

**MARION COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2021
Time: 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.
Logistics: WebEx meeting with limited “in person” attendance due to COVID-19

PRESENT: **Members:** Keith Bondaug-Winn, Julie Jackson, Brian Sund, Bonnie Sullivan, Ryan Zink, Will Posegate, Kevin Hines, Judy Skinner, Tim Rice, Matt Marler, Kyle Elwood, Kurt Tackman
Staff: Brian May, Elizabeth Parker
Guests: Patricia Farrell (City of Salem), Andrea Fogue (ORA), Carroll Johnson, Mark Caillier, (Keizer Chamber of Commerce)
Commissioner Liaison: Commissioner Willis

ABSENT: Joe Fowler, Rachel VanWoert (staff)

OPEN MEETING

Keith called meeting to order at 5:32pm. Welcome and introductions made by SWMAC members, guests, and Public Works staff.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Ryan Z moved to approve the November 24, 2020 meeting minutes. Will P seconds motion.

DISCUSSION: Bonnie noted change needed – “out” replaces “our.” Modification noted as condition of approval.

RESULTS: Voice vote unanimous – motion passes

ADMINISTRATIVE: INFORMATION & DISCUSSION

PUBLIC INPUT: None

AGENDA REVIEW: Bonnie S requested to add a Bylaws Sub-Committee report to the agenda. Keith (chair) added a Bylaws Sub-Committee report to the agenda. Bonnie also requested a report from the Education & Outreach Sub-Committee. Keith (chair) stated there was nothing to report at this time.

CITY OF SALEM - CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Patricia Farrell presented the City of Salem's current status of the Climate Action Plan to SWMAC. She shared some accomplishments to date, including the City Strategic Plan, a climate action audit, a Sector-Based Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and a Consumption-based Greenhouse Gas Inventory. These two inventories have been used as a baseline to move forward. In August of 2020, development of the climate action plan began. In October of 2020, the Salem City Council made a motion to set two greenhouse goals; first - 50% reduction of GHG by 2035, and second - Carbon Neutral by 2050. The Climate Action Plan is due to be completed in December of 2021.

The City of Salem formed a task force consisting of forty-one members; meetings are held on Zoom and there is a broad cross-section of the community represented. They have identified four pillars of focus:

1. Visioning
2. Vulnerability
3. Strategy Development
4. Action/Implementation Planning.

The plan for "Our Salem" is to update the City's Comprehensive Plan, sharing some of the same goals as the Salem Climate Action Plan.

There are two Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plans. The sector-based plan is used for setting goals and monitoring; more easily administered. The consumption-based plan is centered on personal habits and choices.

Results for the Sector-based inventory: over half of the total came from transportation, then electricity, then natural gas and generators, followed by wastewater at 4%, and finally, solid waste was 1%. There was a total of 1.5 million metric tons of CO2 emissions.

Results for consumption-based inventory: a total of 4.2 million metric tons CO2 emissions. Consumption-based emissions are from a variety of sources such as construction, furnishings/lighting, clothing etc. Vehicles and parts produce 29%, and food and beverages are responsible for 22% of consumption based emission.

SOLID WASTE is 1% - of this 1%, Coffin Butte is at 13% and Covanta at 87%. There is concern on the task force about Covanta, asking if more waste should be sent to Coffin Butte so air in NE Salem isn't as affected? However, with waste only accounting for 1%, perspective is key. Patricia also shared some ideas for zero-waste strategy: closed loop systems, composting, reuse programs, multi-family housing recycling requirements, and require a higher level of deconstruction during building demolition and renovation.

Judy S asked Patricia, as she doesn't live in Salem, how does Patricia envision the role for residents outside of Salem in the Climate Action Plan. Patricia stated that people are a part of the plan if they travel to Salem, work in Salem, or shop & eat in Salem. One strategy The City of Salem's could push and focus on is to reduce vehicle miles. They've suggested to employers to offer incentive programs for employees to take the bus, carpool, bike, etc. Judy said that this reinforces the idea that people who get to work at home have the advantage; however people who are forced to drive to work and work on-site end up with a significant disadvantage. Judy stated that taking a bus from Stayton to Salem isn't feasible as it only runs four times per day and takes two hours instead of thirty minutes.

Patricia suggested carpooling or asking her employer to assist with options or ideas. Will P stated that while these ideas are ideal, they're not always feasible for some employers. Judy asked Patricia to be aware of the equity-sensitive population and have flexibility.

Kaileigh commented that SWMAC has been talking about life-cycles in recent meetings. She asked Patricia if the analysis breakout is only the end of life or is the life cycle analysis looking at energy – the entire picture. Brian M stated that part of the breakout was a focus on residential waste going to Coffin Butte, and the majority of waste generated in the City of Salem goes to Covanta. Kurt asked if the equity lens is already developed and/or posted online. Patricia stated it's not posted online yet.

Ryan shared that these subject matters are well represented by members of SWMAC – this group can help the City test some strategies. Patricia asked for an opportunity to present further ideas to SWMAC. As the City's consultants run through models, she would like to get finer-grained feedback and ideas from the SWMAC group. Kyle E asked why the details being issued are within city limits. While much of construction is done within city limits, the majority of concrete is produced outside of city limits. He also stated that transportation emissions will be resolved because internal combustion engines are forecasted to be gone in fifteen years.

Patricia asked the group if Marion County has a strategic plan. Brian M shared that Marion County is looking to start on a Materials Master Plan, which is more in the direction that DEQ is looking for. As for a time line, Brian hopes to have an RFP submitted by the third quarter. Brian also announced that Kaileigh has offered to participate on the City of Salem's Climate Action Plan due to Alan Pennington's retirement.

SOLID WASTE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Andrea Fogue with ORRA presented an update on solid waste legislation in Oregon. The legislature did not introduce bills last week because of the ice storms in the area. She has heard rumors that there are possibly an additional two thousand bills on the way. Approximately 2200 new bills have already been introduced. Legislature is currently meeting remotely with the exception of coming to Salem once a week to meet to introduce bills. They potentially will be coming back to meet in person more often beginning in March. Good news is that Marion County moves into a "high risk" category for COVID effective February 26, 2021, which is key to the legislature meeting in person.

Andrea offered to answer questions regarding recycling, environmental, and/or solid waste legislation. The conversation on recycling bills was initially going to start in the House. That plan has now shifted to the Senate Energy and Environment Committee. House Bill 2065 (DEQ comprehensive Extended Producer Responsibility) was the starting point for the conversation. HB 2065 initially represented the recommendation of the Recycling Steering Committee. There is a -1 amendment to HB 2065 that is broader than the RSC recommendation. The HB 2065 -1 amendment will become the basis for Senate Bill 582 as the primary vehicle for the comprehensive EPR discussion.

The Senate Environment Committee Chair wants recycling issues to move forward this session. Today, there was a hearing on environment issues; Will Posegate was on an informational panel for SB 581 (truth in labeling). The panel discussed the need to address customer confusion that results in contamination that leads to issues processing materials, and ultimately the inability to get materials to responsible end markets. The source of this contamination must be addressed, and customer

confusion stemming from misleading labeling is the place to start. After the informational panel, the Chair opened a hearing on Senate Bill 14, which is a Plastics EPR bill, Senate Bill 581, and then Senate Bill 582 which is being replaced with the Dash 1 amendment from Bill 2065. It is a 93-page amendment that they're currently wading through. Support and opposition were given at the hearing today. The majority of opposition came from the plastics industry, as producers and brand manufactures haven't yet been part of the "shared-responsibility" conversation. They are looking to find a system that keeps the good elements and modernizes pieces that need to be updated.

Looking from a high-level, the following bills could be interesting to this group:

- Mattress Recycling EPR
- Sharps Program EPR
- Solar Panels EPR
- Legislation on single-use plastics

Andrea stated that greenhouse emissions legislation could also come into play this year. There is also some legislation that deals with environmental justice, which is a priority for the Governor this session. Keith asked about HB 2698, the right to repair bill. Andrea shared that it is getting some attention, and the conversation is happening in the House Business and Labor Committee as a consumer protection issue, rather than the House Energy Committee.

Judy agrees that it's ok for the arrows to go away, but are there alternatives? Andrea stated that most conversations have been regarding curb-side contamination, but that doesn't preclude other conversations. Judy hopes that labeling will include what materials are incorporated into plastics.

Will shared his great appreciation for all of Andrea's efforts and applauds her efforts.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Unsheltered Waste Management Sub-Committee:

Ryan shared an update with the group on recent activity. SWMAC started this committee in November 2020 to look into the issue of unsheltered waste management accumulation in Salem. The groups' focus is specifically on Wallace and Cascade Parks along with five identified hot spots. Some of these hot spots are on City, ODOT, or Marion County property. The sub-committee is hoping to work with ODOT and have them adopt aspects of the ideas and processes we're setting in motion. There are many issues as to why there is waste accumulating and why there are an alarming number of unsheltered people in Salem. The group's focus, for short term issues, consists of how to get solid waste off ground and how to transport the waste to Covanta. We are seeing success in these areas, and we're hoping to have action soon.

Challenges that face this effort:

- Limited use or unavailability of inmate crews due to COVID-19.
- City staff bargaining issues have eliminated the ability of city staff to pick up trash. Salem has been relying on contractor work, which is expensive and non-sustainable.
- Waste materials that pose an elevated risk to handlers will go straight to Covanta. This poses risks to volunteer groups and citizens who pick up waste.

Ryan shared that we need to ascertain an accurate assessment of waste volume in order for haulers and Covanta staff to have an accurate idea of the volume they're committing to. There will be stop gaps in place to keep things in an acceptable range and within capability.

Tim R shared that he drove to see the five identified sites in Salem. The piles of discarded waste are massive; he was wondering if it was feasible to have a dump truck pull a mini-excavator with a bucket and grapple to these sites. To increase capacity of volume, two other dump trucks could park close enough to the excavator that material could be loaded by the excavator without being off the trailer. The excavator would get 99% of the waste as long as the waste was in piles. Would this be a quick and efficient way to pick up large amounts of trash? Ryan commended the idea, however the I-5 and Market location is owned by ODOT with Marion County and the City of Salem not having jurisdiction.

Keith stated that he is impressed with all the work Unsheltered Sub-committee has accomplished in three months. He asked what the process had been for the Unsheltered Sub-Committee to produce movement and results in such a short time. Ryan said the sub-committee meets monthly, participates in brainstorming sessions, conducts many offline meetings with Marion County and Covanta staff, and there are conversations with members in-between meetings to relay updates and progress. The group is trying to understand the full scope of this problem, which becomes more complicated by the limited staff and resources at Salem's Public Works. Within Salem's existing man power, staff is at Cascade and Wallace Marine Parks approximately two-three times per month. There are acres of land at these parks needing to be picked up. Salem doesn't have enough resources or time to make significant progress.

The group's longer-term focus will be to find out where the unsheltered waste is coming from. Generally, there are three types of sources. The first source is donated items such as food, clothing, and blankets, yet once these items are dirty or ripped, they become waste. The second source is people who drop off couches, tents, trunks, carpet, and other bulky items to the unsheltered camps thinking it will help keep them more comfortable and out of the elements. The third source is the items they pick up themselves, such as shopping carts, bikes, etc. The group will be brainstorming ideas of how waste from these three sources can be reduced. The sub-committee looks at the immediate issues and then considers possible solutions. Tim R has previously asked if there are services available that could launder clothes which would extend the life of resources. Another idea is instead of pizza delivered to them in a box, serve it from a reusable vessel and take it back home. Avoid packaging that gets thrown away. Consider services that could repair tents and other items. Keith mentioned the new Union Gospel Mission with more shelter capacity and programs. Ryan also mentioned that the shelter housed at the fairgrounds is a new hybrid; space is covered, there are bathrooms, and the amount of waste produced at the fairgrounds is significantly less than what's produced at Wallace and Cascade parks.

Mark Caillier, Keizer Chamber of Commerce, said they've been approached by several neighbors who are very concerned about the unsheltered human-waste entering Claggett Creek in Keizer. There is a 90 degree turn in the creek which has turned into a cesspool due to the waste, bulky items, tree limbs, etc. Mark asked if Marion County performs water testing at this location as well as other locations directly influenced by heavy unsheltered waste. Keith said there was a City of Salem stormwater testing station there, but it may have been damaged or taken out with the increased numbers of unsheltered gathering at this location. Kaileigh performs water quality testing for the City of Keizer and will touch base with Mark offline.

Bylaws Sub-Committee:

Bonnie referenced the SWMAC November meeting minutes where there was discussion regarding producing a script for members to use when contacting their assigned Chamber of Commerce. Several members of the sub-committee didn't think it was necessary to create a script, as the natural flow of conversation was a better option. Bonnie reiterated her concern with the continuity of the message coming from the group as a whole. Will shared that he contacted Silverton Chamber of Commerce without a script and the conversation went well. He doesn't oppose a script, but inquired as to how many members from the sub-committee have already made contact with their assigned chamber. The need for a script may be mute at this point. Keith said he had spoken with the North Santiam Chamber with no script and had a good discussion with them about SWMAC's focus, goals, etc. Mark Collier is at the SWMAC meeting today to report back to the Keizer Chamber regarding opportunities and avenues available at SWMAC. The consensus of the sub-committee - there is no need for a script at this point.

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

Staff Updates: Brian M requested that members of SWMAC review Andrea's list of legislative bills as we have the opportunity to make recommendations to Board of Commissioners regarding support of proposed legislation. The idea of forming a "legislative sub-committee" was proposed, however Keith is going to wait on setting up this subcommittee until there is further clarification, progress, etc. Brian M sent Andrea's list of legislation/bills to Barb Young for review.

Brian also noted that the Public Works' Environmental Services staff has been a significant part of the debris management programs initiated by EOC due to the ice-storm. Staff has been working with haulers and jurisdictions on identifying free storm-debris drop-off sites for Marion County residents. There are currently over twenty sites in Marion County generating a large pile of chips. These will be used in compost at Brown's Island and for trails in Marion County parks. The Emergency Operations Center is fervently working on power, water, and sewer issues as well as performing welfare checks.

The North Marion Transfer Station was open, but the streets accessing it were closed by PGE. Marion County is accepting materials at Brown's Island until March 15th. The need to possibly extend that date will be assessed as needed. Judy stated there was a lot of misinformation being dispersed about Recology, the Salem Keizer Transfer Station, and city drop-off locations. She said people were very upset and angry about this and clarification needs to be provided.

Brian M said the information disseminated by Marion County was and is correct. What other social outlets report is beyond our scope. He shared that for the past week, there has been an average of over 120 customers per day with \$0 charges at the Salem Keizer Transfer Station for storm-debris disposal. Commercial entities can dispose of storm debris at Brown's Island for free. Brian suggested if Judy hears or knows of other negative experiences, they can discuss offline. Tim R also stated that Recology has taken all of Aumsville residents' storm debris for free. Tim works in the scale house and can attest that the only people charged for the debris are non-Aumsville residents, which is also clearly documented on Marion County's website. The fee at Recology is minimal, and he hasn't noticed any problems with customers being overly upset or angry.

Brian also shared that over 3,400 yards of storm debris was collected today, alone. Brian has heard of volunteer groups with over 100 volunteers planning to clear debris from homes where homeowners can't do it themselves. The Salem Keizer Transfer Station is seeing 600-650 customers per day. They are directing commercial customers to Brown's Island in an effort to eliminate traffic and congestion at SKRTS, providing more space for residential customers. Kevin H commended the decision Marion County made to open Brown's Island to haulers saying, "This is not a normal practice for Marion County, but it's really helping." Commissioner Willis also shared his appreciation to Public Works' staff and to Kevin Hines, who represents the haulers. The Commissioner was grateful and encouraged by how quickly everyone pulled together to bring solutions to Marion County residents.

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

Brian May shared that Marion County has made a conditional offer to a candidate who will replace Alan. The candidate is bilingual which will help us reach further into the community.

Kaileigh announced that her non-profit group has grown significantly, now providing over 500 diapers to Marion County residents. Her efforts are taking 46,000 diapers per year out of the waste stream.

Membership/Attendance/New Member applications: None

Meeting Review: None

Motion to adjourn meeting: Will moved to adjourn meeting; Kevin seconded the motion. Voice vote was unanimous – motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2021