



Minutes from **Tuesday, February 5, 2026, Solid Waste Advisory Committee hybrid meeting at 10 a.m. on Microsoft Teams and in person**

**SWAC Committee**

- In Attendance
  - Austin Carter-Nadeau – Public Member, Rainier – At-Large
  - Samantha Hawkins – Public Member, St Helens – At-Large
  - Nick Ries – Industrial Representative – WM
  - Greg Rouse – Industrial Representative Alternate (in-progress) – WM
  - Kanale Tumlinson – Industrial Representative Alternate – Waste Connections
  - Derek Ranta – Industrial Representative Alternate – Waste Connections
  - Tatum Flowers – Columbia County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Coordinator
  - Mike Russell – Columbia County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Administrator
- Absent
  - Brandon Lesowske – Public Member, Scappoose – At-Large

**Regular Session 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Meeting was officially brought to order at 10:01 a.m.**

**Approve August Minutes** – minutes were approved as written at 10:06 a.m.

**Introductions from SWAC Members**

Tatum: Been in the industry for 4 years – 2 years in education and outreach, and 2 years in operations (contract and event management, and legislative stuff).

Derek: District Vice President Waste Connections.

Kan: Operations Manager oversees the transfer station and Waste Connections/Hudson Garbage hauling.

Greg: Been with WM for a while and 1 year as an operations manager.

Nick: Been with WM 8 years and is the operations manager.

Sam: School bus driver and community member at-large. Been with SWAC for six months.

Austin: Works for Care Oregon and involved within the community. Been with SWAC for a year.

○ **Industrial Representatives**

- Greg Rouse nominated by SWAC as the Industrial Representative Alternate for WM
  - SWAC appointment will go to the Board.

**Discussion on Solid Waste Division Updates**

- **Sharps Container Exchange Program** started Oct 2016 and expanded to five Fire Districts in April 2021. We collect registrant sheets at the transfer station and remote fire stations as well as full sharps containers.
  - **Registrant Data**
    - **Total: 1,451**
      - TS: 1,185
      - Scappoose: 88
      - Vernonia: 79
      - Clatskanie: 97
      - Rainier: 2
  - **Sharps Purchased**
    - Final purchase of 2025: 12 boxes, 240 containers = \$816.48 or \$3.40/each
    - In 2025, Dave delivered 13 boxes to the fire stations.
    - Overall, in 2025, purchased ~1,000 boxes or 20,000 containers and \$5,000.
    - Mist-Birkenfeld is not very active. Dave is working on Rainier.
  - **Advertising sharps program**
    - Kan: Jake was working with big supermarkets to post sharps flyers.
- **Dump Stoppers Program** – The program is a collaborative effort involving Land Development Services, Solid Waste, and Community Justice work crew to clean up dumpsites (~\$1,000/month). The tipping fees are ~ \$2,000/year. Dave Carlberg records the cases and investigates dumpsites as the Columbia County Code Compliance Specialist.
  - **Total Complaints for 2025:** 106
  - **Top areas for complaints:** Smith Road (10), Pittsburg Road (12), Apiary Road (9)
  - **Total Complaints for January 2026:** 3 compared to last year at 5.
  - Tatum: Dave Calberg and I can work with GIS to create a map locating the dump sites.
  - Discussion: Typically, Dave tries to find an address at the dump site, and if he finds one, he will go to the residence and talk to them about illegal dumping and proper disposal.
- **Transfer Station**
  - **TS repairs and upgrades**
    - **Fire houses**
      - Arrived. Riley should be installing them soon. Latest February 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - **Aerator**
      - Called Justin 1/28/2026. Pump should be installed on February 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - **Pumps**
      - ORPET is self-hauling and taking their material elsewhere.
  - **PCB Oil Contamination Updates**
    - Relocated oil container to inside the building and away from customers. Customers can put their containers on a roll cart for the operations staff to handle.
    - Kan: Hudson Garbage is testing the oil for PCB contamination tests from Atlas labs. They send the test to the lab and once they hear that the tests are fine, then EcoLube picks up the oil.
  - **Scalehouse**
    - Kan: Cameras are working well. Some issues with the IT network but the county IT has been able to resolve the issues.
- **Pilot ReUse Program Updates**
  - **ReUse Advocate**
    - Lori Baker
  - **Container Issues**
    - Water leaks – working with Facilities to take care of that.
  - **ReUse Center Report – Material Diverted from the Landfill.**

- October 2025: 2,000lbs
- November 2025: 3,000lbs
- December 2025: 2,500lbs
- Top items: tools, building material/supplies and home goods.
- Partners: H4H, Scappoose Senior Center, Top Knotch, OMIC, SHPR
- Kan: Lori educates the customers on the program. Customers are supportive of the program. Partners like Scappoose Senior Center and Habitat for Humanity pick up every other Friday. Lori will coordinate with the partner organizations on what they need and have the items ready for them to be picked up.
- Mike: The "Pilot" program will turn into an official program after the program has been established for a year. County will go in front of the Board to make that happen.
- Austin: Hope Chest. Austin can connect Lori with Hope Chest to get pickups scheduled.

○ **Columbia County TS Tonnage Report**

○ **5.34% decrease in 2025 compared to 2024**

- Derek: Sluggish year for MSW.
- Nick: Little growth, minimal construction.
- Kan: Slowed down for roll offs in Rainier and Clatskanie.
- ORPET is taking their material elsewhere and Cascades shut down. Company closures and lack of growth may contribute to the decrease in tonnage.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2024-25
January	2018.90	2658.29	2651.66	2669.56	2827.41	2953.16	2817.92	2457.38	2530.26	<b>72.88</b>
February	2255.16	2140.92	2155.75	2304.09	2382.69	2576.62	2101.35	2464.69	2001.83	<b>-462.86</b>
March	2831.18	2820.62	2661.04	2828.53	3106.97	3024.50	2992.40	2514.20	2331.86	<b>-182.34</b>
April	2547.84	2492.49	2730.12	2863.70	3204.03	2838.21	2559.39	2860.74	2756.61	<b>-104.13</b>
May	2989.84	3181.69	2897.90	2737.62	2791.22	3216.15	3026.66	2991.14	2527.05	<b>-464.09</b>
June	2702.31	2763.50	2617.67	2993.38	2942.23	3202.01	2856.00	2564.49	2665.70	<b>101.21</b>
July	2678.77	2744.86	2866.64	2954.15	2980.47	2990.86	2635.43	2893.08	2723.01	<b>-170.07</b>
August	3337.25	2777.54	3509.94	2775.05	2878.46	3164.20	2797.91	2787.41	2565.74	<b>-221.67</b>
September	2705.84	2544.25	3789.48	2954.12	2894.20	2927.10	2655.24	2702.13	2653.30	<b>-48.83</b>
October	2618.80	2876.02	2890.60	3100.79	2710.52	2858.07	2836.98	2851.22	2819.61	<b>-31.61</b>
November	2726.40	2579.06	2497.20	2724.84	2874.58	2866.88	2705.31	2480.46	2145.61	<b>-334.85</b>
December	2385.33	2402.17	2465.32	3050.18	2492.15	2413.79	2508.14	2257.71	2491.50	<b>233.79</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31797.62</b>	<b>31981.41</b>	<b>33733.32</b>	<b>33956.01</b>	<b>34084.93</b>	<b>35031.55</b>	<b>32492.73</b>	<b>31824.65</b>	<b>30212.08</b>	<b>-1612.57</b>
% change	10.14%	1%	5%	0.60%	0.37%	2.70%	-7.24%	-2.05%	-5.34%	

○ **Customer counts**

- Kan: Can look into gathering zip code data to better understand what areas of the county utilize the transfer station. This data can assist us with RMA and potential depot locations. He'll talk with Malinda about this.

- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**
  - **2026 HHW Schedule:**
    - Transfer Station: February 28, June 6, August 22, October 24
    - Remote: April 11 - Vernonia, May 16 - Rainier, October 3 – Clatskanie
  - **2025 HHW Costs & Participation**

Columbia County HHW 2025	Vehicles	Cost per Household	Costs
March St Helens	214	\$ 96.92	\$ 20,740.66
April Vernonia	56	\$ 141.49	\$ 7,923.62
May Rainier	39	\$ 114.19	\$ 4,453.45
June St Helens	235	\$ 122.22	\$ 28,721.43
August St Helens	208	\$ 111.43	\$ 23,177.65
October Clatskanie	57	\$ 153.65	\$ 8,758.01
November St Helens	209	\$ 128.16	\$ 26,784.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>1018</b>		<b>\$ 120,559.24</b>

- **HHW Changes and Updates**
  - Traffic Flow Signage
    - Tatum: May make sandwich boards to alert MSW customers about going around the HHW traffic. Will discuss further logistics with Kan and staff.
  - Columbia County Spotlight Ad space and Kohi Radio Ads
  - Adding Medication Disposal Envelopes to TS and remote events
- **Recycling/Waste Reduction Education & OTR Reports**
  - **School Classroom Presentations**
    - Tatum: Would love to work with Sam on presenting to schools about waste reduction & recycling.
  - **OTR Reports**
    - St. Helens – Completed and turned into the county.
    - Scappoose – Finished but still needs to turn it into the county.
- **RMA – EPR Updates**
  - Derek: CAA started with the southern and eastern regions. Some depots have been deployed. CAA handles the logistics of the depots – provides the containers, black boxes to separate the materials and gets them to the final destination. CAA asks site staff to open and close the doors and reimburse for staff time.
  - Kan: Depots are expected at the earliest Early 2027 for Region 4.
  - Kan: CAA conducted some sampling/audits of the recycling streams in Dec 2025 and Jan 2026. Should be hearing back about the sampling results.
  - Derek: Who will be analyzing the sampling data?
  - Discussion: We'll see how the RMA and recycling costs fit into the DCR. In the past there has been a recycling tipping fee and since the RMA started the recycling tip fee is at \$0.
  - Tatum: I'd like to hear/meet with the haulers to discuss the contamination reduction addenda – to see who's doing what and how the county can plug in.
- **Reports**
  - Material Recovery Report Submitted – January 31, 2026
  - Solid Waste Report Submitted – January 31, 2026
  - DCR – Report Due – **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.**
    - Mike and Tatum agreed to push back the deadline to give haulers more time to complete the DCR.

**Meeting was officially adjourned at 11:11 a.m.**

**Next SWAC meeting will be the Rate Review on Thursday May 7, 2026. The open session is from 10 am to 10:30am virtually and at Healy Hall, Public Works Department 1054 Oregon St, St Helens, OR. The closed session is from 10:30am to 12:00pm.**