



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

**SWAC Committee**

- In attendance
  - 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 10:08 a.m.**

**Approve May Minutes** – minutes were approved as written

**Two Board positions open for At-Large members**

**Discussion on Solid Waste Division Updates**

- **Sharps Container Exchange Program**
  - Issues with RFPD sharps – Rainier, Mist-Birkenfeld
  - Hudson handling of sharps with new hauling contractor
    - Contractor building new facility in Clackamas – Autoclave system/facility
- **Dump Stoppers Program**
  - Reasons for less cases and vehicles this year compared to previous years; Smith Rd cases have gone down
- **Nuisance Abatement progress**
  - Summary of nuisance abatement costs thus far and total cost projections
  - Plans for vehicle disposal
- **Transfer Station**
  - TS repairs: all pumps working, fence repair is next
  - TS improvements: upgraded roof along main building - contractor quotes need engineered drawings included

- Asbestos Dropbox: everyone is generally impressed with convenience and cost of sample testing
- Annual Waste Tonnage: Cascades facility closed November of last year; 3-4 boxes delivered to TS daily. This is a significant amount of weight that affected our annual tonnage
  - New Gable Rd apartment complex waste material dramatically affected tonnage as well
- ORPET material: still working together on solution that works for all parties involved
  - WM delivered new 40-yd box to divert shredded material
  - Still interested in exploring alternate hauling options that don't include tipping material on tipping floor
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**
  - Upcoming events in August, October, and November
  - June HHW event was probably busiest ever with almost 250 vehicles
  - Updates to surveys, digital data tracking and where to show QR code at TS events
- **DEQ's Opportunity to Recycle Reports**
  - Plans for social media posts and in-person event recycling and waste reduction education this year
  - County fair was successful but mostly interacted with children who came up to spin the wheel and had minimal discussion with most adults about recycling
  - Looking to attend different event this fall for Halloween/Recycling themed education
  - Discussion on a Columbia County master-recycler course available for residents. Brandon recommended this based on PSU's master recycler program
    - PSU's Community Environmental Services does waste audits
    - Program could be flexible to employee's schedule and time available
    - OSU Online Master Recyclers could be good reference
    - Volunteer mechanism for ReUse center
    - Survey on social media to see how many residents would be interested
- **RMA and ORSOP Survey**
  - Received data and help with answering questions from Josh B
  - Overall, the survey was a bit confusing and largely a team effort, however, we did our best to provide CAA with details needed regarding each city and unincorporated county's recycling logistics
  - RMA is still supposedly beginning in Summer 2025
  - Next is ORSOP interview with CAA's contractor RRS
- **Pilot ReUse Program Updates**
  - Presenting the program to the board in the next few weeks
  - Program and new TS employee schedule will be Tues. – Saturday 8am-5pm
  - Need to follow up w/NWCS and other vendors for shipping container quotes

**Meeting was officially adjourned at 11:24pm.**

**Next SWAC meeting will be Thursday November 7 at 10 am virtually and at Healy Hall, Public Works Department 1054 Oregon St, St Helens, OR.**