State of Oregon
DEQ Department of Environmental Quality

Feedback from Budget and Fees Committee on 2025 Annual Report

On the issue of reserves management highlighted by the considerable carryover ($111 million) from 2025 to 2026 and producer concern about it, the committee discussed CAA (Circular Action Alliance) adding

- more information about what funds have gone into which reserve (operations vs earmarked), potentially by revising Table 15 on p.63 to show the amount of carryover going into each reserve line item by line item. This was discussed particularly in the context of contamination reduction funding for local governments and lack of clarity about whether or not these funds are being carried over year to year so that local governments could claim them beyond conclusion of a given fiscal year.
- further clarification about what is included vs excluded from 2025 actuals, including info about how expenditures budgeted on a fiscal year calendar are reported in this report covering a calendar year, and how expenditures made in early 2026 but invoiced for in 2025 are accounted for,
- commitment in the next program plan regarding a threshold for the magnitude of change in actuals vs budget above which a program plan amendment would be submitted or another form of public consultation would take place.

In association with this topic, the committee also expressed interest in carving out space within the Recycling Council forum for discussion on lessons learned and opportunities to improve implementation processes.

On the issue of whether or not CAA has adequately described how its 2025 fees met statutory requirements, the committee discussed:

- adding more detail to Section 5.1.1 – for example, by detailing what is meant by “each material’s supply, cost and revenue profiles.”
- DEQ conducting periodic QA/QC to ensure that producer invoices and material-specific base fee rates have been correctly calculated by CAA.

The Committee also requested that DEQ share the meeting recording with producer members of the Council to facilitate specific consultation of their opinions during the meeting on November 18.

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