



Washington Organic Recycling Council

5727 Baker Way NW Suite 200 Gig Harbor WA 98332

Toll Free 1-877-460-5880

Email: WORC@AMInc.org

Website: compostwashington.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Logan Harvey

Kelsey Bailey

Janet Thoman

Bob Barrows

Michael Houseman

Wendy Weiker

Douglas Collins

Michael Bryan Brown

Executive Director

Mike Oechsner

Board of Directors Meeting

May 11, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Past President Dan Corum.

Roll Call:

Roll Call indicated the following board members were present:

Bob Barrows

Dan Corum

Dave Keeney

Douglas Collins

Gavin Schmidt

Janet Thoman

Kate Kurtz

Kelsey Bailey

Liv Johansson

Logan Harvey

Mary Harrington

Mike Houseman

Nehemias Chalma

Reingard Rieger

Scott Deatherage

Staff: Mike Oechsner

Mission Statement:

Dave Keeney read the mission statement.

Antitrust Statement:

Liv Johansson read the antitrust statement.

Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2023:

Decision:

Mary Harrington moved and it was seconded to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023 as corrected. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Our Mission: "The Washington Organic Recycling Council supports—via education, research, and advocacy—public and private efforts to reclaim, reuse, and recycle organic materials, process organic materials in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner, and promote beneficial end uses."



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Finance Update:

Discussion:

The April 30 financials indicated the following:

Total Revenue:	\$26,661.06
Total Expenses:	\$18,793.93
Net Income:	\$7,867.13
Checking Balance:	\$48,164.83
Money Market Balance:	\$48,864.70

It was noted that our webinars are far exceeding the budgeted pace for both sponsors and registration.

Annual Conference Update:

Discussion:

It was noted that Mary Harrington has asked to be replaced on the Annual Conference Committee because of her assigned work on HB 1083.

We are setting up a Bio Char track...so we need someone to help line up the speakers, as well as an off site farm tour (likely White Lotus). The presentations will be about how it's made and how to use it. White Lotus gets their Bio Char from Port Townsend, making it a good fit. Some progress has been made, the committee needs someone else to get it over the finish line, to build out the track.

Dan noted that we will voluntell someone to join the committee. Doug noted that the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency would likely be a great choice for a speaker. The process for permits will be a critical element of education.

The conference will be at Fort Warden which will be a fantastic location for this conference October 26-28. We also do have a great MOU in place.

CFOT Update:

Discussion:

October 16-22 at WSU.

May 15 to June 15 will be our early bird registration window.

The committee would like to offer the Composting Handbook for sale as part of the registration process.

The committee is currently working on the tours – one of which may be biosolids. The Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant is on the radar. We likely will have a total of three tours.

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Legislative Update:

Discussion:

Mary Harrington shared that there will be a special session, but it will not have issues that impact WORC.

1033 does have impact – The Washington Department of Ecology will select committee members. The list is in progress.

Organics Law Part 2 is coming – and Heather Trim will be looking for stakeholders to participate. This will be an open meeting for anyone with interest to join. It was noted that the workgroup is anticipated to begin their work in July. It was also noted that they want someone to specifically represent WORC.

Mary shared that there is someone trying to push service ware as a requirement into composts facilities – so please pay attention, as the conversation is very much alive.

Logan shared that Recology would like to be part of the stakeholder group about service ware. We also will want standards updates in the next bill, particularly related to bio char.

Mary shared that there will be some detailed updates regarding commercial entities that are currently exempted from collection requirements shared at WSRA's Conference. The legislative requirements regarding which commercial customers are required to have organics collection service is heavily targeting geographic areas with higher population density.

Soils for Salmon Update:

Discussion:

Kate shared that she needs us to find a different chair for this committee. The need is to review existing materials, review the website, and identify any updates that need to be made. The Ecology stormwater manual links directly to the website, so it's important that it stays up to date.

Dan will reach out to Howard Sten, David McDonald, and Cedar Grove.

Webinars:

Discussion:

It was noted that our webinars are moving forward very, very well. We have nearly doubled our participation compared to last year, and we have already exceeded our sponsorship goal for the year. Please continue promoting the webinars in your circle!

Kate asked if we wanted to consider offering webinars for free when we look at the 2024 webinars? Are we losing traction because of hassles for government employees who have obstacles to paying for things, especially when they are small fees. Dan noted that one of the reasons we are getting sponsorships from Government organizations may be that they are then allowed to have more people from their organization attend, so offering for free may reduce sponsorships as well.

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At our next meeting, we will want to have a discussion about whether or not we want to continue charging for webinars. There are pros and cons to either approach and we will want to evaluate all of these.

Newsletter:

Discussion:

Janet Thoman shared that we are nearing the due time for the second quarter newsletter. If anyone has any content that would be interesting please send to Janet. She also needs a member/company spotlight. Gavin noted that Dirt Hugger would participate.

Website:

Discussion:

Kelsey Bailey shared that we have a number of successful web updates that have been completed, as well as a number of legislative updates that are now in progress.

Kelsey asked that we include in the newsletter a “call for resources” that can be added to the website.

Compost Facility Capacity:

Discussion:

Mary Harrington shared that Ecology must keep an updated list on their website of facilities that have capacity, and this is an ongoing process. If businesses are required to do diversion, there is concern that they will mix garbage with their compost. This list provides local governments and commercial customers the opportunity to know where they can turn to for composting.

Next Meeting:

Discussion:

Liv asked if we could shift the July board meeting to be July 20 at the Zoo, rather than July 13. The Board blessed this request.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

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