



Josephine County  
**Solid Waste Agency**

**JOSEPHINE COUNTY / CITY OF GRANTS PASS  
 SOLID WASTE AGENCY  
 MEETING MINUTES  
 January 20, 2021**

Meeting convened at 3:03 p.m.

**Agency Board Members Present:**

Rob Brandes - Chair -by phone  
 Rick Riker – Vice Chair  
 Brad Clark  
 Kyrrha Sevco – by phone  
 Justin Fimbres

**Agency Board Members Absent:**

Connie Roach  
 Steve Bethke

**Others:** Trent Carpenter, Southern Oregon Sanitation  
 Nick Fahey, Southern Oregon Sanitation  
 Chris Wilson, Republic Services  
 Garry Penning – Rogue Waste Systems – on phone  
 Julie Jackson, Republic Services  
 Cathy Brown, DEQ – on phone

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

**1. Introductions (00:00 – 01:41)**

a. Chair Brandes opened the meeting and took roll.

**2. Public Comment (01:42 – 3:50)**

a. Jason said the City received several phone calls in December from folks who haul trash for other people as a business. He expects to see them at a future meeting. Their concern is they are getting turned away from the Transfer Stations. Jason explained that they can pick up other people's trash, they just can't transport it to the Transfer Stations. They can rent a dumpster and have that picked up. Rob stated that the County received calls like this as well.

### 3. Approval of Solid Waste Agency Meeting minutes from November 17, 2020 meeting. (03:51 – 5:03)

Kyrrha Sevco made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Agency meeting minutes from November 17, 2020. Brad Clark seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 5 -0.

### 4. Action Items (05:04 – 11:08)

- a. Jason received an invoice for the Marlsan and Kerby landfills. He asked the Board to acknowledge that we will be making a payment to Josephine County for \$20,000.00 for that work. This is for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter payment.

Kyrrha Sevco made a motion to acknowledge the payments on the Kerby/Marlsan quarterly payment. Rick Riker seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion approved 5-0.

- b. Rob stated that he received a call from an Engineer with Civil West, a company that is working with the City of Cave Junction on their biosolids. They have about 2400 yards to deal with in the future. They are looking at some options, one of them being to continue to land apply at the Kerby Landfill. It is dewatered and treated to a level B or C. Trent stated that Southern Oregon Sanitation was contacted about this and it is against their DEQ permits for them to allow that material in the transfer stations. He stated that when it needs to be moved, it will have to be a direct haul to the landfill.

### 5. Matters from Agency Board and Staff

#### a. Agency Board Items (11:09 – 1:11:19)

- Household Hazardous Waste Event Report – Nick Fahey stated that due to Covid, this event had to be rescheduled. It was originally scheduled for September, but was rescheduled for November 6 and 7, 2020. He said the dates for this year's event are September 17 and 18, 2021. They had approximately 250 vehicles and are hopeful the numbers will go higher this year. He showed price breakdowns for expenses, with a total of \$41,565.86 raised. The Solid Waste Agency was charged \$5.00 per vehicle. He showed the top five products received and the cost to dispose of them. Trent stated that DEQ has changed some of the rules, one of them being that now you need to submit your dates 6 month before hand. He said they were also informed that they can't be the one to put on the event. It must be the County or the City. Garry said the Jackson County event has been scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2021. Rob asked how much extra material was taken with the trading table being gone. Trent said it was almost immeasurable. Julie said that Benton County puts the event on in the name of the City of Corvallis.
- SOP for Waste Haulers – Trent said that Rogue Disposal is currently going through their SOPs. They are going through Maul Foster. Trent said they also contracted with them to come up with their SOPs. He said

this will bring consistency for garbage companies throughout Oregon. He is hoping that they will have something in the next couple of months.

- Review and approve Franchise Agreements – Rob said there have been 18 years of amendments to the franchise. Those amendments were getting cumbersome, so an attorney was hired to condense them back down to the revised version. Rob said they are now ready to go before the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. Rob wanted to make it clear that there is nothing new in the agreements, it is just a cleaner version. Jason stated that he hoped to put together a change log, but it would be too detailed. He decided to go with the two packets that were distributed to the members with two versions of every document. One version has the track changes turned on, and the other is the final document so you can read it how it will be when complete. Jason said his preference is to table this item until next month so everyone can go through the documents and then tackle it next month. Rob asked to keep an eye out for any changes that would make it more timeless. Trent asked about the Cave Junction agreements. Jason said they didn't have any documentation of changes. If changes are needed, he would have them bring them up at the next meeting.
- Republic Services Rate Increase – Julie said that their disposal contract expired at the end of December. They are working off an extension until April 1, 2021. She stated that landfill contracts are confidential because they are highly competitive. Julie said they are presenting the agency with the cost of disposal and transportation together. They are asking for a 15.3% increase. Their disposal costs are increasing by 15.8% so they are passing that increase along. This increase is based on significant increase of the landfill costs which represents about 40% of their operating costs. They have created a streamline version of the Josephine County Transfer Station Rates. She stated that the most environmentally safe way to dispose of waste is at the curb. With the incredibly cheap rates they still have at the Josephine County Transfer Station, this encourages folks to haul one or two garbage cans at a time. She said if they have a higher minimum, people will wait until they have more to haul before going to the transfer station. Julie said they are proposing that they go to a more indexed methodology for rate increases. Those tend to negate the giant increases. She said they are asking that Coffin Butte Landfill in Benton County be designated as an approved landfill for an alternative. Julie said they came up with a plan to implement a dump stopper program. They will work with the Sheriff's office where citizens can call in to report dumps and the sheriff's office will create a case number. The hope is that it will reduce the possibility of people misrepresenting waste. Chris stated that they have people come to the transfer station saying someone illegally dumped trash on their property, or they are proactively cleaning up a dump site. Unfortunately, they don't have a system where they can accept the material and offer a discount or dumping for free. With this program, they can follow the proper channels and report it to the Sheriff's Office/ Then they will have the proper documentation to support a case file to

put in their system along with pictures and estimated yardage with a list of authorized parties to be able to come to the facilities and dump the material. Hopefully, in working with the Sheriff's Office they can find some identifying information that would lead to prosecution. The hope is to make a positive impact on people who are finding trash on their property and having to foot the bill on this. Chris said they would like to come up with a generous amount to award the victims. They have talked with the Sheriff's Office about programs like this in the past and are hopeful they will be willing to work with them on this project. Jason asked about the 15.3% and the Coffin Butte location for an alternative dump site. Julie said they aren't looking to move material to Coffin Butte. They would like to have a second landfill designated if they were not able to get to Dry Creek. Jason asked about the history of rate increases beyond 2017. Trent said Southern Oregon Sanitation will be coming in with the same kind of presentation next month. Julie said that due to Covid they have seen far more trash at residential customers than ever before. Unfortunately, folks don't have the extra room in their trash cans, so garbage ends up in their recycle cart. Because of this they are seeing lots of contamination in the recycle carts. She said none of our recycle is going to China, but this has generated some domestic recyclers. The cost of recycling hasn't come down yet because of the contamination. Rob asked if Julie could project the rates out another year. Chris said without the increase they will be operating in the red starting in April. He explained the simplified rate schedule. Rob asked if there was a model for accounting for distance fees for customers who are closer to the transfer station versus customers who live out in the country. Trent said the rate is the same for the same size cart. Distance doesn't change that. Rob also mentioned that we need to explain why Dry Creek's costs went up to explain the cost increase. Rob stated that the increase only shows  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year. He would like to see the full year of increased revenue.

**b. Managing Agency Items (1:11:20 – 1:20:00)**

- Josephine County-City of Grants Pass Solid Waste Agency Financial Report – Jason stated that there were no significant anomalies again in the audit and we continue to do good work.
- Budget Committee Request for Applications – Due Friday, February 5, 2021- we have three openings and two applications currently. This has been advertised in the Grants Pass Daily Courier, the City of Grants Pass website and Facebook page.
- Waste Shed Manager – Jason stated that Justin Fimbres is the current County Waste Shed Manager. The discussion came up last year as to whether we wanted to appoint the Managing Agency Director as the Waste Shed Manager. No formal action took place. He feels a formal action needs to be taken at Josephine County. He asked Cathy to explain what that position is and if it needs to stay with the County. Cathy stated that the Waste Shed Manager is a point of contact for DEQ for recycling and other solid waste issues that are within the County.

This person is responsible for information sharing to the City, community members and Haulers. The biggest responsibility is getting the Opportunity to Recycle reports out. She said it require some processing of electronic communications. Jason said the City has been coordinating and filling out the Opportunity to Recycle report since before he was the Public Works Director for the City. He is very comfortable being that contact person. His concern is that it is a County position. Rob asked Cathy if she could cc him on emails as information comes out. Cathy said this position can be filled by anyone within Josephine County, and she will copy Rob on the emails. Jason will send an official email to request the change.

- Opportunity to Recycle – Jason said we are just getting started on this so there isn't anything to report yet. Cathy said she wanted to let folks know that the reporting requirements has been simplified this year due to Covid and wildfires.
- Trent stated that the Transfer Station on Redwood Avenue received its renewal permit from the DEQ.
- Trent also stated that their state association is working with the DEQ on an Extended Producer Responsibility for Recycling. He doesn't expect it to be done in this legislative session. The concept is somewhat like Paint Care. One of the positive things in this program is a statewide list for recycling.
- Jason said at the last DEQ Landfill Inspection they relived the City of its Air Quality Permit for the Merlin Landfill.
- Due to the President's Day holiday on Monday, February 15, the next Solid Waste Agency meeting will be Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **6. Agenda building for February 23, 2021 (1:20:01 – 1:27:50)**

- a. Trent and Nick - financials into 2022 and history of increases since 2010
- b. Opportunity to Recycle Update
- c. Finalize Franchise Agreements

#### **7. Adjournment (1:27:50 - 1:27:52)**

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.

Full meeting recording available at:

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

NOTE: Please use the times listed at the end of each agenda item to forward to the segment you wish to listen to by using the link to the full meeting recording above.