

**Benton County
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
(SWAC)**

**Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

<u>SWAC Members:</u>		<u>In-person or remote</u>
Benton County	Will McKay	absent
Benton County	Matt Mahoney (alternate)	in-person
City of Benton City	Jessica Wadsworth	absent
City of Kennewick	Chuck Torelli (Secretary)	in-person
City of Kennewick	Jim Millbauer (alternate)	absent
City of Prosser	Don Aubrey	absent
City of Richland	Theresa Richardson	absent
City of West Richland	Richard Bloom (Vice Chair)	in-person
Basin Disposal	Darrick Dietrich (alternate)	absent
Basin Disposal	Rebecca Francik (Chair)	in-person
Public Citizen	Khris Olsen	absent
Agricultural Representative	Anthony Searls	in-person
Benton Franklin Conservation Dist.	Mark Nielson	remote
Waste Management	Tami Yager	in-person
Waste Management	Kevin Fuerst (alternate)	absent

Additional Attendees:

Cristina Woods, Benton County	in-person
Wendy Mifflin, HDR	remote
Michelle Mulrony, Dept of Ecology	remote
Mark Chidester, City of Richland	remote
Cindy Bluemel, citizen	remote
Pete Rogalsky, City of Richland	in-person
Jackie Mayfield	in-person

Meeting start time: 10:00 a.m.

Discussion items

- 1) Introductions**
- 2) Approval of May 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Richard Bloom made a motion to approve the minutes, Tami Yager seconded the motion.

3) Public Comment – None

4) MRWF Update

Matt Mahoney provided an update on the progress of the Moderate Risk Waste Facility. Benton County is working on adding spot ventilation and finalizing the permitting process. Benton County plans on using the solid waste budget to pay for the ventilation system and not ask for additional money from the cities. A contract has been signed with ACT to collect the hazardous waste once the facility is open and will train the Solid Waste employees on how to handle, label and pack hazardous waste. Currently there are three full time employees working at the MRW facility. An agreement has also been signed with PaintCare for collecting paint. The opening date is unknown at this time.

5) Upcoming HHW event at the Benton County Fairgrounds on Sept 23rd

Jackie Mayfield mentioned there will be more advertising for this event than has been in the past. The frequency of radio advertisements was increased along with an additional station. The additional social media outreach provided by the County's Communications Coordinator included a radio station interview and posts on multiple social media platforms.

6) 5-Year Solid Waste Plan update

The draft plan was approved in May by the SWAC. The county submitted the SEPA and the determination of non-significance was issued in August. The operation plan was submitted to the Department of Ecology in August, and it is currently in the 120-day review. The 120-day review is up on December 12th. Wendy expects the plan to come back to the SWAC for review in January 2024.

7) Recycling Discussion

Rebecca discussed her recycling outreach efforts with local schools and her attempt to educate the public with the costs associated with recycling. Rebecca also discussed the current problems being faced with illegal dumping and poor recycling markets.

8) Future meeting time discussion

All proposed times had conflicts so there will be no change to the current scheduled time. Future quarterly meetings will remain at 10 AM on the second Wednesday of the month.

9) Committee member addition

Rebecca introduced Cindy Bluemel, it was discussed if it was necessary to add Cindy as a member or if she can just participate. Cindy will continue to attend the meetings but not be a SWAC member.

10) Committee members for 2024

There are re-elections this year so changes are expected in January 2024.

11) Other

Rebecca discussed the continuing of illegal dumping in Benton City.

Pete Rogalsky gave an update on the upcoming renewable gas plant scheduled to be operating this fall.

Rebecca discussed the concerns she has with the with EV garbage trucks required by 2035.

Benton County will send out notice to all SWAC members once the permit is in place to open the MRWF. Tami Yager said WM could work with the county to help promote the facility.

Next meeting will be December 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.