

BACKGROUND ON AND SUMMARY OF THE ADOPTED COOS AND CURRY COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN, 3/28/09 FINAL VERSION

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BACKGROUND AND CHRONOLOGY

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes a wide variety of household products that can be harmful to human health and the environment, either in their use and/or in their disposal. Examples include mercury and mercury-containing items (thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent bulbs), pesticides, herbicides, poisons, corrosives, solvents, fuels, some types of batteries, paints, certain cleaning products, motor oil, and antifreeze.

Coos County received a planning grant from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to study options for reducing the health and environmental impacts of HHW. The consultant team of Kies Strategies, Tabor Consulting Group, and Bell & Associates, Inc. was selected through a competitive request for proposals to assist in developing a HHW Management Plan.

Initial research was conducted by the consultants for Coos County, including identification of key issues, needs and opportunities, and estimates of the types and quantities of HHW that may be collected. Members of the consultant team met with Coos County and the Waste Advisory Committee on June 21, 2006 and September 13, 2006. In advance of these meetings, the consultant team prepared descriptions of several alternatives and associated cost assumptions and calculations regarding possible HHW services and funding options for Coos County. During these two meetings, Coos County and the Committee discussed alternatives, costs and implementation issues and selected initial preferences for further analysis.

In November 2007, DEQ awarded an HHW Planning Grant to Curry County to develop a joint HHW management plan with Coos County. An intergovernmental agreement between Coos and Curry Counties forming a joint Household Hazardous Waste Planning Committee (HHWC) was later signed in December 2006 and a new Grant Agreement for development of this joint plan was issued by DEQ in March 2007.

Additional research was conducted and supplemental material was prepared by the consultants for Curry and Coos Counties to further define the preferred alternatives for HHW services previously selected in the context of a joint planning process. The Curry County Board of Commissioners was briefed on the planning process and alternatives on May 7, 2007. A meeting of the HHWC was held on May 8, 2007 to discuss alternatives, costs and implementation issues for a joint Coos and Curry County plan.

Decisions made in these meetings were reflected in a Draft Plan discussed at a meeting of the Curry County Solid Waste/Recycling Committee on June 26, 2007 and at a meeting of the HHWC on June 27, 2007. Comments from these meetings and additional comments from stakeholders were incorporated into a Preliminary Final Draft HHW Management Plan for presentation to the Curry County Solid Waste/Recycling Committee on September 20, 2007 and the HHWC on October 17, 2007. The Curry County Committee recommended approval of the Plan to the Curry County Board of Commissioners and cities at their meeting on September 20. The HHWC recommended approval of the Plan to the Coos County Board of Commissioners and cities at their meeting on November 20, 2007. The Plan was forwarded by HHWC Chair Steve Allen to the Coos County Board of Commissioners on December 10, 2007 for their consideration and approval.

At a meeting of the Coos County Board of Commissioners on March 5, 2008, the HHW Management Plan was adopted with minor changes. These changes were incorporated into the final plan version, dated March 28, 2008. This adopted version of the HHW Management Plan was forwarded to the Curry County Board of

Commissioners on June 13, 2008. At their meeting on July 7, 2008, the Curry County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution adopting the 3/28/08 version of the HHW management plan.

The programs, services and cost estimates in this Final Draft HHW Management Plan are based on the information available and the considered evaluation of the Counties and the Committees during the planning and adoption process. It is understood and expected that changes may occur as program details are determined and operations commence.

SERVICES AND PROGRAMS OF THE HHW PLAN

The adopted HHW Management Plan (HHW Plan) intends that Coos and Curry Counties, working in partnership with the cities, waste haulers, and other interested parties, address the management of household hazardous waste (HHW), as well as hazardous waste from certain County facilities and businesses that are “conditionally exempt small quantity generators” (CEGs). CEGs generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month. While it is understood that changes may occur during implementation, for the purposes of this HHW Plan, Coos and Curry Counties and their partners will:

- Site a permanent HHW facility at the Beaver Hill Disposal Site that will be open one day per month and by appointment for drop-off of HHW.
- Provide up to 8 satellite collection events throughout Coos and Curry Counties each year. Events may be held in Coos Bay, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Bandon, Gold Beach, Port Orford and Brookings.
- Expand promotion of existing services for recycling used motor oil, antifreeze, lead-acid (automotive) batteries, and other batteries.
- Establish an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the Counties and create a Steering Committee that will make decisions regarding certain operational details on an ongoing basis. The Steering Committee will consist of representatives of the two counties and the cities. The IGA will also designate Coos County as the Lead Agency of this regional service.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

A seven-year budget projection has been prepared (Table 1 of the HHW Plan) based on detailed capital and operating cost estimates for the permanent facility and satellite collection events (Table 2 of the HHW Plan).

No fees will be charged for dropping off HHW at the permanent facility or satellite collection events. CEGs may still pay market rates for disposal of their hazardous waste, depending on the fee structure determined. Funding will be from two sources: (1) DEQ grants, and (2) the disposal fees charged on a per ton basis at the Beaver Hill Disposal Site and transfer stations in the two counties.

Assuming the programs and cost estimates of the HHW Plan as described, the tipping fees will increase by an average of approximately \$3.27 per ton of waste disposed. The impact on collection rates will vary based on size of container and service levels, but would average approximately \$0.28 per household per can per month, or \$3.40 per year. Commercial customers would pay approximately \$0.39 per container yard a month.

Actual costs are highly dependent on program participation and volumes of wastes collected, and thus may be higher or lower than estimated. The HHW Plan includes provisions for the Steering Committee to address long-term funding for the collection and disposal of HHW and to adjust services and programs based on costs and participation.

In addition, the planned HHW services and programs may reduce long-term costs because they are designed to minimize impacts to the environment and reduce hazards to worker and community safety.