

City of Meridian **Solid Waste** **Advisory Commission**



– Seat 1
Mark Nelson – Seat 2
Dave Neal – Seat 3
Steven Cory – Seat 4
Megan Larsen – Seat 5
Shawn Keating – Seat 6
– Seat 7
Isabel Kau – MYAC – Seat 8

4. CRFP FY20 Approved Projects:

One (1) project was approved by City Council with SWAC's recommendation for a combined total of \$500

a. Recycle a Bicycle!

Due to the pandemic, this was postponed. The program will once again take place in 2021.

C. Trash or Treasure:

Despite COVID, this innovative program was again conducted throughout the City.

The event occurred the weekend prior to the 2020 Spring Collection week. Residents set out unwanted items, allowing others to come by, pick them up, and give them a new home thus diverting items from the landfill. City Staff led the charge for outreach and planning for the program in 2020. The date of the program was changed from its traditional time of early May to the first weekend in June. Staff and Republic Services worked together to market the change not only utilizing newsletters and social media, but also using Republic's "Call them all" service to reach out to residents directly via phone or text message. Staff also completed an event video informing resident how the event works. Republic Services picked up remaining items as part of its Spring Cleanup collection services. Post-event feedback was positive and participation on the event more than doubled year over year.

Both Republic Services and the City continue to market the program and use it as an educational platform in a variety of forums (website, newsletters, etc.).

D. SWAC Annual Activity:

Due to COVID, the PW Expo event was not conducted.

E. Global Recycling Markets:

China's Green Sword Initiative from Dec. 2017 continued to affect foreign recycling markets, suppressing market prices for mixed paper as well as other recyclable materials. COVID effected the markets and recycling revenue losses were flattened somewhat, however, losses continued for Meridian's commingled recyclable stream. SWAC again worked with Republic



Services and City staff to review a request from Republic Services for sharing of further recycling processing losses. This year's request acknowledged sharing the costs of the recycling processing shortfall of \$1.06 per household through continuation of the FY19 amount of \$0.93, and splitting the remaining difference, allotting another \$0.10 per household. The current recycling processing charged to households is now \$1.03.

F. Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee:

SWAC Chair, Steve Cory, represents the City of Meridian's interests on the Ada County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee allows stakeholders to work in concert with one another to research and develop proposals for improving solid waste collection systems and services, including maintaining reasonable financial costs for the operations of the Ada County Landfill. Steve Cory reports back to Meridian SWAC periodically throughout the year providing valuable insight and information about valley-wide solid waste matters.

G. FY20 Annual Solid Waste Rate Adjustment:

SWAC reviewed and recommended to City Council approval of Republic Service's proposed FY21 Annual SW Rate Adjustment Report to City Council. The rate adjustment for both commercial and residential services was comprised of the contractual CPI adjustment and the continuance of recycling processing costs shared by customers for another year as set forth in a separate contract amendment. SWAC continues to be pleased that collection and processing costs to recycle have been set forth separately from trash collection rates. SWAC continues to believe that this transparency assists the City and public in better understanding the recycling industry's strengths and weaknesses when contemplating future programs or changes to existing ones.

H. Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Quarterly Meetings:

Commissioner Nelson attends the quarterly meetings to stay current on the county HHW program and related topics. He reports back to SWAC after each meeting to review what was discussed.

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I. Presentations:

Throughout the year SWAC received presentations regarding the following topics:

1. Quarterly and annual reports covering Republic Services' collection services, donated services, the Household Hazardous Waste Program, and secondary market conditions for recycled materials (Republic Services);
2. HeftyEnergy Bag Program (Catherine Certudi);
3. Ada County Landfill-tipping fees (Republic Services, City staff);
4. FY21 proposed SW rates and new fees (Republic Services, City staff);
5. Solid Waste Program metrics and data (City Staff); and

J. Upcoming Commission Business:

In 2021, SWAC is looking forward to working with Republic Services and City staff on the following projects:

1. Acting on results from City Survey regarding trash and recycling services and developing strategies and programs using those results;
2. Furthering improvements in recycling efforts including reviewing third party needs and opportunities to reduce contamination, and evaluating improving material separation technologies.
3. Promoting Meridian's Trash or Treasure, Hand in Hand, and Recycle a Bicycle programs;
4. Expanding educational outreach to decrease contamination in the commingled residential recycling stream;
5. Monitoring yard composting market trends;
6. Continuing leadership role on the Ada County Solid Advisory Committee and reporting back to SWAC and the Mayor and City Council as appropriate; and



7. Attending the quarterly Ada County Household Hazardous Waste Program meetings and reporting back to SWAC and the Mayor and City Council as appropriate;
8. Commission to focus on reducing contamination of recycle streams;
9. Working with Ada County to resolve their desire to simplify landfill rates;

K. Solid Waste Plan Subcommittee:

1. SWAC created a subcommittee to work with City Staff to develop the goals and expectations for the City's Solid Waste plan. Despite the Pandemic the committee met bi-weekly both in person and remotely as the guidelines advised. The committee was Chaired by Commissioner Mark Nelson and included: Meg Larson, Scott Walters, Isabel Kau and was assisted by Ex Officio member Rachele Klein. The committee presented updates to the commission and were instrumental in guiding the vision of the City based on their knowledge and the survey results.

In conclusion, it has been an active year for SWAC despite COVID. We continue to gain experience and appreciation of the many challenges facing the solid waste and recycling industries. Our commitment is steadfast to work in partnership with staff and Republic Services to identify and recommend to the Mayor and City Council improved fiscally sound trash and recycling services and programs for the benefit of Meridian residential and commercial customers. SWAC looks forward to another productive the year.