

**MARION COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: September 22, 2020  
Time: 5:30pm -7:30pm  
Logistics: WebEx meeting with limited “in person” attendance due to COVID-19

PRESENT: **Members:** Judy Skinner, Keith Bondaug-Winn, Kaileigh Westermann-Lewis, Bonnie Sullivan, Julie Jackson, Brian Sund, Ryan Zink, Kyle Elwood, Will Posegate, Kevin Hines, Tim Rice  
**Staff:** Brian May, Elizabeth Parker, Rachel VanWoert  
**Guests:** Tracy Loew, Statesman Journal

ABSENT: Joe Fowler, Kurt Tackman, Matt Marler

**OPEN MEETING**

Keith called meeting to order at 5:36pm. Welcome and introductions made by SWMAC members and staff.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

MOTION: Bonnie moved to approve the June 23, 2020 minutes. Julie seconds motion.

DISCUSSION: Revise June 23, 2020 minutes to show Brian Sund in attendance and change “Jeff” to “Ryan” Zink. Revised meeting minutes were emailed to SWMAC.

RESULTS: Voice vote – motion passes

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
(Information/Action)**

PUBLIC INPUT: None

AGENDA REVIEW:

1. Elizabeth will revise term-ending dates for Kyle Elwood and Ryan Zink on second page of agenda.
2. Volunteer Group Training agenda item. The group anticipates more time needed to address canyon fire damage updates and questions, so the group agreed to have Elizabeth Parker and Sherry Lintner send email links to SWMAC Committee Member complete on own time. Marion County Volunteer Coordinator (Sherry) will record the required training modules completed or not completed by SWMAC members and report to Elizabeth Parker.
3. Elizabeth will add Volunteer Training back on agenda for next month for review of training and to ask/answer any questions, if needed.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – SANTIAM CANYON FIRE UPDATE**

Brian May gave update to council on Santiam Canyon Fires. Marion County has never dealt with a fire recovery/effort of this magnitude. Staff is learning new processes and issues every day - our priority is to help Marion County residents, while coordinating with Linn and Clackamas Counties. Brian thanked our solid waste partners as they have been ready and willing to assist when access is allowed into the canyon. DEQ/ODOT will have more detailed information regarding clean-up in next couple days. Brian M toured the canyon; there is a lot of devastation. The fire was sporadic as there are homes/businesses that were untouched but others that are completely gone. All you can see are foundations, burned cars, chimneys, metal scraps, etc. Environmental Services is doing early assessments as they know there are hazardous materials like asbestos, lead, and other contaminants in the ashes. Homes/businesses are sitting in contaminated ash. We're anticipating FEMA and EPA to conduct a free, coordinated clean-up effort to homes sustaining any or all fire damage. There are links on the Marion County website to DEQ, how to protect the environment from hazardous waste, etc. Marion County has received many calls from contractors and the public asking where to take burned materials and ash? We are advising people to be patient and to comply fully with DEQ regulations. DEQ regulations are in place and cleanup requires an authorized and qualified entity to conduct sampling, asbestos abatement, and to navigate through many other issues. If a home/business owner tries to clean up now on their own, they are risking health and safety to people and the environment, as well as qualification with FEMA on aid. We understand homeowners want to see their property and start the cleanup process, but patience is needed at this time.

Judy asked if any press releases have been made regarding this information. Brian stated that BOC, Brian Nicholas, and sheriff will release press release focused on safety tomorrow morning at 8:30am. Elizabeth will send press release link to SWMAC group. Julie stated a lot of information will be coming but warned there are daily changes of information and it's a very complicated process. We want to give out the right information, not speculation. It's very confusing information and will be difficult to make clear to the public. Be cautious before absolutes are given to public. Judy said the sooner we can communicate hazard, no children, etc. to the public, the better it will be. They want to clean things up but they don't have a clue of existing dangers.

Brian stated that last Friday was the first day assessment teams consisting of engineers, road ops, and environmental services were able to get into the canyon to look at roads, bridges, culverts, and other county assets. They were able to determine access and safety issues from the North Fork and up to Detroit. Roads open as trees are removed and the road is deemed safe. A lot of tree crews are up towards Detroit. Salmon Falls Park and the corridor were devastated with fire danger and wind damage. Crews have witnessed tree roots burning underground; walking through sites is a legitimate safety concern.

Judy pointed out that on Tuesday morning around 4-5am, the Sheriff and Metcom were on two different pages regarding the level of evacuation in Stayton; some stated Level 2 and others stated Level 3. Judy evacuated to the fairgrounds but there was no room there. She returned home to Stayton. Brian will pass on this information.

### **Education & Outreach Sub-Committee Master Recycling Program recommendations to SWMAC**

SWMAC has listened to many guest speakers talk about their Master Recycler programs, what has/hasn't worked for them, and other ideas to consider for the Marion County Master Recycler program.

Bonnie gave a recap of what the Education & Outreach Sub-Committee used in their meeting to compile and present recommendations to SWMAC. Keith stated that the first step is to provide recommendations to Elizabeth to put together into a memo to submit to the Board of Commissioners. Elizabeth has the memorandum template and this will be used as framework to refine the top five SWMAC recommendations into this format. Once SWMAC reviews the draft memorandum, they'll either make changes or approve the memorandum for presentation to BOC.

**Regarding advertising,** Ryan recommended using CCTV and some of their tools for outreach. CCTV channels are 21, 22, 23 on Comcast – not a huge viewership – but his understanding is some of the population not online is watching public television. Judy stated only Keizer/Salem get these stations – Ryan agrees as Keizer/Salem is the most heavily populated. Ryan doesn't want SWMAC to overlook an opportunity that may prove to be useful. CCTV is looking at providing the information they produce to include online options and YouTube. Rachel stated that CCTV has filmed things for her in the past and it can go on YouTube. Bonnie stated that in the past, SWMAC used CCTV for promotions (with children) for recycling batteries, etc.

**Language:** Keith stated language can be combined with participation awareness. Kaileigh stated there are two prominent components to focus on. One is engaging new audiences (Spanish, Russian, Ukraine speaking) and two is developing content in Spanish, Russian, Ukraine. Kaileigh suggested that the bullet point for this section is to engage new audiences and we'd like the MR class to represent demographic of Marion County. Kaileigh stated that CCTV is an avenue already explored. We need to explore new avenues. Judy asked about waiting list for 101 – Brian M clarified that it's referring to the Master Recycler class that utilizes the 101 platform.

**Presentations/Methods:** Discussion in Sub-Committee meeting was focused on a hybrid option– online/in person. The group also talked about the camaraderie a class has from being "in person." as Alan previously shared, but there are risks of COVID-19 virus. Kaileigh stated trying to engage audiences online is a good choice. Suggested we explore online options to see what it would look like.

Bonnie said she believes "in person classes" are best for camaraderie and Alan agrees with her. She is advocating for in-person classes if we can limit number attendees. Judy stated that we could have online presentations and interactive sessions online...this could be a way to combine without requiring to meet in person. Julie stated the Linn Benton class starting next week and it's 100% online. Julie will report at next meeting regarding how it's going – it's going to be a work in progress. Being on a Zoom Meeting for long periods of time can be tiring. Again, don't reinvent wheel – make it better. There are opportunities to connect online. She finds that with in-person classes, everyone tends to rush home because they're tired.

Keith stated we should proceed with an online option and wants the county to pursue. Keith is working with Salem Center 50 plus – they have social interactions and classes online. They record and put on city's website with password, etc. Will stated that it's essential to have Spanish version and will take some dedicated coordinating efforts. Look into a translator so the class isn't separate?

Rachel said they are creating a "participation first" mentality at EarthWISE. The connection has to be authentic and it's important to research how to engage the community. Judy stated we have a couple of Master Recyclers who speak Spanish – might be able to have them help. Will asked if people who helped us transition into Spanish model or if they helped translate into Spanish, can that count as hours as participation hours? It might help entice them to be involved or broaden audience. Keith thought it'd be a great idea – participation hours could include work for growing program. Ryan agrees that this is an excellent idea and a great opportunity.

**Continued research** – Bonnie stated this topic was referencing the guest speakers in our SWMAC meetings – from other counties, states. Do we want to keep reaching out to guests and researching other programs? Subcommittee decided that no further research was needed. Bonnie mentioned we could link up with a new tech school coming next year to Salem at former Toys R Us location on Lancaster Drive. Bonnie would like to pursue having our master recycling program be involved in this new school and educate the students so they can get credit. Keith would like to partner with existing education entities for partnership. Ryan warned about putting the cart before the horse in regards to the DEQ Recycling Steering Committee. They wrapped up their process last week and within six months we'll start to see proposals pushed out for legislation for 2021. Their overall vision is to have a state-wide education process around the new recycling world in Oregon. We need to be mindful that we're using the resources available. Marion County and SWMAC should be aware of the new DEQ programs and what ends up coming out as we wouldn't want to put together a big new program only to have the State come in with something that is contradictory or make our efforts unnecessary. DEQ will rely on local governments – we need to be tied in with new program.

Brian M agrees with Ryan – we will see broader brushes from the DEQ’s two-year effort. They are advocating a better recycling standard across Oregon instead of having each jurisdiction having the decision-making process. There will be increased communication regarding education. Marion County will be tracking

**Class/Field Trips** – the consensus agrees on a hybrid class and field trips are essential.

**Master Recycler Handbook** – options were to have an online manual, hand out hard copy manuals, and/or come up with a hybrid solution. Bonnie stated a hard copy would be the most beneficial tool for Master Recyclers to refer back for information they don’t remember from the class. Bonnie stated that Linn County has a handbook that they give to Master Recyclers and they updated it every year. Bonnie also said it doesn’t have to be the complete class content, just a summary. Julie stated that Linn County is not providing hard copies to Master Recyclers anymore unless someone specifically requests it. All of their handbooks are online now. OSU has three million binders available. Brian M stated that Lane County has the notebooks, not Linn County. Julie said this process has moved to where people are getting their information in a variety of ways. Keith said the manner in which the handbook is created needs to go along with the style of class.

**Payback hours** – Volunteer hours that community members provide to Marion County is a lot. Volunteer hours are worth \$22/hr. We need to figure out how can we get payback to be most efficient and effective for our program? We talked about events and end-of-year projects. Sub-Committee concluded we don’t want to reinvent the wheel when it comes to finding different presentation subjects. Julie said getting the most bang for the buck has to be in an area where people are most passionate about. Plug them into things that are important to them. In Linn County, we burned people out asking them to stand at carts at events for a long time – we’d lose them. Important engage them in a wide-variety of things and let them choose something that is important to them. Bonnie suggested that we should have a Master Recycler meeting to update the Master Recyclers on different things that may have changed. She also suggested having a Master Recycler reunion which Alan thought it was a great idea – she’s been advocating for a reunion for a long time. With COVID-19, that may not be something for now, but in the future. Reunions could maybe be worked in as payback hours of bringing other people into the different activities.

Keith thinks if we’re trying to get as many people from different populations as possible, this allows the greatest flexibility and allows people to focus on areas that they’re interested in. Keith said that in the Sub-Committee meeting, Alan said that a lot of the people who are part of the Master Recycler program and now in EarthWISE, this is where they spend their time in hours. Rachel stated she loves the crossover from Master Recyclers to EarthWISE. Some of the participation is traditional, working within their business. Rachel now has one Master Recycler who just got her business EarthWISE certified and her goal is to have all satellite locations EarthWISE certified. As they have been working with food waste in businesses, she has a team of Master Recyclers who have been trained to do food audits. They go with Rachel to sites for audits, and these hours count as payback hours. Rachel stated they had a great Master Recycler reunion in April where they watched a film on Netflix and then discussed the film as a group on Zoom. She appreciates the passion that Master Recyclers bring to food audits and she has been using Master Recyclers to help her film on Facebook live as they interview EarthWISE members downtown.

Keith offered to group that he will take the ideas from the discussion tonight and will put together a sheet that offers verbiage of all topics tonight. He’ll send the sheet to SWMAC for feedback and he’ll provide feedback to staff.

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

**Announcements and Upcoming Events:** Bonnie thanked Marion County staff for sending out email checking in with SWMAC during the fires. Elizabeth has not received any Holiday Dinner ideas from Council. Bonnie wants to know if we still want to have a Holiday Dinner. Will suggested that because of the unknown factor – we should postpone the dinner until Easter. He stated we should still have the gift exchange in December this year. Judy agrees to push back dinner.

Judy shared info regarding AOR Conference - they're taking a different format this year due to COVID-19. There will be two-hour sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays for six weeks to cover a variety of topics. Brian M stated that Keith had suggested we utilize this opportunity so Alan was able to arrange for SWMAC members to attend. Marion County bought a full session pass and AOR agreed to allow one person from SWMAC to attend each session. Elizabeth will distribute a sign-up sheet to the group. Brian assigned homework – if you attend a session, you will be assigned to report back on your session to the council.

Kyle inquired as to previous discussion regarding changing the chamber of commerce position to citizen at large designated position– is this still on the burner? Brian M stated it was up to SWMAC to decide. Keith stated we will add to the agenda for next month.

**Membership/Attendance/New Member applications: none**

**Staff Updates:** Brian M announced Alan Pennington is retiring at the end of January 2021. In addition, Jessica Ramey has left to be a business owner – purchased Art Department downtown Salem. We will miss her greatly. Marion County will be filling both positions soon.

**Meeting Review: none**

**Motion to adjourn meeting:** Kyle moved to adjourn meeting; Will seconded. Voice vote – motion passes.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm**

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020