

Riley County Solid Waste Management Committee
DRAFT Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2023
4:00 PM

In attendance: Steve Galitzer (Chair), Adrian Self, Michael Boller, Evan McMillan, Greg Wilson, David Kreller (virtual), Commissioner Kathryn Focke, Casey Smithson, Amanda Webb, Josh Brewer

Absent: Justin Brenner, John Ellermann, Perry Piper, David Shover, William Spiegel, Fran Zerby, Travis Hummel, Morgan Bates

Chairman Galitzer opened the meeting at 4:02 PM and began with introductions. He asked to add an item to the end of the agenda.

Greg Wilson motioned to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2023 meeting; Adrian Self seconded. Unanimous approval; no abstentions.

Evan McMillan/Public Works said they are still working on the Hamm's contract.

Amanda Webb gave a membership update – Judy Willingham has resigned; David Shover has resigned. We have received one application which would be a City of MHK representative but have not yet heard back from the applicant, will follow up. We do not have a third-class city representative right now. We do not technical have a KSU representative anymore with Steve's retirement. As suggested by Greg and Steve, Amanda will reach out to Todd Ruger/KSU Recycling.

The group discussed the 2023 annual review, due May 14, 2023 and how to complete this. Greg motioned and Casey seconded to have Amanda review to see if anything needs changed and report back. David Kreller mentioned several items needing attention in the current plan; most of which can be put on the list for next year's major update. The motion was amended to include updating the years and fixing formatting errors. Unanimous approval, no abstentions.

The group discussed food waste versus food recovery definitions and how to count reductions. This is information to include in the major update. It was suggested that someone from the Food & Farm Council present to the group at a future meeting.

Josh Brewer talked about diverting/waste reduction and indicated at Restore there has been 11,000 items diverted from the transfer station. Because the 11,000 items could be anything from individual nails to large furniture, it was discussed to report this information as pounds of material diverted rather than items diverted. Estimation of weight in tonnage – doesn't need to be broken up into categories.

The group continued discussion on the five-year update, due May 14, 2024. Last time the plan had a major update in 2019, they broke the plan into sections and people who had knowledge/interest could "sign up" for the sections that interested them. This is how we will approach again this year. People can be in more than one group. Amanda and the Chair will be

in all groups. Amanda will send around a sign-up sheet for each section. What is the overall goal for waste reduction, what percentage, and what is the timeframe to get there? We are currently at 3.5 pounds per person per day of MSW.

Michael Boller brought up the topic of excessive packaging. There needs to be more education on what can get recycled rather than just thrown away. Track recycling pre-covid versus now; can use Howie's annual invoice/tonnage report for this information. Plastic bags cannot be recycled; the group wondered what stores did with the bags that people brought back.

Amanda and Michael talked about the battery recycling program, noting that they gave a presentation recently to the Optimist Club that was well received. We need to get more stickers on cans. We can put them on cans that are in the street, but not on private property. Mike and Justin will be a part of the Earth Day event again this year and will distribute stickers. Amanda will follow up with 4H/other organizations. Someone suggested Fort Riley volunteer organizations. Alert people to stickers on cans; put an announcement in utility billing.

Steve added an item to the agenda. He announced this would be his last meeting. David asked if Steve could stay on until we find a new chair and help with the transition, maybe another year. He would not have to be chair, but lend his knowledge and expertise. Steve was agreeable. Amanda will work on finding a new chair.

Adjourn 5:00 pm.

Next meeting TBD. Amanda will send out the plan to the group and request availability for a next meeting to discuss annual update and the full five-year update.

Chairman Galitzer adjourned the meeting **at 11:15 AM.**