

**SOLID WASTE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
March 14, 2023
Public Service Auditorium
3:00 p.m.**

Members Present:

**Devon Felsted, Chairman
David Hansel**

**Eileen Macoll, Vice-Chair
Michele Beckmann**

Others: David Nails, WC Landfill; Steven Gimpel, DOE; Wyatt Armstrong, Environmental Health; Elinor Huber, Clerk.

3:03 p.m. – Devon Felsted opened the meeting and introductions were held.

Devon Felsted asked for some clarification in the minutes from December 13, 2022, where it states, *“We have been choking on the idea of recycling but also of green waste.”*

Also, where it says, *“commercial haulers.”* He wanted to know if that included Pullman Disposal.

David Nails stated that he has suggested increasing fees for some of those services but our Public Works Director, Mark Storey, is reluctant (*or choking on the idea*) to raise the fees. We struggle with our fee schedule every year. The green waste is a free service to Whitman County residents and it costs \$34 a ton to offer that service.

Regarding *“commercial haulers,”* David was referring to the tree companies that are hired to trim and cut down your trees and then they haul it to the landfill for free. They are charging the customers but they are disposing of the yard waste for free at the landfill. We want to keep that as a free service for Whitman County residents.

The cost for the grinding in January was \$55,273, for 1,625 tons. We utilize a grant from the State but that grant is not always guaranteed. It also has to compensate for Household Hazardous Waste, appliances, and recycling, all of which are free.

MOTION by Michele Beckmann and seconded by Eileen Macoll to approve the minutes from December 13, 2022. Motion passed.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers. Aaron Lawhead was elected Chairman and Eileen Macoll was elected Vice-chairman.

David Nails reported on the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) bills that are in the legislation. They want to have the producer take the responsibility of disposing of the product. The producer would include the disposal cost in the price but the consumer ends up paying for the disposal.

The year-end numbers: In 2021, we disposed of 39,943.09 tons and in 2022 we disposed of 33,385.20 tons. The number was higher in 2020 because of the Malden fire and some of that material was put into our limited purpose landfill.

In 2022, we chipped 3,876 tons of yard waste. The total outgoing recyclables in 2021 was 1,842 tons and in 2022, the total was 1,808 tons. That is single stream, cardboard and aluminum.

The recycling prices have stayed about the same. We are getting \$20 a ton for cardboard. In order to dispose of single stream, we are paying \$120 a ton.

Steven Gimple reported they are working on amending \$75,000 from the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance, (LSWFA) of additional money back into this biennium for WC.

The Eastern Washington Glass Summit will be held on May 3rd in Yakima in the Ecology's central regional office. You can sign up for a virtual or an in-person option. I will forward the information to Elinor and she can forward that to you.

We are trying to figure out the best way to handle glass in Eastern Washington. The model that works for Puget Sound will not work over here.

The Organics Management Law is one from the last cycle. We are hoping it is going to provide local decisions or options on how to best finance and manage the expense of managing solid waste. These potential EPR bills keep pulling things out of your revenue generating stream of garbage, into a negative revenue stream. Any kind of unfunded projects you have now is going to cost you more money.

Also, with the Organics Management Law there is a three-part service mandate guide we have to follow; the Compost Procurement Ordinance, Business Organics Collection and a Residential, Non-residential Organics Collection for 2027.

David Nails reported the Spring Clean-up will run from April 7-15, 2023.

The Notice to Proceed for our scale replacement project is April 17th. Maybe we can have a tour of our new facility for the September meeting.

The next meeting will be **June 13, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**

MOTION by Michele Beckmann and seconded by Eileen Macoll to adjourn. Motion passed.

Adjourned – 4:01 p.m.