



Minutes from **Thursday, February 1, 2024, Solid Waste Advisory Committee hybrid meeting 10 a.m. on Microsoft Teams and in person**

SWAC Committee

- In attendance
 - Kim Holmes – At Large Member
 - Brandon Lesowske – At Large Member
 - Josh Brown – Industrial Representative – Waste Connections
 - Kanale Tumlinson – Industrial Representative Alternate – Waste Connections
 - Nick Ries – Industrial Representative – WM
 - Jacob Anderson – Columbia County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Coordinator
 - Mike Russell – Columbia County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Administrator
- Absent
 - Joshua Peters – Industrial Representative Alternate – WM

Meeting was officially brought to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approve November Minutes – Minutes were approved as written

Update on Solid Waste Department

- 1. Board Members**
 - a. One position open for At-Large member.**
 - b. Nick Ries has been appointed to Voting Member for WM; Joshua Peters new Alternate**
- 2. Sharps container exchange program**
 - a. Sharps Purchased**
 - 5994 total containers as of February 1, 2024
 - 5154 purchased by solid waste = \$20,733.14
 - b. Advertising sharps program**
 - Postcard, flyer, or some information sent to county residents. This was inspired after finding over 1000 hypodermic needles thrown in the woods along Meissner rd., all with a cap or bent needle.
 - Could include pictures from dumpsite to show what really happens
 - Planning to focus on advertising this program combined with social media posts and flyers for Recycling Education.
- 3. Dumpstoppers – in 2024, we have 2 Dumpstopper cases, both are open.** The program uses Community Justice work crew to clean up sites (~\$1,000/month) and the tipping fees last two years are ~ \$2,000/year. Dave Carlberg and Melissa Adams are the Columbia County Code Compliance Specialists
 - a. Updates**

- Illegal Dumping Enforcement
 - Dave is willing to issue citations, but will need to create evidence storage procedure
 - Smith Rd.
 - a. Dave met with a sheriff at resident's home based off evidence found at Smith Rd. site. He felt this helped decrease illegal dumping, at least temporarily.
 - b. This is a viable solution, but if this continues to be a common dumpsite, and evidence isn't consistently found, then trail cameras will inevitably be needed.
 - **SWAC** discussed citations for illegal dumping and the need to create an evidence storage procedure.
- Dumpstoppers Truck
 - Dumpstoppers truck will continue to be used for remote HHW events and DS
 - Community Justice work crew will use dumpstoppers truck when needed and their new van from CC Rider
 - **SWAC** discussed Dumpstoppers truck mileage, usefulness, and issues with LDS's small Ford Ranger. Mike Russell and I informed SWAC of our plans to work with LDS on purchasing full-size pickup.

4. Private Property Cleanups

a. 26623 Cannon Road

- Data from end of November - January
 - 21 days - community justice work crew = \$7,875
 - 27.27 tons of garbage removed + 1415 (\$6,374.20) tires collected = \$11,826.24
 - **Total Cost: \$19,701.24**
- **SWAC** discussed the funding for this clean up, and how the lien on the property works. Brandon Lesowske asked if lien would be inherited onto family if property owner dies.

5. Transfer Station

a. Transfer station repairs and upgrades

- Aerator Pump has failed last year after about 4 months
 - Replaced pump with warranty; pump expert came up with new plan once this pump fails, which will require more power from control panel
- **SWAC** discussed Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative and how it applies to the ORPET facility in Warren. SWAC agreed on the need to reach out to OBRC and explain what's happening to our pumps. If this doesn't get anywhere, SWAC is prepared to write letter to DEQ and explain how this would not be allowed under new RMA standards. Planned to reach out to OBRC and take pictures/gather evidence of ORPET plastic material.
- **SWAC** Discussion: Brandon Lesowske asked if the county has special waste permits and if that would apply to this situation? Josh Brown informed the committee that most times, special waste applies to things like wastewater and biomedical waste not garbage/recycling material. In summary, special waste is charged an additional fee and must go straight to the landfill.

b. Upcoming repairs and maintenance

- Striping and top seal – summer/fall of **2024**. Cost ~ \$300k
- Primary vault pump electrical/power issues last weekend
 - Plan is to have electrician and pump expert meet to figure out what is needed. Currently, the secondary pump is being operated manually.
- In progress: raise commercial roll up door height, pole barn along building, insulate compactor shed, repair bioswale 2 discharge, new rates sign
- **SWAC** discussed the need for commercial side door height to be raised to at least 24 ft., ours is 22 ft. tall. Kan has reached out to engineer to get this process started.

6. Columbia County's Pilot Diversion Program

a. Shipping containers and New Employee

- 2 40ft containers with 4 7-ft roll-up doors. Cost ~ **\$36k**
 - Cost includes lighting, curb ramps, and shipping/placement.
- Meeting scheduled for Hudson FTE position. Traffic flow, operations, and placement planning is complete.

b. Internal list of items for Hudson staff to look for

- Hudson staff are solid waste professionals. They (new FTE position) can identify reusable items and divert them from the landfill.

c. Hudson Diversion position (Resource Specialist/Diversion Specialist) responsibilities

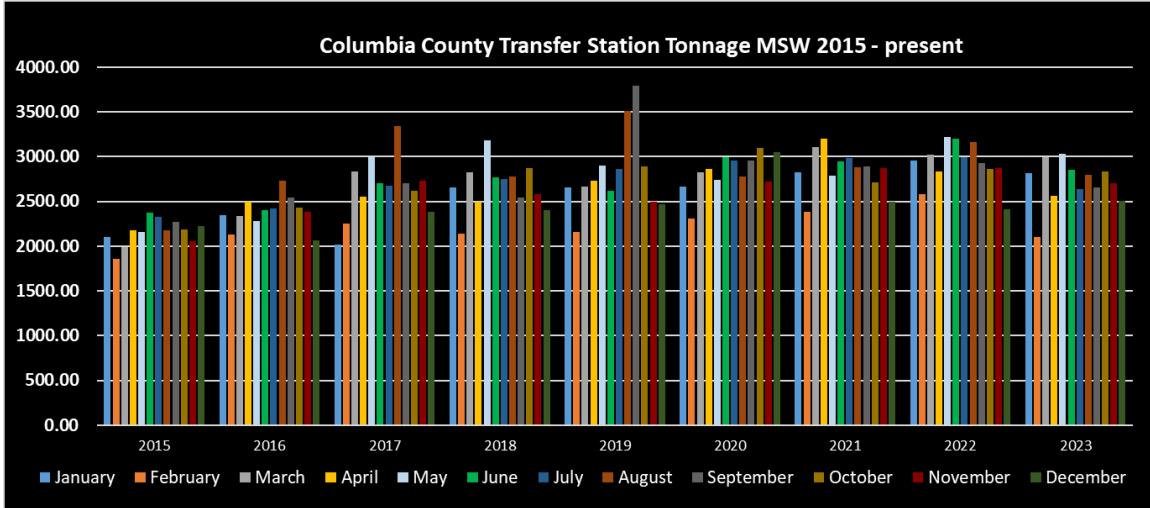
- helping customers unload on tipping floor while setting potentially reusable items aside.
- Communicating with scalehouse staff and loader operator regarding potential reusable items arriving at tipping floor.
- Organizing items on pallets based on type of item
- Weighing each pallet of items before placing in container
 - May need smaller scale for small items
- Transporting pallet with forklift to container
- Labeling items according to date placed in container
- Transporting items back to the tipping floor that have been in the container for the maximum amount of time allowed
- Recycle Center Support
 - speaking with public, asking if they need help, answering questions people may have, and keeping watch for people dumping trash in recycle center.

d. Program Hours and Policies

- Nonprofit Hours from 8am – 9am: Non-profit availability will determine hours of program
 - Top Knotch hours: 10am-5pm M-Sat.; Habitat hours: 9am -5pm T-Sat.
- New Employee hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 5 8-hour shifts
 - Predicting 8am – 4pm schedule
- Large sign with rules, policies, and procedures
- Sign with information: "About the Program"

7. Columbia County Transfer Station tonnage since 2015 – present

- a. **SWAC** discussed downward trend in tonnage since 2022. Only December of 2023 had a great monthly tonnage than 2022. Every other month was around 100 tons lower than the previous year.



2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	22-23
2097.23	2348.39	2018.90	2658.29	2651.66	2669.56	2827.41	2953.16	2817.92	135.24
1861.61	2133.60	2255.16	2140.92	2155.75	2304.09	2382.69	2576.62	2101.35	475.62
1989.67	2332.98	2831.18	2820.62	2661.04	2828.53	3106.97	3024.50	2992.40	32.1
2175.29	2494.25	2547.84	2492.49	2730.12	2863.70	3204.03	2838.21	2559.39	278.82
2160.49	2284.20	2989.84	3181.69	2897.90	2737.62	2791.22	3216.15	3026.66	189.49
2377.80	2404.95	2702.31	2763.50	2617.67	2993.38	2942.23	3202.01	2856.00	346.01
2330.15	2420.83	2678.77	2744.86	2866.64	2954.15	2980.47	2990.86	2635.43	355.43
2180.19	2727.45	3337.25	2777.54	3509.94	2775.05	2878.46	3164.20	2797.91	366.29
2271.12	2546.11	2705.84	2544.25	3789.48	2954.12	2894.20	2927.10	2655.24	271.86
2185.57	2432.75	2618.80	2876.02	2890.60	3100.79	2710.52	2858.07	2836.98	21.09
2056.68	2382.12	2726.40	2579.06	2497.20	2724.84	2874.58	2866.88	2705.31	161.57
2225.92	2065.83	2385.33	2402.17	2465.32	3050.18	2492.15	2413.79	2508.14	94.35
25911.72	28573.46	31797.62	31981.41	33733.32	33956.01	34084.93	35031.55	32492.73	
0.10%	9.30%	10.14%	1%	5%	0.60%	0.37%	2.70%	-7.24%	-2538.82

8. Update on HHW collection program

a. 2024 HHW Schedule:

- Transfer Station: March 2, June 8, August 24, November 2
- Remote: Vernonia: April 13, Rainier: May 18, Clatskanie: October 5
- **SWAC** informed Brandon Lesowske that there hasn't been an HHW event in Scappoose because it is close enough to St Helens and Portland. Remote HHW events are intended for more rural locations where Hazardous waste facilities are less common.

b. HHW Changes

- Moved Clatskanie location closer to the city pool/skatepark where there is a paved parking lot. This will make moving carts/pallets, and spill control much easier than on gravel.

- New regional manager for ACT, Marc Winkler, has over 30+ years of experience with HHW events.
- c. Modifying survey/data processes for next year**
- Creating digital form for surveys, to ease the process of transferring data into spreadsheet.
- d. 2023 HHW Costs & Participation**

Columbia County HHW 2023	vehicles	costs	weight/lbs.
February St Helens	128	\$12,334	7,679
April Vernonia	59	\$3,455	2,804
May Rainier	43	\$5,478	3,975
June St Helens	183	\$30,085	13,489
August St Helens	214	\$21,942	15,757
October Clatskanie	70	\$3,326	2,254
October St Helens	217	\$28,482	13,913
total	914	\$105,102	59,871

9. Recycling/Waste Reduction Education & OTR Reports

a. OTR Reports

- Completed OTR report requirements
 - Flyer promoting waste reduction handed out at the county fair in July, in St Helens.
 - Postcard sent to all existing customers: WM and Hudson
 - 4 social media posts
 - a. Why recycling is important**
 - b. Materials collected**
 - c. Materials preparations instructions**
 - d. 2024 HHW schedule and Hudson/WM collection schedules**
- Would like to plan quarterly OTR report meetings, maybe soon after each SWAC, to prepare the above requirements for the year.
- **SWAC** discussed county taking over contamination reduction reporting for the cities. This change will come into effect with RMA in 2025.

10. Detailed Cost Report due Monday, April 15.

- a.** Mike and I are meeting with a consultant to help us review our current report and modify it to our needs. I will be reaching out to both WM and Hudson to meet with us and the consultant so he can learn more about our rate review process and our solid waste system.
- b.** What about completing both our old DCR and new DCR this year to see how the new report turns out?
 - **SWAC** discussed the possibility of completing two reports. Joe Wonderlick with Waste Connections stated that this would likely be possible if the new report is

simplified and less complex than the current report. WM agreed with this statement.

SWAC Discussion: Brandon applauded haulers for their work during the recent weather event. Josh Brown thanked Brandon and the SWAC for the kind words and gave applause to Hudson supervisors and Kan for their hard work and late-night hours to make the best decision on whether to open the Transfer Station and if the truck routes were safe.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next SWAC meeting is the Rate Review, and will be on Thursday May 2, 2024, from 10:30am – 12pm virtual or at Healy Hall, Public Works Department 1054 Oregon St, St Helens, OR. Regular meeting is from 10:00am – 10:30am.