



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 9:00 AM**

Present: Xanthippe Augerot, Chair; Nancy Wyse, Commissioner; Pat Malone, Commissioner; Vance Croney, County Counsel; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Excused: Rachel McEneny, County Administrator

Elected

Official: Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff

Staff: Chelsea Chytka, Sheriff's Office; Sara Hartstein, April Holland, Scott Kruger, Health Services; Maura Kwiatkowski, Amanda Makepeace, BOC Staff; Sean McGuire, Sustainability; Erika Milo, BOC Recorder; Bailey Payne, Petra Schuetz, Community Development; Anne Thwaits, Public Information Officer

Guests: Brett Davis, Julie Jackson, Ian McNab, Ginger Richardson, Republic Services

1. Opening:

1. Call to Order

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Introductions

2. Review & Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Proclamation

3.1 Proclaiming October 2024 as Great Shakeout Month in Benton County, Proclamation No. P2024-020 – Chelsea Chytka, Emergency Operations Center, Sheriff's Office

Chytka read the Proclamation aloud. Chytka noted the event is on October 17, 2024, not October 19, 2024 as listed in the packet.

MOTION: Malone moved to proclaim Great Shakeout Month in Benton County, Proclamation #P2024-020. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

4. Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

5. Work Session

5.1 Public Health Update –Sara Hartstein, Public Health Director, Health Services

Hartstein provided a respiratory virus update. COVID-19 hospitalizations in Oregon show an overall downward trend, with 150 hospitalizations for the week ending October 8, 2024. Oregon wastewater signals have also decreased; as of October 9, 2024, 22% of sites are experiencing a sustained decrease and 68% are at a plateau. As of October 14, 2024, Benton County has a 6.2% vaccination rate for the fall 2024 COVID-19 vaccine. Hartstein reviewed current vaccine recommendations. Benton County Public Health is contacting long-term care facilities to ensure facilities have a vaccine clinic scheduled or are partnered with a vaccine provider to schedule one. In the week ending October 5, 2024, Oregon Emergency Department (ED) visits for viral respiratory illnesses were also trending down, representing 1.7% of all visits. COVID-19 accounted for 1.6% of the 1.7%.

Hartstein explained which age groups are recommended to receive Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued new, simplified respiratory virus guidance which encourages getting vaccinated and layering protections. The overall population has about 80 to 85% immunity to COVID-19, which is resulting in fewer hospitalizations, complications, and deaths.

6. Consent Calendar

6.1 Application for Change of Ownership for Retail Off-Premises Sales for Garland Nursery

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

7. Old Business

7.1 Revised 2023 Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL) and Pacific Region Compost Annual Report – Brett Davis, Julie Jackson, Ian McNab, Ginger Richardson, Republic Services; Bailey Payne, Solid Waste Coordinator, Community Development

Augerot requested that Jackson highlight the changes Republic Services (RS) staff made to the 2023 Annual Report. The report was reviewed by the Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC).

Jackson clarified that the 2023 CBL Report was distinct from the Hauling Report, which still needed Board approval.

Richardson explained that the Board had asked RS to add information about the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report on surface emissions monitoring at Coffin Butte Landfill (CBL). The report has not been updated since it was submitted to the October 15, 2024 meeting packet. By Board request, RS also added information on CBL odor and other concerns reported to Benton County, as well as RS's mitigation measures.

Responding to a question from Malone, Richardson confirmed that without expanding into the adjacent quarry, CBL's lifespan is four to six months. RS is currently excavating and preparing cell 5E.

McNab also confirmed the lifespan estimate, and specified that RS is completing construction of cell 6A in the quarry and will begin filling that cell in a few weeks.

Malone expressed surprise that RS had not completed the next cell earlier, given how close cell 5E is to the end of its lifespan, and given that RS was already aware of the issue. Malone asked if the new cell had a liner in place.

McNab confirmed and added that the quarry contains a range of sub-cells, each built for approximately one to two years of life. It is typical to construct sub-cells in smaller phases.

Richardson added the quarry sub-cell construction was not RS's preferred approach, hence RS applied to expand CBL in 2021. RS had hoped to complete that process without having to build in the quarry, which is difficult and slow. When RS realized quarry excavation was necessary due to the lengthiness of the County land use process, RS negotiated with Knife River Construction to construct cell 6A. The new cell will be completed and approved by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in time to ensure continuity of waste disposal.

Responding to a question from Augerot, McNab confirmed that DEQ reviews the construction plans for each cell, inspects each newly constructed cell, then reviews the third-party consultant's construction report and visits the site at the end of the project. McNab confirmed that drainage plans are included in the cell construction plans.

Malone asked whether excavating the quarry site would add about 13 years to the lifespan of CBL.

McNab replied 13 years is the estimate, but conditions vary year to year.

Augerot mentioned that with the closure of the Covanta Marion Incinerator in the City of Brooks, more regional waste will need a disposal site.

Wyse asked if RS could expand CBL's lifespan by limiting waste intake from other counties.

Richardson replied RS is confident that the planned timeline will avoid any disruptions in service and ensure a smooth transition between cells. The same concern was addressed during the Benton County Talks Trash process. Waste from Benton County will always go to CBL as long as the landfill is open and operating.

Wyse noted that one of the biggest community concerns is that so much waste comes to CBL from other counties.

Richardson replied that RS has contractual obligations to customers in other western Oregon counties. RS still adheres to the CBL tonnage cap and prioritizes serving all customers, especially those in Benton County.

Augerot noted that the Report mentions CBL having a high number of methane wells, far above industry standards, and asked whether that referred to the number of wells per ton of fill, or wells by type of geography (such as wet and dry areas). Augerot was glad to hear that methane flares are now shielded, and asked who decides when to expand methane generation in RS's contract with Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC).

Richardson replied RS and PNGC are discussing a purchase of additional gas from CBL.

Davis explained that RS monitors CBL gas levels at the flares. A certain amount of gas is needed onsite to run electric generators, so CBL will always have to burn off some gas, until there is enough to add additional generators. RS is working with PNGC to add more generators or use the gas through a Renewable Natural Gas system. PNGC has right of first refusal to the excess gas, after which RS can use or sell it.

Augerot stated RS could still improve its monitoring at CBL, which DSAC should discuss in detail. Augerot asked why monitoring dates in the Report vary for different substances, and requested data on trends over a longer period of time.

McNab answered that the dates could vary depending on when a well was installed and when a particular monitoring requirement was established. An RS geologist could present more detailed scientific information to DSAC.

Augerot recommended re-establishing those detailed discussions between RS and DSAC. Augerot noted that the full monitoring report is available from Community Development, not the Health Department as stated in the report.

Malone asked if RS had made any progress on diverting construction debris from CBL.

Jackson replied RS hopes that the Sustainable Materials Management Plan (SMMP) discussions will help RS create a process to move construction waste out of CBL. Jackson recently discussed CBL's eventual closure with Payne, but wants to learn more about the SMMP before taking action on construction debris.

Wyse asked Payne about areas of community concern listed in the packet.

Payne mentioned concerns about CBL monitoring. DSAC has requested that RS geologists provide a deeper examination of the Report data.

Wyse read community concerns from page 73 of the meeting packet. A letter to the Board on October 1, 2024 mentioned high arsenic levels in the groundwater, arsenic monitoring, methane releases, methane flares and fire safety, and the presence of 2024 data in the 2023 report. A commenter also recommended that the Board more clearly define what reporting information the Board and DSAC want to see. Wyse expressed interest in developing a process recommendation or structure with the Board, DSAC, RS, and public to determine what information should be included in RS reporting.

Jackson requested that the Board provide a clarified list of additions or changes for RS's Annual Report.

Augerot concurred with Wyse that process clarity would be helpful.

Wyse supported having an RS geologist present to DSAC.

Malone noted the map on packet page 65 of the Report is from 2014. Malone asked if RS has more recent maps that include cell 6's sub-cells.

McNab replied the page 65 map is from CBL's internal monitoring plan, a separate document which does not show cell design.

Malone requested a map of the cell 6 sub-cells.

Payne noted that McNab provided a map to DSAC with cell construction dates; Payne will send this to the Board.

MOTION: Wyse moved to accept the updated 2023 Coffin Butte and Pacific Region Compost Annual Report. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

Malone asked whether the compost facility was at capacity.

Davis replied it was not. Finding destinations for the material is challenging, but RS will hire a compost salesperson to assist. Jackson is working with cities and counties to take the byproduct for free to use as ground cover.

Jackson emphasized the need to keep organic materials out of landfills, and asked that the issue be discussed during the SMMP process.

Augerot asked if organic material is tested for contamination.

Jackson confirmed. Some counties are pleased by the quality of the material at no cost.

Wyse asked Jackson if the compost offer could be extended to smaller cities.

Jackson replied the Cities of Adair Village, Corvallis, and Philomath have expressed interest.

7.2 Approval of 2025 Environmental Health Licensing Fees, Order No. D2024-055 – April Holland, Scott Kruger, Health Services

Holland reported that on October 1, 2024 the Board approved the 2025 Environmental Health licensing fees at an average increase of 5%.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve Order # D2024-055 implementing the proposed 2025 Fee Schedule for Environmental Health, effective January 1, 2025. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

Augerot asked if Benton County had hired a new Communicable Disease Program Nurse.

Holland replied no; Nurse Mary Shaughnessy continues to serve in that role.

Hartstein confirmed there will be a Policy Option Package to increase Communicable Disease capacity in the next budget cycle.

8. Departmental Reports & Requests

8.1 Request for Approval of Behavioral Health Permanent Position Reclassification – April Holland, Health Services

Holland explained the reclassification is from a C41 Qualified Mental Health Associate position to a C42 Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor position on the Substance Use Disorder Team in Behavioral Health. The reclassification will cost approximately \$5,000, which will be paid for by Behavioral Health Deflection funds. The program is based on a fee-for-service model that will generate sufficient funds to sustain the position.

Crager confirmed the request is supported by newly identified resources in the budget.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the reclassification of the requested position from Health Care Professional I to Health Care Professional II. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

8.2 Proposed Revisions to Policy A109 - Resource Naming – Sean McGuire, Sustainability

McGuire explained that the requested updates to Policy A109 – Resource Naming provide more clarity and a step-by-step procedure. In the new procedure, the Board will direct the County Administrator to begin the naming process and provide general direction. The County Administrator will select a facilitator, typically from the Board of Commissioners Office, who will solicit internal and external feedback. The Public Information Officer (PIO) will capture public input. The facilitator will bring three to five name recommendations to the Board, who may accept one, propose others, or restart the process.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve revised Policy A109 – Resource Naming. Wyse seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0**.

9. Announcements

No announcements were made.

10. Other

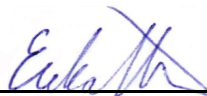
No other business was discussed.

11. Adjournment

Chair Augerot adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM



Nancy Wyse, 2025 Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder



Rachel Bulder, Board Meetings
Coordinator

* NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.