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## AGENDA COVER MEMO

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**DATE:** December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003  
**TO:** Lane County Board of Commissioners  
**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works  
**PRESENTED BY:** Pete Chism, Waste Reduction Specialist  
Waste Management Division

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING ANNUAL TRASHBUSTER AWARDS.**

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### I. MOTION

**MOVE APPROVAL OF BOARD ORDER AWARDING ANNUAL TRASHBUSTER AWARDS.**

### II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

Lane County has established through its Board of County Commissioners and its Resource Recovery Advisory Committee (RRAC) a process for recognizing individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community who make outstanding efforts in the area of waste reduction.

### III. DISCUSSION

#### A. Background

The Board approved a Recycling Recognition Award program proposed by RRAC in 1992. RRAC subsequently renamed the award program "Trashbuster" to denote a wider spectrum of activity beyond just recycling.

#### B. Analysis

##### **Special Event Trashbuster: Oregon Country Fair**

Receiving the award: Lara Howe, recycling coordinator for the Oregon Country Fair

*Commissioner: Anna Morrison*

##### **Achievements:**

In 1996 the Oregon Country Fair received a Trashbuster Award for diverting 50% of their waste stream. Seven years later, the Oregon Country Fair remains dedicated to reducing waste and recycling. This last summer the Oregon Country Fair continues to lead event recycling in Lane County, posting an astonishing 86% diversion of event waste from the landfill!

##### **Additional accomplishments:**

- Reduced the amount of garbage from 33 tons in 2000 to 13 tons in 2003.
- Bio Diesel is used in generators and on site equipment.

- Office paper used by the Oregon Country Fair is made from 100% recycled content.
- All signs and kiosks for recycling are made from reused wood.
- The Oregon Country Fair educates staff, vendors and patrons through skits, flyers, and articles in the Fair Family News, the monthly Oregon Country Fair newsletter. They also stage recycling crew staff or “waste warriors” at recycling kiosks during the fair to help educate the public on recycling and composting guidelines.

**Individual Trashbuster: Lorraine Kerwood – Mac Renewal**

Receiving the award: Lorraine Kerwood

*Commissioner: Pete Sorenson*

**Achievements:**

Lorraine Kerwood created the non-profit, Mac Renewal in 2000 and since then she has refurbished 2800 Macintosh computers and distributes them to people who otherwise would not have access to computer technology. On a weekly basis, Mac Renewal refurbishes 19 Macintosh computer systems.

**Additional accomplishments:**

- Recycled 1500 computer units since 2000. Lorraine Kerwood sends discarded computer materials to be recycled to Free Geek a Portland non-profit. In turn, Free Geek donates Macintosh computers and parts to Mac Renewal. Free Geek recycles all computer parts through environmentally responsible recycling vendors.
- Mac Renewal only uses reclaimed paper for brochures, and other office functions. They also use envelopes that contain 40% recycled content.
- Mac Renewal educates the public about recycling and reuse of computers through word of mouth, a website ([www.macrenewal.org](http://www.macrenewal.org)), presentations, news articles and a brochure.
- Over the last year, Mac Renewal has partnered with 40 volunteers that have donated a total of 4000 hours to Lorraine’s cause. Lorraine herself has worked over 3000 hours in the last year refurbishing Macintosh computers and getting them into the hands that need them.

**Non-Profit Trashbuster: Terry McDonald and St. Vincent de Paul**

Receiving the award: Terry McDonald

*Commissioner: Bobby Green*

**Achievements:**

Under the direction of Terry McDonald, St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County has turned trash into treasure. St Vincent de Paul reuses or recycles numerous types of materials totaling over 700 tons a month! St. Vincent de Paul has established markets for recycling window glass, books, mattresses, appliances and propane tanks. St. Vincent de Paul’s latest reuse project is collecting bowling balls to be transformed into “Zen Gazing Ball Fountains”.

**Additional accomplishments:**

- On a monthly basis St. Vincent de Paul recycles and reuses:
  - 1.5 tons of wrapping plastic
  - 1.5 tons of oil, refined and resold
  - 8 tons of window glass, used to make decorative items through St. Vincent de Paul’s Aurora Glass Foundry
  - 25 tons of cardboard

- 30 tons of mattresses, cleaned and resold or recycled as cotton, steel, and foam
- 80 tons of books
- 250 tons of clothing
- 300 tons of appliances, repaired or deconstructed into recyclable scrap metal and freon gas, which is cleaned and resold
- 125 automobiles are fixed and resold or recycled as scrap metal
- 125 bowling balls from the San Francisco area are transformed into decorative fountains
- St Vincent de Paul reuses numerous building materials in the construction of their housing complexes.
- Educates residents in St. Vincent de Paul housing complexes on how to recycle and minimize waste.
- Terry gives presentations about St Vincent de Paul reuse and recycling programs on local, state, national and international levels.

### **K – 12 School Trashbuster: Territorial Elementary School**

Receiving the award: Barbara Coolman

*Commissioner: Anna Morrison*

#### **Achievements:**

- Containers set up for collecting recyclables and compost in all 7 classrooms, the main office, the media center, and the teacher's workroom. Every week, a team of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders collects the containers and empties the recyclables into a main collection bin.
- The students, staff and teachers make efforts to reuse all single sided paper, saving natural resources.
- During lunch, a team a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders assists the students in composting food scraps and recycling milk cartons. After lunch the 4<sup>th</sup> graders collect, weigh the compost, and record the data daily. The food scraps are either composted in their worm bin, or in the large composting bin next to their garden. Milk cartons are sometimes reused for art projects.
- In the fall, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders educate the rest of the school about composting through posters and presentations, while the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders educate the school about recycling through posters and presentations.
- Each month the Territorial School newsletter updates parents, students, staff and teachers on how much material was composted and recycled through the efforts in the school.
- The classes also create recycled art projects.
- The finished compost from Territorial is sold in the spring at the annual plant sale.

### **C. Alternatives/Options**

The Board may award or choose not to award Trashbuster awards to the proposed recipients.

**D. Recommendation**

I recommend approval of the Trashbuster Award as proposed by the Resource Recovery Advisory Committee. The potential recipients meet all award criteria established by the Committee.

**E. Timing**

A time certain agenda placement is requested at 10:00am so the Board can present a plaque to those selected for recognition.

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION/FOLLOW-UP**

None

**V. ATTACHMENTS**

Board order

IN THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO.

)IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING ANNUAL  
)TRASHBUSTER AWARDS.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners established a Lane County recycling recognition program (now called "Trashbuster Awards") for individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community who make outstanding efforts to reduce waste generation, recycle, or reduce waste products, and make innovative uses of materials that might otherwise become part of the waste stream, and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the program is to honor those individuals and organizations that practice and promote waste reduction, and

**WHEREAS**, the Resource recovery Advisory Committee has recommended that Oregon Country Fair, Lorraine Kerwood, Terry McDonald and St. Vincent de Paul, and Territorial Elementary School be recognized for their outstanding efforts in the areas of recycling and waste reduction,

**NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that Oregon Country Fair, Lorraine Kerwood, Terry McDonald and St. Vincent de Paul, and Territorial Elementary School are publicly recognized with Trashbuster Awards.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2003.

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Pete Sorenson  
Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 11-20-2003, Lane county

  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

IN THE MATTER OF AWARDING ANNUAL TRASHBUSTER AWARDS.