

**SOLID WASTE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
Public Service Building
December 10, 2019**

MEMBERS:

Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal
Dot Sharp, Colton, Vice Chair
Aaron Lawhead, Empire Disposal/Waste Connections
Rick Finch, WSU Waste Management
Matthew Pederson, Republic Services (Unexcused)
Eileen Macoll, Pullman
Robert Curry, Endicott, (Excused)
David Hansel, Albion, (Excused)
Chris Skidmore, WC Environmental Health
Michele Beckmann, Colfax

Staff: David Nails, WC Transfer Station; Elinor Huber, Clerk.

Audience: Steven Gimpel, Ecology; Heather Church, Ecology; Deb Olson, Pullman; Elizabeth Siler, Pullman, Patrick Siler, Pullman.

3:06 p.m. – Devon Felsted opened the meeting with introductions.

MOTION by Dot Sharp and seconded by Aaron Lawhead to accept the minutes of September 10, 2019. Motion passed.

David Nails reported on the solid waste capital improvements. We expect to receive the first draft of the MRW plans in the near future. The estimate came in at \$850,000 for remodeling the old building with two additions on each side of it. Once the drafts are completed we will go out to bid and start construction in the summer.

We have contacted Avista for a new transformer for more power to the new office building. They plan to have a crew come on January 6, 2020, to set the building. We have installed the water system and there will be a pumping system to go into our septic system.

The Solid Waste Management Plan is completed and stamped by J-U-B and the Department of Ecology. Please take your copy with you as you leave today. The Board of County Commissioners will be adopting this plan the end of this month.

Steven Gimpel stated there were a few issues that he wanted to address in the SWMP. He has until January 2nd to issue a formal response. We will have a new draft of guidelines to make the

process simpler and more easily understood by the public when it is time to rewrite this in five years.

David Nails printed out the Zero Waste Washington report and will make it available to the SWAC members.

Heather Church stated that her title is the Eastern and Central WA Recycling Coordinator for the Department of Ecology. Recycling is the big focus now but there is more to it than recycling. The Recycling Development Center has been formed which will be an advisory board that will include all the solid waste directors throughout the State and they will have direct input in what they would like to see with recycling.

In the last Legislative session House Bill 1543 passed on the Sustainable Recycling Act and initiated a program between the DOE and the Department of Commerce to try and incentivize businesses and markets for recycling. Ecology is getting ready for another legislative session in January.

Heather conducted a survey last summer about what communities are and are not accepting and how the lists have changed. The survey helps us and other communities in WA understand what our baseline is and what markets are available.

The Department of Ecology has materials and flyers that could be customized and made specific for the community regarding recycling. The DOE has done a lot of studies on this. Heather will make this information available to David Nails.

The paint stewardship is coming up and will probably start in the Fall of 2020. It will be a great benefit to Whitman County.

David Nails stated that WC is paying more for recycling than for disposing of garbage. We are losing money on cardboard with shipping and processing. We will be having a workshop with the BOCC to discuss the recycling.

The biggest problem with recycling is educating the public in order to eliminate contamination in the bins. According to Republic Services, everything that Whitman County takes them for recycling is recycled.

The next meeting will be on March 10, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.

Adjourned - 4:10 p.m.