

Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Minutes

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**Location: Lewis County Public Services, Large Conference room, 2025 N.E. Kresky Ave, Chehalis
In-Person Meeting with ZOOM option.**

1. **ROLL CALL:** Call to order by Terry Harris at 1:00 p.m. *Members in attendance.*

Member Name	Representation	Attendance	Non- Member Name	Representation
Terry Harris	SWAC Chairman	P	Olivia Carros	Department of Ecology (Zoom)
Bob Taylor	SWAC Co-Chairman	P	Josh Metcalf	Lewis County Public Works, Director
Jason Adams	WSU Extension/ Agriculture	U A	Bill Teitzel	LC Public Health & Social Services
Don Bradshaw	Citizen/Winlock	E A	Rocky Lyon	LCSW Utility, Manager
Peppy Elizaga	Business/Hampton Lumber	P	Melanie Case	LCSW Utility, Recycle Coordinator
Samantha Winkle	Waste Management Industry	U A	Teri Lopez	LCSW Utility, Admin Assistant
Eddie Lewis	Waste Management Industry	U A	Sheryl Hall	Citizen/GPTF
Jerry Lord	Chehalis Councilperson	U A	David Owen	Citizen/Pinchot Partners
Tom Rupert	Waste Management Industry	P (Zoom)		
Max Vogt	Centralia Mayor	P (Zoom)		
Attendance is recorded for members	P=Present; EA=Excused Absence; UA=Unexcused Absence			

A quorum was not present with only five (5) of ten members in attendance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- David Owen from Randle, Treasurer for Pinchot Partners and private citizen, expressed his concern about a change in policy that he feels will adversely affect residents of East Lewis County in regards to trash. He stated that a Morton Transfer station employee informed him that rates would be increasing. He feels a rate increase will lead to an increase in illegal dumping.
- Sheryl Hall from Tacoma, member of PIC (Packwood Improvement Club) and GPTF (Gifford Pinchot Trash Force), stated that she is attending to provide support in any way that she can with problems happening with forests and county roads in regards to trash.
- David stated that trash is not the problem, people are. No matter the tipping fee, some people are just going to dump. However, there are conscientious people who collect their trash/recyclables and pay the \$10 fee at the transfer station. He is worried that a higher tipping fee would deter those people from doing the right thing. Bill Teitzel, LC Public Health & Social Services responded by acknowledging illegal dumping is an issue. He and his department take enforcement action when actionable evidence is found, items such as mail, prescription bottles, etc.
- David stated he would like to see a public trial and lynching for illegal dumping violators or he suggests public shaming via an article in the newspaper. Sheryl commented that she uses social media to report offenses. Bill stated that the majority of illegal dumpers are dealing with other social issues.
- David stated that although he is in support of the forest services dispersed camping program illegal dumping at Skate Creek for example is a real issue and Bill Teitzel confirmed. David inquired about trail cameras. Bill Teitzel, Josh Metcalf, LC Public Works Director and Sheryl all speak to this issue. Cameras used in the past were stolen or vandalized and cameras do not always capture what is needed to identify an offender.

- David returned to discussing of the tipping fee increase. He suggested an automated system where you slip in your \$5 for your one trashcan.
- Sheryl asked if David had garbage service. He stated that his driveway was ½ mile long and it is not possible to drag a can down the driveway. Rocky suggested he build a small lockable area at the end of his driveway where he could keep his trashcan. David stated that it would be nice to have a dumpster in a locked area in Randle where residents could pay a fee to have a key.
- David returned to discussing the tipping fee increase. Saying he understands that it is still early in the process. Rocky responded that no fee amounts have been discussed and Josh concurred; but that a number of factors are being discussed to determine when rates will need increased.
- David stated that Packwood is growing and that he has discussed his concern with several other residents. He wonders if there is an alternative. Peppy Elizaga, Hampton Lumber asked if David is suggesting adding a facility in Packwood, which would be costly. Melanie Case, SW recycling coordinator asked if David or Sheryl were members of the community when drop boxes were placed in several locations through Lewis County including the Packwood area. Neither had been. Melanie stated that they were very costly to staff and maintain.
- Sheryl informed the committee that in Packwood on September 25 a tire drive is being hosted. Melanie Case, let Sheryl know that there is grant funding to assist with these types of projects. They agreed to speak later and work out the details.
- Sheryl then stated that in Tacoma, she noticed that people are allowed twice a month to leave big items on the curb. Is that an option for Lewis County?
- David stated that people are most likely to be good when it is easy for them. Everyone generates trash and all that trash goes some place. It is a matter of the route of that trash. It is going to cost money here or there. In general, prevention is cheaper than trying to fix the problem afterwards.
- David stated that he would be having a conversation with Commissioner Stamper regarding topics from this meeting, in hopes that these issues are handled politically, as well.
- Josh commented that illegal dumping is an issue all across the state. Ecology grant funding is higher than in years past with a lot of it tailored to the homeless encampments/illegal dumping and that litter in general is a noticeable problem. He stated that the commissioners are aware of what is happening with Solid Waste by way of monthly meetings and reports. He also stated that Solid Waste has and will continue to come up with creative solutions.
- Sheryl asked why there is no cardboard recycling at the Thrift and Gift in Packwood. Melanie Case replied that at the time it was not cost effective to include cardboard into the mixed recycling, which could change in the future due to the market price of cardboard. Melanie informed Sheryl that Lemay offers a cardboard recycling service for a fee to businesses and that the Morton Transfer station accepts cardboard.
- Sheryl inquired about a cardboard bin in specific housing areas. Melanie suggested that could be something handled by the HOA in those areas.
- Terry Harris, SWAC Chair thanked both David and Sheryl for attending. He let them know that they are welcome anytime and to let others know they are welcome. Terry instructed them to reach out to Rocky or Melanie in the future to be added to the agenda.

3. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** July 14, 2021, meeting minutes not approved.
Quorum not present, minutes will need approval at next meeting.

4. **BUSINESS AGENDA:**

4.1. **Review Action Items:** (Note: completed action items will be shown on the table for the next meeting's minutes then be "dropped." Date in "Comments/Resolution" section indicates when last update occurred.

Action Item Number	Task Description	Responsible Person	Comments/Resolution
071421-A	Review Proposed Revisions to the Solid Waste Code	Code Enforcement	Discuss 08/11/2021 – Packets provided via email or mail on 07/15/2021
071421-A – Bill Teitzel spoke on this Action item. An attorney was hired to review the code as it was written in comparison to the new WAC 173.350. The packets mailed/emailed reflected the suggested changes from attorney and Solid Waste. Terry requested a red line version in order to compare code as written to suggestions for change.			
081121-A	Lewis County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan	Solid Waste Staff	Update on Progress Timeline 08/11/2021
081121-A – Melanie spoke on this action item. She provided a diagram, which is included in these minutes as page #5. A plan draft will be submitted to SWAC/cities/towns/public in October for final comments.			

4.2. Alternatives to Residential Free Disposal Voucher Program:

- 4.2.1. Letters to city officials went out on 07/16/2021 regarding what events would be most beneficial to their cities with a form for the cities to complete and return.
- 4.2.2. Event for the Winlock/Vader/Toledo are on 09/11/2021 to include Hazardous waste, E-Cycle, Styrofoam, Tires, Yard Waste and Document Shredding.
- 4.2.3. Event for Pe Ell on 09/25/21 to include E-Cycle and Document Shredding
- 4.2.4. Event at Centralia Christian School/CTS on 10/09/2021 “Gardening for Everyone” hosted by Master Gardeners to also include Styrofoam Recycling, Sensitive Document Shredding, etc.
- 4.2.5. Event for the Packwood/Randle are on 10/09/2021 to include Hazardous waste, E-Cycle, Styrofoam, Tires, Yard Waste and Document Shredding.
 - Rocky Lyon, Solid Waste Manager discussed all the above listed events.
 - Bob Taylor, SWAC Vice-Chair stated that communication that the voucher program is dead is lacking since the public that attended this meeting still thinks it exists. He stated that the overall sharing of information needs a lot of attention.
 - Rocky reminded that the information is on our website and phone message. He then asked Bob what advice he had to offer as a member of the advisory committee. The advice offered by Bob was to keep at it.
 - Josh Metcalf informed the meeting that he attends two meeting a month in Packwood and speaks to Sheryl several times a month. She has been notified that the voucher program no longer exists. He also informed the meeting that money is being spent to get that message out. Josh then asked Bob what is his advice.
 - Terry suggested radio PSA’s. Josh replied that Melanie is on the radio continually.
 - Bill Teitzel offered an example. People should know we are in burn ban not because they are continually told but because of common sense. However, his department is notified continually of illegal burns.
 - Terry suggested budgeting for mailers.

4.3. Reports/Updates:

- 4.3.1. SWAC – Terry Harris, Chair – No new information.
- 4.3.2. LeMay/Waste Connections – Tom Rupert, District Manager – No new information.
- 4.3.3. Department of Ecology – Olivia Carros
 - Olivia confirmed that the plan is on track. She and Melanie are in communications.
- 4.3.4. Code Enforcement – Bill Teitzel –

- Bill is in preliminary discussions with a group that is trying to get into the IPAT (Industrial Park at Transalta) area to run a Fluidized Bed Incinerator to create power. Bill advised the group to get started on an EIS (Environmental Impact Study). Melanie stated that she communicated with this group also. They were inquiring about organics. She suggested they reach out to UNFI, as they often bring in semi-trucks full of spoiled food.
- Bill stated that dead RV's being dumped along the side of county roads is getting to be a huge problem. Terry suggested that the abandoned RV's be taken to the parking lots of the lawmakers in Washington so they can see what everyone is dealing with. Bob asked if there is any grant funding to deal with the issue. Melanie responded that the current grants would include some money for cleaning up homeless campsite but to her knowledge nothing specific for RV's.
- Bill informed SWAC that Port Townsend Paper reached out to him regarding land applications for their secondary waste. Bill is going to require a study before issuing any permits.

4.3.5. Lewis County Solid Waste –

- Rocky went over tonnage report in packet and some tentative numbers for July.
- Preliminary 2022 budget proposal should be ready for the October SWAC meeting.

5. **NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**

6. **NEXT MEETING:** September 8, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Lopez,
Administrative Assistant
Lewis County Solid Waste