



**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS  
SOLID WASTE AGENCY  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 18, 2021**

Meeting convened at 3:04 p.m.

**Agency Board Members Present:**

Rob Brandes - Chair  
Rick Riker – Vice Chair  
Kyrrha Sevco  
Justin Fimbres  
Connie Roach

**Agency Board Members Absent:**

Brad Clark  
Steven Bethke

**Others:**

Trent Carpenter, Southern Oregon Sanitation  
Nick Fahey, Southern Oregon Sanitation  
Chris Wilson, Republic Services  
Julie Jackson, Republic Services  
Garry Penning – Rogue Waste Systems

**Staff:** Jason Canady, Operations Officer  
Dianne Phelan, Minute Recorder

**1. Introductions (00:00 – 00:50)**

a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting at 3:04 and took roll.

**2. Public Comment (00:51 – 01:00)**

a. None.

**3. Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from April 20, 2021 meeting.  
(01:01 – 01:49)**

Member Sevco made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from April 20, 2021. Vice Chair Riker seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 5 -0.

**4. Action Items (01:50– 11:58 )**

a. Adopt the FY22 SWA Budget – Jason gave a summary of the budget. He focused on the revenue projections and fund balances stating that both are

very strong. The revenues were over predicted slightly, which will reduce the ending fund balance. This will not affect any of the programs the agency is currently funding. Looking at revenue versus expenses, we are finished with the big expenses. The total revenues and expenditures are going to match more closely. He recommended watching that over the next few years, stating that the agency is regularly funding the County at \$98,000.00 per year, along with \$45,000.00 per year for the City of Grants Pass. These two dedicated Solid Waste programs amount to over half of our revenues. In addition, the agency is putting 20% of the gross revenues into the ELA account and that money is also unavailable. Once the ELA funds hit the \$2 million mark, this will be rolled back to 15%. Jason stated that the total operating expenses are predicted up. The bulk of this is in the contingency and ending reserves, which are both trending upwards. This is due to under expenses. Jason said the project costs are on target. The Josephine County Code Enforcement needs to reapply for their funding request. The funding application was set up for only one year, and he suggested to make it a multiyear application. Jason stated that the agency is underspending, probably due to Covid. He explained the internal costs, noting that those are down as well. Overall revenues are projected down slightly, however this does not affect the bottom line.

- b. Vice Chair Riker asked where the sources of grant funding come from. Jason said it was discussed to have a partner like the Forest Service or BLM fund a portion of the grant, or to look for an outside agency to underwrite a grant for the purpose of cleaning up the woods or other projects so the agency alone wouldn't fully support the project.

**Member Roach** made a motion to adopt the FY21-FY22 budget as presented.

**Member Sevco** seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 5 -0.

## 5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

### a. Agency Board Items (11:59 – 31:11)

- Draft CPI Language from Waste Haulers – Chair Brandes recapped the language that was provided from the waste haulers, stating that the discussion was how to avoid going back to the respective bodies every couple of years for an increase, while at the same time trying to leave some guardrails on if the CPI exceeds everything else and profits are in excess of 13%. Vice Chair Riker asked if the Bureau of Labor takes a sampling of all garbage collection companies from the east coast to the west coast.
- Julie stated that they work with regions and make a composite analysis of the cost of the industry. Vice Chair Riker stated that as a company you have the differential advantage that if the cost goes up you can enjoy the rewards. Julie stated that they are not just looking at what the index is but are also taking a year over year snapshot. They are looking at the change in the index. For wages on the east coast to have an impact on that, there would have to be a major wage change. Each March they

look at what the index was a year earlier compared to what it is now, and the CPI rate would be that change year over year. Vice Chair Riker said if there is no motivation to hold cost down or to look to new technologies to cut costs, this promote free spending. Julie said when they looked at the chart with 10 years of increases and 10 years of what this index would have done, they are closely mirrored. It's just that one is a much more gradual way to get to the end than those large spikes. She stated that they are always trying to keep costs down. She feels they have built a partnership with Southern Oregon Sanitation and the Solid Waste Agency and they hope that this is a partnership that can be trusted. Julie stated that the Solid Waste Agency can look at the expenses and calculations each year. Chair Brandes asked if they do a GTC for different sized cities, or if this is one rate. Julie stated that this is one rate. She said typically the cost of garbage and recycling collection is the same no matter what the size of the city is. Vice Chair Riker asked if we had clean recycling by everyone would it reduce the cost substantially. Julie said the cost of recycling is dependent on the west coast. She said this index has a lot more ability to look at the true cost of recycling. She said they are trying to prevent coming in for special rates. They feel this is a much easier and more palatable way to get there. Jason stated that limiting it at 10% seems high. He also asked for clarification on rates not decreasing or increasing. Does this mean that if the CPI is a negative number we will be subtracting from the rates? Julie said no, they want to stay on a steady pace. Jason suggested taking away the word "decrease" out. Vice Chair Riker asked with a not greater than 10% increase in one calendar year, and the purpose of the CPI language is to flatten out the curve, 10% seems on the high side. He asked if they could lower it to 5% or 8%. Julie said the biggest she has seen is 7% or 8%. She asked what the agency recommended. Vice Chair Riker suggested 7%. Discussion followed. Vice Chair Riker asked about electric garbage trucks and what the cost might be. Julie said their Boise division is getting three electric trucks. They will be a test market for Republic Services. The cost is double, but as with any new technology the price will come down. Jason asked for clarification on the statement that annually June 1<sup>st</sup> if the GTC is 2%, both trash hauls put an automatically inflator to the nearest 5 cents on the bill, without coming to the agency. Julie said it comes to the agency first. It wouldn't need to go before the City Council or Board of County Commissioners unless it needs to be higher than or lower than. Calculations would be presented in March. Jason proposed to include this in the Franchise changes and present this as a package for adoption. Chair Brandes suggested having the Board of County Commissioners adopting it first and then council would have more comfort with it. Jason asked for clarification on the percentage. It was suggested to go with 7%.

**b. Managing Agency Items (31:12 – 33:55)**

- SWA Balance Sheet – Jason said the funds are healthy, but the revenues are slightly behind. The expenses are behind where we

thought, as well. Chair Brandes asked about the revenue line item and that it only shows Republic Services under Josephine County. Jason said he will investigate that. It might be that there is only the one agreement with the EPF agreement in it because there isn't one for the Kirby Landfill. It might be that they are all rolled into the City of Grants Pass numbers.

**6. Agenda building for June 15, 2021 (33:56 –45:40)**

- a. None.

**7. Items for Open Discussion**

- a. Chair Brandes said Mike Bollweg from the City of Rogue River contacted him saying they have quite a bit of the Class A biosolids to get rid of. Chair Brandes said if he wants to put them out at Kerby they can work something out.
- b. Vice Chair Riker asked if the City of Grants Pass isn't bringing their biosolids to Kirby because of contamination in the Water Treatment Plant. Jason said we could get that approved, but it has to dry too much, and it is about the same price as Dry Creek.
- c. Jason stated that the City may have a potential funding request project. The monitoring wells at the Merlin Landfill need maintenance, due to leaking on some of the casings. They are pulling air when they get the samples. It has a total price of about \$50,000.00. They are working with the insurance company to see if they cover it. The wells were installed around 1999 or 2000 when the landfill was closed.
- d. Jason said the Solid Waste Agency finally got recognition in the advertisement for the Rogue River Clean-up after sponsoring it for several years.
- e. Chair Brandes said Southern Oregon Compost turned away two loads of green waste due to contamination. Vice Chair Riker asked if there needed to be more public education. Julie stated that being charged for the whole load as trash will educate people. Most of the time they don't catch it until it's already dumped. Until they get clear carts on the street, we will never have a fix. They do charge contamination fees and pull carts. They are all for more education.
- f. Jason said the Josephine County Fair is happening this year and he is assuming that both waste haulers are having booths. Nick said they are planning on it.
- g. Nick stated that Southern Oregon Sanitation had the Redwood Transfer Station closed last weekend. They had one complaint on Facebook.

**8. Adjournment (45:41 – 45:42)**

Meeting adjourned 3:49 p.m.