



WASCO COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 12, 2017

PRESENT: Scott Hege, County Commissioner
Steve Kramer, Vice-Chair
Rod Runyon, Commission Chair
STAFF: Tyler Stone, Administrative Officer
Kathy White, Executive Assistant

At 11:45 a.m. Chair Runyon opened a Work Session for the Board of Commissioners.

Discussion – Recycling Crisis

Vice-Chair Kramer shared an email (attached) from Waste Connections District Manager Jim Winterbottom. The email outlines options for the disposal of comingled recyclables in response to China's decision to no longer accept them. He explained that it is a national crisis and we will have to start limiting what we allow in the recycle containers. He went on to say that the fee per ton was \$15 in September and has risen to \$110 in October while the tipping fee at the landfill is only \$35 per ton. He stated that a path forward has not been determined, but stakeholders are meeting to discuss the options.

Commissioner Hege commented that we used to put all waste in the landfill and asked if the DEQ is what stops us from doing that now. Vice-Chair Kramer pointed out that the recycling efforts have helped clean up the environment. Unfortunately, some of the recycled material has been transformed into products that are not recyclable. We have to find a way to dispose of those. Because China has been so lax in accepting contaminated materials, we have become lax as well. Part of the effort will need to be re-education of the public. He said that we do not want to go backwards and break the recycling habit that has been developed; while the issues are being resolved, the recyclables will

continue to be collected.

Further discussion ensued regarding the process. Commissioner Hege asked what our part is in this. Vice-Chair Kramer replied that under the DEQ rules, the decision falls to the Counties – we have to make a decision regarding the options available to us to address the problem locally.

Commissioner Hege stated that continuing to collect and raising rates to cover the increased costs is impractical – we cannot know how long it will take for the markets to adjust and prices to fall. He stated that what makes the most sense is for us to continue to collect and take it to the landfill until a long-term solution is found. Vice-Chair Kramer said that is the decision Maupin has made as well. Chair Runyon concurred. Vice-Chair Kramer said that what really needs to happen is for manufacturers to stop producing the products that cannot be recycled.

*****The Board was in consensus to support the continued collection of recyclables to be disposed of at the landfill until a long-term solution to the recycling crisis is found.*****

Discussion – Area Agency on Aging

Chair Runyon reported that he had had conversations with GOHBI Executive Director Kevin Campbell who believes MCCOG should continue to exist for AAA and then contract it out to GOHBI. There was some discussion about the various possibilities. Vice-Chair Kramer explained that the State agency has the final say and jurisdiction over where AAA is housed, the most we can do is make a recommendation. Mr. Stone pointed out that all the letter (attached) asks is if the County wants to be responsible for the program. Vice-Chair Kramer added that he would like to be able to report our position to MCCOG at their meeting next Tuesday which is before the Board of Commissioner's meeting next week. He added that if Wasco County were to take it on, we would have to manage it for all five counties.

Further discussion ensued regarding the future of the public transportation services currently housed at MCCOG. Various scenarios were discussed including housing the public transportation and non-emergency medical transportation at separate entities – GOHBI and MCEDD. Commissioner Hege observed that MCEDD has no experience in running a transportation system

and suggested that contracting with Columbia Area Transit might be the best solution for both programs.

Vice-Chair Kramer commented that ODOT is a partner for the service. Chair Runyon noted that Mr. Campbell has found them to be the easiest part of the collaboration. Vice-Chair Kramer reported that Mayor Lawrence wants to keep it local.

Mr. Stone said that he has been meeting with ODOT around this issue. The County gets the pass-through funds and will just need to get an IGA in place with whatever entity we find to be the best solution. He commented that he believes we should look at this in a more regional way – GOHBI and MCEDD are both regional. Pacific Source contracts for the non-emergency medical transportation and will contract with outside sources if they do not like the set-up – their goal is to have uninterrupted service.

{{{Vice-Chair Kramer moved to notify the State Unit on Aging that Wasco County is not interested in managing the AAA program in this region. Commissioner Hege seconded the motion commenting that what we want is the best possible outcome for the program. The motion passed unanimously.}}}

Discussion – Fire Recovery

Regional Solutions North Central Region Coordinator Nate Stice joined the meeting by phone. He said that the USDA is requesting information that will help to inform them of the impacts of the Eagle Creek Fire and what resources might be needed to respond. He said that the recommendation is to be broad and inclusive in making requests. He stated that the information has to be sent in by tomorrow.

Mr. Stone noted that MCEDD Executive Director Amanda Hoey has already been doing work on the recovery and will be the best resource for ideas. Further discussion included ideas to request more bridges that would allow egress across the river, road equipment for grading/paving roads for evacuation, enhanced communication capacity, and a longer landing strip at the local airport to allow the tanker planes to land and take-off.

Discussion – Domestic Violence Proclamation

Commissioner Hege brought forward a proclamation from Victim's Assistance Coordinator Judy Urness which would designate October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month. He asked for the support of the Board for him to sign on behalf of the County as there will be a vigil held prior to the next regular Board session. He said that ordinarily the Mayor does this but is not available this year.

*****The Board was in consensus for Commissioner Hege to sign the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on behalf of the County.*****

Discussion – Building Codes

Commissioner Hege pointed out that at a previous meeting the Board had agreed that meetings with Building Codes staff and the local contracting community should happen as soon as possible; the purpose of the meetings would be to provide information and answer questions. He asked if any progress had been made toward that.

Mr. Stone replied that he would be meeting with stakeholders today to prepare finalized agendas and messaging after which meetings would be set. Vice-Chair Kramer stated that Mr. Stone was not available to attend the previous meeting at which he had stressed that this is a high priority for Wasco County. He said that hopefully, that message will be heard today. He said that there are also three other counties with whom we need to have conversations.

Further discussion ensued around who would be the employer for staff and how we would bring Building Codes staff into the County culture.

Vice-Chair Kramer reported that the MCCOG Board has set a goal for completion to be February 1st. Commissioner Hege said he thinks that may be a little ambitious – we don't want to push so hard that we break it. Vice-Chair Kramer responded that he will make it clear to them that February 1st is a goal rather than a drop-dead date; we cannot just close the doors of MCCOG on that day.

Chair Runyon commented that Mr. Campbell wants to have similar conversations with the AAA staff regarding their upcoming transition to a new

home.

Discussion – Fort Dalles Museum

Mr. Stone reported that he has a meeting scheduled with City Manager Julie Krueger and County Counsel Kristen Campbell to discuss how the Museum might become their own entity and get out from under the County umbrella. He said that the City just wants to do an IGA for joint management but he does not want to guarantee funding. He said that he believes it would be best for them to become a 503C which would allow them to raise funds and purchase insurance. He suggested that if the City does not want to support that, perhaps the City can take it over entirely.

Vice-Chair Kramer stated that he met with Museum Commission Chair Donna Lawrence who wants money for projects. He said that he advised her that the Museum Commission needs to put together a business plan if they are looking for financial support. He said that a business plan could help them move toward self-sufficiency.

Commissioner Hege commented that he is not looking to get out from under contributing to the museum, but the request to increase our contribution is troubling. However, he does not want them to feel like we are just walking away from them.

Further discussion ensued regarding ownership of the museum property and buildings as well as how it came to be with the City and County when the Oregon Historical Society walked away from it.

Discussion – Animal Shelter

Mr. Stone reported meeting with Mayor Lawrence last night who shared with him that the Animal Shelter approached the City of The Dalles to help them deal with their finances. He said that the City Finance Director was unable to attend the meeting so no final resolution was reached. He said that when the County was involved, it was a volunteer organization but now is staffed by paid employees. Chair Runyon pointed out that the organization is currently without a director.

Discussion – BNSF Lease

Mr. Stone reported that the BNSF Lease for a small piece of County property will

expire at the end of the year. He asked for the authority to negotiate a new lease.

*****The Board was in consensus for Mr. Stone to negotiate a new lease with BNSF Railroad.*****

Discussion – MCCFL CDBG Construction Project

Ms. White explained that the MCCFL Project is out to bid with the submission deadline set for 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 18th. She stated that the Board would be opening the bids at their session that afternoon; a recommendation for selection would come back to the Board the following week at a special session.

Commissioner Hege stated that the MCCFL Board would be meeting on the 19th to review the bids which may come back over budget and require a larger investment from MCCFL. He suggested that a Special Session may not be necessary; it could come back to the County Board at their Regular Session scheduled for November 1st. He said that he would work with MCCFL regarding the logistics.

Further discussion ensued regarding the nature and purpose of Work Sessions. In general, the group agreed that consensus items might occasionally be considered at Work Sessions with more significant items requiring a motion waiting for Regular or Special Sessions unless there are extenuating circumstances such as meeting deadlines. In general, the purpose of the Work Session is to share information and exchange ideas.

Chair Runyon adjourned the session at 1:30 p.m.

Summary of Actions

MOTIONS

- **To notify the State Unit on Aging that Wasco County is not interested in managing the AAA program in this region.**

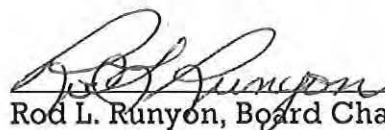
CONSENSUS

- **To support the continued collection of recyclables to be disposed of at the landfill until a long-term solution to the recycling crisis is**

found

- **For Commissioner Hege to sign the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation on behalf of the County.**
- **For Mr. Stone to negotiate a new lease with BNSF Railroad**

Wasco County
Board of Commissioners


Rod L. Runyon, Board Chair


Steven D. Kramer, Vice-Chair

Scott C. Hege, County Commissioner



Kathy White <kathyw@co.wasco.or.us>

FW: Commingle Recycle

1 message

Jim Winterbottom <JimW@wasteconnections.com>

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 7:19 AM

To: Steve Kramer <stevek@co.wasco.or.us>

Cc: "tylers@co.wasco.or.us" <tylers@co.wasco.or.us>, David Slakel <davids@co.wasco.or.us>, John Zalaznik <johnz@co.wasco.or.us>, JONES Jamie <jamie.jones@state.or.us>, Kathy White <kathyw@co.wasco.or.us>, "angieb@co.wasco.or.us" <angieb@co.wasco.or.us>

Steve –

Commingle recycle markets continue on their downward spiral. I have shared information the last few weeks regarding China and the export of recycle materials. We have been involved in several meetings and discussions on finding both short term and long term resolutions to the recent changes imposed. The contamination has created a backlog of material and the willingness for processors to accept more material. A material that had value last month +20 per ton now has a charge of -75 per ton, this does not include transportation from the Gorge to Portland / Vancouver markets. I'm working with DEQ to help manage the current situation and would like your input on how you'd like to see this managed in your jurisdiction. Currently you have residential and commercial collection, I'd like to hear from you on the following ideas.

I believe we will be able to continue hauling cardboard as we have as long as the material remains contaminate free.

Commingle:

- Continue to collect as we have and obtain a wavier from DEQ to landfill the material until markets have corrected and processors are accepting the material at reasonable rates.
- Suspend recycle collection until markets are corrected.
- Continue as we currently are, this would require an emergency off cycle rate review to cover this elevated cost based on processor allocations.

Here is a breakdown based on 10 ton loads being dispatched from the Gorge to markets in Portland / Vancouver.

September cost as follows.

10 tons at \$20 per ton = \$200, transportation averages \$35 per ton for a cost of \$350, charge for moving 10 tons of material -\$150. Final cost to the hauler \$15 per ton.

October cost as follows.

10 tons at \$75 per ton = \$750, transportation averages \$35 per ton for a cost a \$350, charge for moving 10 tons of material -\$1100. Final cost to the hauler \$110 per ton.

Looking more long term we may need to remove certain materials from the program for it to meet the contamination threshold. It appears plastics are the greatest contaminate found in commingle loads. We will ask for DEQ to give guidance on managing the material but definitely need your input for your jurisdiction and residents that will be effected. Any decision made will be put in front of DEQ and include all stakeholders. Let me know if I need to include others on this distribution list.

Regards,

Jim

Jim Winterbottom | District Manager

Columbia River Division - Waste Connections,

Mobile: 503.572.6562 | Fax: 541.610.1593





- WHEREAS:** Home should be a safe and trustworthy place, but for too many Wasco County citizens it is instead fraught with terror due to domestic violence; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence is not limited to physical or verbal abuse but includes intimate terrorism (such as isolation, covert control, reproductive coercion, economic and sexual exploitation) and online abuse (such as stalking, humiliation, doxing, rape and death threats) and these forms of violence are often unrecognized by our laws and norms; and
- WHEREAS:** Domestic violence affects not only the person being abused but also children, neighbors, friends, family, coworkers, faith community and others; seeing or hearing abuse can be particularly terrifying for children and people with trauma histories; and children witnessing violence is recognized as a form of abuse in itself; and
- WHEREAS:** The triad of forced financial dependence, reproductive abuse, and familial isolation creates monumental barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, and dangerous situations are further exacerbated by worsening economic realities (especially the lack of truly affordable housing); and
- WHEREAS:** It is survivors of violence, and the advocates who partner with them daily on creative support measures, to whom we look for guidance on raising awareness of domestic violence, and ultimately working to build community norms of healthy relationships.

NOW,

THEREFORE: I, Scott Hege, on behalf of the Wasco County Commissioners, hereby proclaim **October 2017** to be

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

and encourage the citizens of Wasco County to join in this observance.

APPROVED AND DATED THIS 17th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017



Scott C. Hege
County Commissioner



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Aging and People with Disabilities

State Unit on Aging

500 Summer St NE, E-12

Salem, OR 97301

Voice 503-945-6237

FAX 503-373-1133

September 25, 2017

Rod Runyon
Wasco County
Board of County Commissioners
511 Washington St, Ste. 302
The Dalles, OR 97058



Dear Commissioner Runyon:

This letter serves as written notice of intent by the Department of Human Services to designate a new Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for the five-county Planning and Service Area currently served by the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments (MCCOG), as the designated AAA for this region. This action is necessitated by MCCOG's notice that it will cease operations, thereby withdrawing its designation as an AAA. DHS Aging and People with Disabilities Division (APD) is required by the Older Americans Act, as amended, to designate Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to develop and implement programs and services for older persons at the local level.

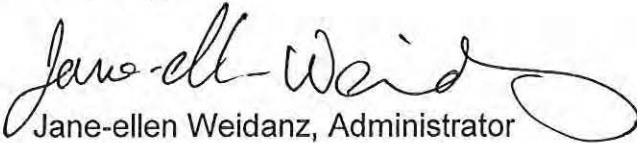
When designating a new AAA, the department shall comply with the Older Americans Act and Oregon Administrative Rule by giving right of first refusal in designating new Area Agencies on Aging to a unit of general purpose local government, of which the boundaries, and the boundaries of the Planning and Service Area, are reasonably contiguous. If a unit of local government does not exercise this right, the Division shall give preference to an established office on aging. APD shall also consider the views offered by the units of general purpose local government in such area.

To begin our process, we request that the County Commissioners consider whether your county is interested in serving as an AAA for the region, considering the Area Agency on Aging Applicant Requirements described in OAR Chapter 411, Division 2, and to communicate that decision to us within 30 days of the date of this letter. We share the desire of the MCCOG Board to identify and designate a new AAA as expeditiously as possible.

Regardless of your decision, we wish to work with counties and local officials during the process of re-designation and are interested in your views as we move forward.

Thank you for your continued service to your community and for your consideration of the needs of older persons in your region. Should you have questions or need assistance, you can contact Debbie McCuin at 541-301-1672 (cell) or at Debbie.mccuin@state.or.us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane-ellen Weidanz". The signature is fluid and includes a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Jane-ellen Weidanz, Administrator
Aging and People with Disabilities

cc: Ashley Carson-Cottingham, APD
Mike McCormick, APD
Kristi Murphy, SUA
David Meriwether, MCCOG
✓Steve Kramer, MCCOG Board