

**WHITMAN COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE  
MEETING  
August 8, 2017**

**MEMBERS:**

Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal, Chair, (Excused)  
Dot Sharp, Colton, Vice-Chair  
Matthew Pederson Republic Services  
Eileen Macoll, Pullman, (Excused)  
Rick Finch, WSU Waste Management, (Unexcused)  
Bob Curry, Endicott  
David Hansel, Albion  
Chris Skidmore, WC Environmental Health

**Staff:** David Nails, WC Transfer Station; Mark Storey, WC Director/Engineer; Layne Merritt, J-U-B Engineers Inc.; Deborah Olson, League of Women Voters; Meagan Gilmore, DOE; Ben Stone, WC Environmental Health; Brandon Johnson, Clerk.

**3:00 p.m.** – Dot Sharp opened the meeting. Introductions were held around the room.

**MOTION** by David Hansel and seconded by Bob Curry to accept the minutes from June 13, 2017. Motion passed.

David Nails reported that he met with Layne Merritt for about 3 hours. We covered a lot of territory in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Layne Merritt stated that we talked about the portion that SWAC participates most actively in, and that is in reviewing the goals and direction of the plan. Looking at the past goals and then deciding what direction you'd like to go to establish the path for specific things that can improve the whole system and process of solid waste handling management.

Let's go through the goals and our initial thoughts and how they look at the current time.

*1. Elimination of waste through cost-effective reduction practices wherever possible.*

That is a pretty broad statement and it would be nice to narrow it down more and make it more specific. There is nothing wrong with the statement. It just needs more meat on its bones.

*2. Movement of responsibility for the waste stream toward the producer.*

That is a good goal. There are a few things that can be done but probably not much at the local level other than education and efforts to get it out there.

*3. Inclusion of the citizens of the County through outreach, education, and feedback channels, as part of any plan.*

That is an essential function of the whole process to have people understand and have input into the process. It is the users that really influence what comes in and how it gets managed.

4. *Maximization of the role of local private industry, keeping jobs, profits, and economic activity within the County.*

There is the public aspect of the direct impact of the jobs at the transfer facility and also as a partnership but it is also fiscally sound. It funds itself and takes care of itself.

5. *Reliance on technology to advance solid waste handling efficiencies.*

Things are always changing and those things help with the process. We have to stay up on what we can implement to make it run smoothly and better meet all the objectives.

Layne studied the plans from the other counties and looked at their goals. What comes to your mind as you look at those goals? What kinds of things are important to you and what are your thoughts on the current goals?

David Nails stated one item that was missing was the effect on the environment. That is why solid waste has been managed because it overwhelms our environment. He stated that the yard waste program is a great program and it is one example of a goal that he would suggest.

Mark Storey suggested looking at Yakima and Grant Counties and their bullet points. It might be a good place to start and convert them to something that is more important to us. We need to keep the numbered goals small so it doesn't get overwhelming.

Layne Merritt suggested the SWAC members send him their top five goals with any detailed description of any additional goals that they might have. Then we can look at them together to reach a consensus. It is a good idea to get the community input because that is where it is most important.

The Palouse Empire Fair will be September 7-10, 2017, and we will have an informational booth about the Transfer Station and promoting Recycling in the County. We always need help with the booth so if you have time, please contact David Nails.

**Next meeting is September 12, 2017, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Adjourned – 4:11 p.m.**

**(Note from the Clerk: The microphones were not turned on so this is all I could report from the meeting.)**