



Josephine County
Solid Waste Agency

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS
 SOLID WASTE AGENCY
 MEETING MINUTES
 August 17, 2021**

Meeting convened at 3:03 p.m.

Agency Board Members Present:

Rob Brandes - Chair
 Rick Riker – Vice Chair
 Kyrrha Sevco
 Bradley Clark
 Connie Roach
 Justin Fimbres (via Zoom)
 Eric Larsen (for Steve Bethke)

Agency Board Members Absent:

Others:

Nick Fahey, Southern Oregon Sanitation
 Chris Wilson, Republic Services
 Julie Jackson, Republic Services
 Cathy Brown, DEQ (via Zoom)

Staff: Jason Canady, Operations Officer
 Donna Anderson, Minute Recorder

1. **Introductions (00:00 – 00:18)** recording started late.
 - a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting at 3:03 and took roll.
2. **Public Comment**
 - a. None.
3. **Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from July 20, 2021, meeting. (00:35 – 2:21)**

Vice Chair Riker made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from July 20, 2021. Chair Brandes seconded the motion. Members Sevco, Roach, and Clark abstained. There were no objections. Motion approved 4-0.

4. Action Items (2:22– 40:42)

- a. Funding Request: City of Grants Pass J Street Project – Jason Canady gave a presentation of the funding request for the J Street property, future home of the Water Treatment Plant. When the project began, they ran into issue they did not expect. There were a number of dumped items on the north side of the property, including over 280 old truck tires, concrete, a septic tank, an old vehicle and more. They brought in equipment to sift through the old material. Concrete will be recycled and crushed by Robco but there is a significant amount of material and much of it will need to be tested for asbestos. Dry Creek Landfill will require a certificate that no asbestos is present. Chair Brandes asked if there was any oil present. They found some petroleum on the west side of the property. Vice Chair Riker asked about test drillings. Jason stated the drillings will be part of his City Council presentation on August 18 and many of them are environmental drillings and will be hand drilled. They drilled to the point of refusal but did not hit a major block of concrete, so they weren't very concerned by their findings. Vice Chair Riker asked if there was potential for digging a pit to bury the concrete. Jason explained ironically, they found all of this because they are digging a pit in the northwest section of the site which is where the stormwater plant overflow pond will be. All that material was to be spread out around the site to get the grading correct but they are losing fill material faster than they dig it out. Vice Chair Riker asked if it could be provided to anyone that wants fill material. Jason indicated that most of the material is too large for that purpose. The concrete will be taken to Robco to crush. Vice Chair Riker asked if the soil testers have any responsibility for this. Jason indicated they do not. They are asking for a "not to exceed amount" of \$101,000 for the environmental testing and landfill fees for the materials. They are seeking reimbursement only for what they incur. Chair Brandes asked if the best-case scenario will be if it all comes back clean. Jason said if it all comes back clean, and it all goes to the landfill it will be \$101,043. They are hoping for closer to \$75-80k range. Member Roach asked about the number of tires. Jason said there could be more and added they aren't easy to get rid of. Chair Brandes asked if the \$65.50/ton disposal fee is for transport. Jason said it is the tipping fee only. Eric Larsen asked about inquiring with Les Schwab about the tires. A general contractor is handling the tire issue. Member Clark asked about the \$15,000 test fees if they are incurred by us and charged. Jason said they are incurred by the contractor and billed by the City. Anything that goes to the landfill must have a certificate stating it is not contaminated. That amount is for the labor and testing fees for those loads going to the landfill and that it is a significant volume. Jason also mentioned that the City Council will be out at the site for

their Monday Workshop on August 23, 2021, at 11:00 am. Vice Chair Riker asked about the tires that have been on site for all those years and the previous owners being there 70 years and wouldn't they have an obligation for leaving behind this material. Jason stated that would be a great question for City Attorney Bartholomew at the Wednesday night City Council meeting. He said there might be some ownership on the City since environmental testing was done and nothing was found. Additionally, the City was trying to be quick and friendly during the condemnation procedure as to not inconvenience the seller. Jason explained that based on the old photos the railroad tracks adjacent to the property used to be raised but with all the fill on that location the site is now raised. Chair Brandes asked if it's where the Skunk Creek drainage was. Jason said he couldn't answer that because there were a bunch of ponds there. Member Clark asked about the \$45k funding received and what it is related to. Jason indicated that amount is to the City of Grants Pass and has received that from the Agency for Code Enforcement efforts. He also remembered a small grant they gave to the parks department this year for cleanup. Vice Chair Riker asked if the Agency approves the funding, why does it go to the City Council. Jason explained that the City Council is approving a change order with the contractor who will be charging us extra for the work being done. Chair Brandes asked if the Agency doesn't fund this project, will the City fund it internally or change the amount of the bond. Jason said the City will have to fund it as part of the project. The City allocated about \$5 million for the project and cleanup of the property. The property ended up at a cost of \$4.75 million and the cleanup package is about \$500k. The additional work is another \$300k. They are over what the original projection was so they are hoping this will keep our rates where they are and hope they won't have to borrow more. Vice Chair Riker asked if there are any other uses for large segments of concrete. Jason said he wasn't sure if there is. The plan is to crush it and use it for road material. Chair Brandes said it is not great road base because it falls apart. Member Clark asked about the budget overview. Jason stated the budget has over \$250k allocated for projects this year and if this project is funded, they will still have some left for other projects. The \$98k they gave to the County came out of a different line item and is not part of the \$250k. Code enforcement is also a separate line. Vice Chair Riker asked how much volume is there on the concrete. Jason said it was over 1,166 tons of debris. Robco estimate is 432 cubic yards which would be for dirty soil. There is another 89 yards of concrete for the demo of the slab at the retention pond. There is an estimate of another 65 tons of materials that is part of the change order. It's just a guess as to how many 10-yard dump loads it would take to clear out the debris. Chair Brandes estimates approximately one ton per dump load so potentially 110 truckloads. Chair Brandes asked if this request is not approved could it trickle down to

water rates and asked about how many water accounts in the City. Jason said it's about 11,500 approximately. Member Roach said they are either paying it through the franchise fee or through water rates so it will hit the same people one way or another. Chair Brandes used an example, if this were turning into a park, once we got to the point of finding it wouldn't it be a DEQ mandated action anyway. Cathy Brown answered the petroleum contaminated soil is of interest to her and there may be a possibility of a little bit on the City property but is interested in the neighboring property as well. She indicated that this situation is an unlicensed disposal site and needs to be managed in the proper way regardless of the type of material and stated the City is doing it in the correct way. Certain materials can be used for projects if they meet certain criteria. Testing for this project would need to occur under Dry Creek Landfill's requirements and can be discussed further.

Member Roach made a motion to approve the funding request for the **J Street Clean Up Project**. **Member Clark** seconded the motion. **Vice Chair Riker** voted against the project. Discussion followed. Motion approved 6-1.

Vice Chair Riker explained he is not opposed to the project but would like further information that will be brought to the City Council at their meeting.

- b. Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for waste haulers. Nick Fahey spoke about standardized procedures for all the things they handle such as storms, fire, earthquakes, etc. They are looking for input on their document. Jason mentioned it has not yet distributed the information to the board, but it will be brought back at the next meeting. Nick explained the high points being collections with equipment and management, communication to customers, approved landfills, where they send waste to currently, incident assessment, winter storms, and wildfires. Chair Brandes asked if the new heat and smoke rulings changed anything. Nick said it did not but, it's a living document and things will change over time. Chair Brandes asked if there is an MOU (Memo of Understanding) between SOS and Republic Services in event territory changes. Julie Jackson stated she didn't think there was, but that that was a good idea. She said they appreciate Southern Oregon Sanitation taking the lead on creating this document. The only change of note is if they cannot get to the Dry Creek Landfill, they would like to take materials to another DEQ permitted landfill. Member Clark asked if this was mandated or if this was voluntarily being brought forward to the agency. Nick said they just really want to be sure it is all standardized regardless of what city you're in and regulators know what we are doing. Member Clark asked where the document was created from. Nick said their Operations Director comes from PG&E and they partnered with Maul Foster in Medford. Julie Jackson stated this last 18

months has shown they really need a document like this. If they anticipate an issue, they can add it to the document then report to this agency as needed.

5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

a. Agency Board Items (40:43)

- None

b. Managing Agency Items (40:44 – 43:38)

- Transfer Station Franchise Fee. Jason noted this was brought up at the last meeting regarding the 2.5% fee to each agency. He investigated and saw they were all set up this way and believe it was because we were collecting refuse from both locations. He suggested leaving it this way and said it is working. He didn't find a lot of history, but it was mentioned in the formation document.
- Staffing shortages. Jason said this is likely covered in the Standard Operating Procedures so we should hold off until we read through the SOPs.

6. Agenda building for June 15, 2021 (43:39 – 44:55)

- a. Standard Operating Procedures
- b. Update on J Street

7. Items for Open Discussion

- a. None

8. Adjournment (44:56)

Meeting adjourned 3:49 p.m.