



Josephine County
Solid Waste Agency

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS
 SOLID WASTE AGENCY
 MEETING MINUTES
 September 15, 2020**

Meeting convened at 3:04 p.m.

Agency Board Members Present:

Rob Brandes - Chair
 Rick Riker – Vice Chair
 Brad Clark
 Kyrrha Sevco
 Connie Roach
 Justin Fimbres
 Steve Bethke- Absent

Agency Board Members Absent:

None

Others:

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

Staff: Jason Canady, Operations Officer

Dianne Phelan, Minute Recorder

1. Introductions (00:00 – 02:32)

- a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting and took roll.

2. Public Comment (02:33 – 07:25)

- a. Garry Penning stated that the Household Hazardous Waste event for Jackson County has been canceled. Dry Creek Landfill is operating under extended hours. He said they have had issues in getting waste from the coast due to the closure of 199 from the fires. Garry said they have been planning on updating their Emergency Management Plan. They are getting real life experience now. He said they have a small Debris Management Plan in place, but there is a long process in having land cleaned and released after events like this. He is estimating at least 60 days before building can begin. They are concerned about the rain that is scheduled to arrive at the end of the week.

There will be a meeting tomorrow in Jackson County at 2:30 to discuss these topics.

3. Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from August 18, 2020 meeting. (07:25 – 08:11)

Kyrrha Sevco made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from August 18, 2020. Brad Clark seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 6-0.

4. Action Items (08:11 – 08:18)

- None

5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

a. Agency Board Items (08:19 – 1:15:40)

- Solid Waste Clean-up in Selma. Rob stated that he has not received an application back on this yet. Thomas Peterson, Josephine County Solid Waste Specialist, received a call from David Esch saying that he would be out for three weeks.
- History on Rate Increase. Jason stated that this should have been related to the question from Rob last month, what would it look like if we were to add a dollar to the EPF fee. Rob stated that this was to see if the board wanted to put more resources towards cleanups, projects and potential enforcement mechanism to help identify dumping issues before it happens. Jason showed the current EPF fees as well as those over the past couple of years. We are running about \$400,000 with all of them combined. If we were to add another dollar, we can bring it up almost \$100,000 per year. Jason doesn't feel that this would fund the program. Rob stated that it could be a joint effort between BLM, Josephine County Sheriff and the County. Jason said that this is very preliminary and is due to Councilor DeYoung stating that there is an issue of trash being dumped in the forest, increasing the hauling rates for customers. Councilor DeYoung would like to see a method of patrolling, catching, and cleaning up these dumps in the forest and suggested potentially looking at a dollar per ton increase to the EPF fee to help cover that. Jason doesn't feel that it would generate near enough revenue to run a program of that nature. Rick asked if people dumping in the forests was caused by rate increases in trash services. Travis stated that the Kerby landfill opened in 1994 and has never had a rate increase. The correlation that the price is driving people to dump in the woods is false. He noted that Douglas County had no tipping fees for years and people still dumped in the woods there. He stated that Josephine County has some of the lowest rates in the state.
- Jason asked if the transfer stations were holding out for a rate adjustment request until things settle down. Trent stated that Southern Oregon Sanitation is waiting until the end of the fiscal year. They have seen an increase in demand at the Redwood Transfer Station. It was scheduled to be below the profit range, but this has increased. The Kerby Station is at a negative number. The company would be better off financially if they closed Kerby. They would like to roll Kerby into the

Josephine County Franchise and have it subsidized. Trent said they were on track to come in with a rate increase for all of Josephine County this year, but they have opted to wait due to Covid. Nick from Republic Services agreed with Trent, saying they don't want to ask for anything from the community right now. He said they are just concerned with modifying the contract and looking at the performant model to introduce smaller increases of 1 or 2 percent. He stated that by doing the two-year average, by the time you meet the requirement, you are way behind the average index. The current transfer rates between Redwood, Kerby and Merlin are very close. Rick asked if there were any solutions for illegal dumping in the wild. Jackson County has a Dump Stoppers Program. Garry said he doesn't know how active it is, but places where they try to stop illegal dumping, they have implemented mandatory garbage service for every residence.

- Trent stated that the Household Hazardous Event scheduled for September 18th & 19th has been rescheduled for November 6th for Commercial & November 7th for Residential. The event will be held at SOPAC.
- Trent talked about their fire policies and when they would close a transfer station. He said that when the area is in a Level 2 evacuation, they will not go in unless it is to help fire fighters or businesses helping firefighting activity. For Level 3 they will not go in at all. As far as the Transfer Stations, if the Air Quality is above 301, Hazardous conditions, they will close. They will open for customers under certain conditions by appointment. He said when the evacuation level goes down from a Level 2 to a Level 1, they will send in their trucks for garbage pick-up but not for recycle until all restrictions have been lifted. This will not affect the customers not effected by the fire. The recycle drivers will pick up garbage in those areas.
- Jason stated that the City has fielded several calls from folks because of these closures asking what they are supposed to do. He asked that the haulers keep us informed on what they are doing so we can pass that on to the customers. Chris said they prioritize pick-ups for commercial and industrial customers as well and that they can call to schedule a pickup.

6. Managing Agency Items (1:15:41 – 1:31:50)

- None

7. Agenda building for October 20, 2020 (37:51 – 38:11)

- a. If nothing comes up, we will cancel the next meeting

8. Adjournment (38:12)

Meeting adjourned 3:40 p.m.

Full meeting recording available at:

<https://www.grantspassoregon.gov/DocumentCenter/View/18858/Audio-File-SWA-Meeting---10152019>

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