

Friday, September 4, 2026
1:30 – 2:30 PM Contamination Committee Meeting
To join Zoom Video Conference:



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84468250202?pwd=Rk5sRERSZXl6WVV0UmJIWEFBcDIHUT09>

Phone: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 844 6825 0202

Passcode: 640956

BENTON SWCD Contamination Committee Meeting AGENDA – September 2026

Item	Lead	Time
Open meeting; accept notes from previous meeting	<i>Johnson</i>	1:30 PM
Updates on County reviews, appeals, recent decisions etc	<i>Carroll</i>	1:32 PM
Updates on Research or fact finding	<i>All</i>	1:45 PM
Review and Discussion on opportunity to join Benton County Disposal Site Advisory Committee (DSAC)	<i>Carroll/ Johnson</i>	2:05 PM
Items to share at September or October Board Meeting?	<i>Johnson</i>	2:20 PM
Meeting Adjourned	<i>Johnson</i>	2:30 PM

Contamination Committee – July 21, 2026

Attendees: Michael Ahr, Nate Johnson, Claire Phillips, Charli Carroll, Aubrey Siddiqui-Cloud

Any opening comments on things people have been hearing related to Coffin Butte Landfill?

Claire made sure we all knew about the \$3+ million fine that Republic Services received. She also talked about state legislature requiring more robust methane monitoring. It's notable that methane monitoring can still be variable and sometimes underestimates actual methane.

Claire talked a bit about methodology, but then after the meeting sent some info inserted here. Some of it is correction to what she said in the meeting.

Dave Risk's group concluded that walking surveys, which are the EPA21 protocol, miss most emissions. About 17% of actual emissions were captured by that method in one study--attached. This indicates Sen. Finger-McDonald was on the right track requiring improved methods of monitoring. Dave's group has concluded that incremental improvements in how EPA21 is performed are [unlikely to improve the performance much](#).

DEQ is requiring drone-based whole-column methane sensors at Coffin Butte. In [another study](#) Dave included 2 companies that provided drone-based monitoring. This method seemed to perform pretty well. It detected about 70% of the methane releases, and estimated the size of the release pretty well. Airborne LiDAR was the best method, as it did not miss any of the methane releases. Notably, satellite acquisitions failed to detect any of the methane releases.

Drone and airplane surveys and satellite acquisitions do not provide continuous monitoring. Dave also tested continuous monitoring methods, of which there were some good methods too.

Claire also has been researching pfas and methods to capture it from water and it could be usable on landfill leachate. The examples she read about are not local at this time.

Waste Connections to build PFAS treatment plant in North Carolina

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/waste-connections-pfas-treatment-plant-in-north-carolina/824585/>

A controlled release experiment for investigating methane measurement performance at landfills <https://online.ucpress.edu/elementa/article/14/1/00048/216787>

Aubrey mentioned that Rep. Finger-McDonald has been pushing for a Waste Infrastructure Partnership Act (WIPA). This could come with major upgrades to infrastructure.

Charli reported that the DSAC is kind of on standstill for now because people are out of town.

We talked about timing of the landfill closure because it will soon be full and Charli mentioned that it will definitely close. There's no question about that, but the timing is just in question. Even if the expansion was approved, the landfill might not be open for as long as one might think because even it would fill up soon.

There might be some room to share our opinion through the task force. Aubrey mentioned that he'd be eager to see the Board do that. We can think about this, share ideas with the Board for approval, and check in with ODA Eric Nusbaum to be sure that he doesn't think we're out of compliance in our capacity as public officials.

Our committee will start to identify areas of concern that we can feature on our website. We might identify things about pfas, offer resources for soil and/or water testing, and other items. We can eventually have a link, "Does my property have contamination?" Biosolid applications

Plastics are everywhere. Even our Plant Sale has plastic pots. Maybe we could offer recycling of the pots?

Nate: The committee should keep track of our ongoing conversations and think more about identifying deliverables for the committee.

What labs are good for testing soil and water and what does each lab offer? For instance, some soil testing labs might be very farmer-oriented specializing in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Others might measure pfas and contaminants.

Claire mentioned that the Soil Health specialist at ODA would be an important position to fill. It has not been filled in recent years. This person might be able to engage in our work to think about contamination of farmlands

Aubrey shared a list of comments from last Task Force Meeting

- Summary from June 10th Task Force Public Comment: Consensus seems to be emerging (among commenters like Willamette Riverkeeper, Sierra Club, etc), that the ideal path forward is:
 - Reduce upstream sources of waste (before it gets to a sorting station, which just pools waste together and compacts it for transport).

- Don't make private companies eligible for financing through programs like the WIPA.
- Find a way to establish regional coordination.
- And only then send remaining waste to a hub & spoke type system to transport it to drier regions for landfill.

Nate wanted to mention this resource for recycling agricultural plastics:

<https://agriplasinc.wordpress.com/>