

## Lewis County Solid Waste Advisory Committee – Minutes

Wednesday, September 8, 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. **CALL TO ORDER:** Call to order by Terry Harris at 1:10 p.m.
2. **ROLL CALL:** *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	UA	Steve Gilmore	Republic Services (Zoom)
Jason Adams	WSU Extension/ Agriculture	P	Kathryn McPherson	WA Utilities & Transportation Comm.
Don Bradshaw	Citizen/Winlock	EA	Josh Metcalf	LC Public Works, Director
Peppy Elizaga	Business/Hampton Lumber	EA	Bill Teitzel	LC Public Health & Social Services
Eddie Lewis	Waste Management Industry	P (Zoom)	Rocky Lyon	LCSW Utility, Manager
Jerry Lord	Chehalis Councilperson	UA	Melanie Case	LCSW Utility, Recycle Coordinator
Tom Rupert	Waste Management Industry	P	Teri Lopez	LCSW Utility, Admin Assistant
Max Vogt	Centralia Mayor	UA		
Samantha Winkle	Waste Management Industry	P (Zoom)		
Attendance recorded for members. P=Present; EA=Excused Absence; UA=Unexcused Absence				

3. **VERIFICATION OF QUORUM:** A quorum was not present with only five (5) of ten members in attendance.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
5. **PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:** July 14, 2021 and August 11, 2021 meeting minutes not approved. ***Quorum not present, both sets of minutes will need approval at next meeting.***
6. **BUSINESS AGENDA:**
  - A. **Review Action Items:** Completed action items will remain on the table for the next month's meeting minutes before removal. Date in "Comments/Resolution" section indicates when last update occurred.

Action Item #	Task Description	Responsible Person	Comments/Resolution
071421-A	Review Proposed Revisions to the Solid Waste Code	Code Enforcement	Last Discussed 08/11/2021 – Committee requested redline version of proposed updates Discussed 09/08/2021 – Bill indicated that the Prosecuting Attorney, Eric Eisenberg will join a meeting later this year
081121-A	Lewis County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan	Solid Waste Staff	Progress Timeline updated 08/11/2021 – Draft will be provided for review at the 10/13/2021 meeting
090821-A	Proposed Rate Increases	Solid Waste Staff	Proposed Rate increases presented to SWAC on 09/08/21 as requested by SWDD
090821-B	Proposed Rate Increases	SWAC	Rate increase recommendation to be presented to SWDD at regular meeting on 09/27/21

## B. Reports/Updates:

- SWAC – Terry Harris, Chair – No new information.
- LeMay/Waste Connections – Tom Rupert, District Manager – No new information.
- Department of Ecology – Olivia Carros – LSWFA is now active and costs can be submitted for reimbursement. Olivia will be sending a follow up email to Melanie.
- Code Enforcement – Bill Teitzel
  - Nothing received from Port Townsend Paper regarding land application for their solid waste.
  - Trailer loads of solid waste will be coming in from 903 Byham Rd, Winlock, considered a nuisance property.
- Lewis County Solid Waste – Utility Staff
  - Community Litter Program Report – In July, Litter program coordinator cleaned up 14 illegal dumpsites with 3,540 pounds of garbage, 12 tires and 1 freezer removed.
  - Transfer Station Tonnages – Total tonnage for July was 10,613, which was 28% higher than the previous year. Customer count for July was 16,867, which is 22% higher than the previous year.
  - Proposed Rate Increases – included as part of these minutes is a proposed rate sheet and a municipal solid waste disposal map of Washington state showing tipping fees in other counties, which were used to discuss the proposed rate increases.
    - Rocky Lyon, SW Manager explained the sheets, how the team came up with the proposed increases and that per the Disposal District commissioners, SWAC is to provide a recommendation on proposed rates.
    - Jason Adams, WSU Extension Program Educator stated that the proposed rate increases are a good way to go and will be tolerable. He asked if the high numbers in July indicate a trend. Rocky responded that the number of customers remain constantly high, which is why part of the proposed rate increase includes building the reserves for expansion or relocation.
    - Terry Harris, SWAC Chair shared his thoughts on the proposed rate increase which lead him to the conclusion that perhaps the increase is not enough. He stated that reserves when he started on SWAC were at 6 million. This was to prepare for expansion/relocation. Reserves are now at 1.8 million, which is just above the bare minimum of 1.5 million. He further stated that it has been the advice of SWAC in years past to limit how often rates change.
    - Josh Metcalf, LC Public Works Director stated that one of his main philosophies when coming into Public Works is that the utilities should be run like a business and recover their costs. He stated that an annual review of the utilities would be necessary due to all the economy/market variables.
    - SWAC did not have quorum so no formal recommendation was made. Among those in attendance it was decided that the rate proposal as it is be presented to the Disposal District commissioners with the explanation that SWAC did not have enough members present to make a recommendation. The commissioners can advise on how to proceed.
  - Melanie Case, SW Recycling Coordinator highlighted the upcoming recycling event in Winlock on Saturday, September 11. She also highlighted the remaining September and October events. Flyers were provided.

7. **NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS:**

8. **NEXT MEETING:** October 13, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Terry Harris suggested we all keep commissioner Stamper in our thoughts as he recovers.
- Jason Adams updated the group on the Floral Street Sustainability Project. He has flyers made up and has handed them out to several businesses including the Dollar General regarding any leftover materials they may have that could be used at the Floral Street Project.
- Terry Harris asked the advisory committee members who would like to be on the budget committee. No responses were received. A follow up email will be sent.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Lopez,  
Administrative Assistant  
Lewis County Solid Waste