

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste Management Media Contact

Jackie J. Lang
503-705-0007
jjlang@wm.com

Stewardship Committee advances farming collaborative

First project will link farming, education and economic development

MCMINNVILLE, Ore., June 9, 2014 — Community leaders from across Yamhill County are advancing a farming collaborative as the first project to go live on the WM Stewardship Lands - the property west of McMinnville that Waste Management is offering to benefit the community.

The Community Farm Collaboration will provide land, mentoring and resources to help small farmers be successful. It will also educate the public about the value of community food systems and “give back” to the community as farmers share their bounty with local schools.

The WM Stewardship Committee approved a plan in late 2013 that included a community farming project proposed by local farmer and Stewardship Committee member Barbara Boyer. Since then, Boyer’s project has moved from “conceptual” to “actionable” with the addition of new partners and ringing endorsements from key Stewardship Committee members.

“This is how it works when you dream big,” said Don Clements, chair of the WM Stewardship Committee and executive director of the Chehalem Valley Park and Recreation District. “Barbara’s proposal has emerged as a project with strong local sponsors and a rich connection to Yamhill County’s farming culture,” he said.

Carlton Mayor Kathie Oriet championed the collaborative farming project at the Stewardship Committee’s last meeting.

“The Community Farm Collaboration is the perfect inaugural project for the Waste Management land because it links farming, education and economic development,” Oriet said. “It also embodies the collaborative spirit of Yamhill County in that its success will involve many hands from across the county.”

The farming will happen on 59 acres along Riverbend Road, just west of McMinnville. Organizers are planning for at least five farmers to begin working the land in 2015. The property is owned by Waste Management and has been planted with various food crops over the years.

Waste Management initiated the WM Stewardship Plan in 2011 to demonstrate its commitment to community partnership, offering 450 acres for purposes that connect to community values. The company purchased the land years ago to provide a buffer for its landfill operations. The landfill now operates on 88 acres and a 37-acre expansion is planned.

Community leaders from across the county hosted several interactive public meetings to gather ideas for how the land could benefit the community. The Stewardship Committee's role has been to lead the community conversation and recommend the most promising projects to Waste Management.

About the Community Farm Collaboration

- [GROW International](#) will provide administration and project management under the leadership of farming advocate Jerry Tindall, who founded GROW International to "encourage global stewardship of land, food, and family." GROW International works with non-profits, governments, and others to educate and empower individuals and communities to nurture land, food and family.
- [Yamhill Valley Grown](#) will help the farmers market and sell their food, under the direction of Heidi Lindell. Yamhill Valley Grown is an aggregator and online [marketplace](#) of food grown and produced in the Yamhill Valley. The group has [membership](#) options that allow people to support the local food system and has developed a [local food resource guide for the community](#).
- [Yamhill Valley Farmers Network](#), managed by Beth Satterwhite, will provide the farmers access to information and education as part of the group's mission to foster a strong and supportive local farmer community. The Network was established in response to farmer feedback gathered through the Nourish Yamhill Valley Food System Assessment Process held in 2012, which identified challenges facing local farm businesses and the farming community.
- Barbara Boyer envisioned the overall project and assembled the project partners. She will serve as mentor to the farmers. Boyer is also working through the [Oregon Farm to School Council](#) to strengthen the farm-to-school movement by creating infrastructure needed to provide local food to local children.

About Waste Management

[Waste Management](#) is the leading provider of recycling and environmental services in the North America. The company provides innovative sustainability solutions for 20 million customers - from clean air trucks fueled by compressed natural gas to waste reduction programs that turn food scraps into compost for healthy gardens. Waste Management uses waste to generate renewable energy, powering 7,500 homes in Oregon and Washington and more than one million homes across North America.

About Riverbend Landfill, Recycling Center and Green Energy Plant

[Riverbend](#) is a regional facility that provides professional and safe disposal and convenient recycling services for Yamhill County and neighboring communities. Riverbend also uses waste to generate enough green energy to power 2,500 local homes.

###



THINK GREEN®