shortfalls? The group discussed what the potential revenue from a host fee would be versus cost.
- A member asked if a new facility would be considered renewable energy? Darby replied Marion is considered renewable but they can't use credits now. Legislature is considering a change where we could start using them.
- Commissioner Carlson suggested Jolene bring a Q&A, created when the facility bond was paid, to the next meeting and Bailey bring the videos he discussed to share.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS:

- Judy made a motion that SWMAC make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners the

importance of the information on Marion County waste characterization. Bailey indicated it was last done in 2009 and helped guide some of the ES programs and gave staff some direction on what materials to focus on. DEQ might kick in more money because that agency is interested in the food part. This study would also include yard debris and mixed recycling composition and give a clear picture of how the recycling composition has changed. Bailey stated it appears the county is moving forward with participation but is not sure where we are in the process. Commissioner Carlson asked him to check on that and report back at the next meeting.

- Robert Anderson made a motion that the budget subcommittee meet to discuss talking points to support the notion that we might be bringing in waste and how doing that might offset the costs of increases in tipping fees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Judy restated her motion that SWMAC make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners on the importance of participating in the DEQ extra waste characterization of Marion County in the proper timeframe. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- Bailey will work with the budget subcommittee to convene a meeting. Commissioner Carlson suggested anyone interested be allowed to sit in and any ideas discussed be brought to the next meeting.
- Bailey indicated metal recovery at North Marion has ceased and temporary tarps have been put down indefinitely due to the poor market. Equipment will not be sold off at this point.
- There is a bill that took effect in January regarding asbestos that requires inspections during demolition. This could create an increase in the amount coming to Browns Island. Staff put together a graph showing total tons at Browns Island that has steadily increased. Some of it comes from quite a distance and might be something to consider as the landfill is limited. He will provide the size of Browns Island to members. A member asked for confirmation that the asbestos is non-flammable and Bailey replied he would let them know.
- Staff is working on updating 2015 numbers and hopes to have it all for the next meeting.
- Earth Day poster contest is ongoing and Earth Day is scheduled for April 23rd. Food waste event is Feb. 6th; Oregon Green School Summit is April 1st at the Western Mennonite School, and the 2016 Green Awards are March 12th.
- Commissioner Carlson confirmed the February meeting will include a Metro update, Wendy from PGE will provide a general presentation on electrical rates, Covanta will have a presentation, and the communication plan will be discussed.
- Peter Grill and Shelley Paddock resigned from the council. Bailey indicated Nancy Ceja is now on maternity leave but was under the impression that the absent members had notified her. Jolene Kelley indicated the State of the County is scheduled for February 10th.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:00 p.m.

If anyone would like to come to the office to listen to the recorded version of the minutes, please call 503-588-5169 to schedule a time.