

Approved at the April 26, 2011 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 2011 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Bill Shaw, Vice Chairman; Greg Action, City of Whitefish; Jim Dupont, County Commissioner; John Helton, Member at Large; Wayne Miller, Board of Health; and Alan Ruby, Member at Large.

District Staff present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty, Operations Manager Jim Chilton and Recording Secretary Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Bob Morrow and Don Connors

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

3. Comments from public

Don Connors stated he had comments about the proposed signage informing people about covering their loads. He thinks the cost is too high for billboards and suggests placing signs at the container sites and on the road leading into the landfill. That way they are seen by those who are using the facilities. Hank thanked him for his suggestion and stated that the proposal includes billboards as well as signage at the container sites.

Bob Morrow commented he attended a presentation that Aubry DeLane conducted at Elrod School in Kalispell and was impressed with her ability to communicate with the kids about recycling.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2011 - **Action Required**

Alan Ruby moved to adopt the minutes of February 22, 2011. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Notice of Intent to Amend Solid Waste Service Charges for Mobile Homes and Notice of Public Hearing – **Action Required**

The District desires to modify the method of charging for the disposal of mobile homes. The current cost is \$31.05/ton. The proposal is to change the cost to a fixed rate of \$300 per trailer. The majority of the mobile homes that come to the landfill are too big to fit on the scale.

John Helton moved to authorize the Public Works Director to sign “Notice of Intention to Amend Solid Waste Service Charges and Notice of Public Hearing” to change the expense for disposal of mobile homes that cannot be weighed exactly on the scale to a flat fee of \$300 and authorize the Public Works Director to publish notice of a public hearing on the matter at the April 26, 2011 meeting of the Flathead County Solid Waste District Board of Directors. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

b. **Award of the Phase IV-A Groundwater Protection System Project – Action Required**

The District solicited bids for the construction of the Phase IV-A Groundwater Protection Project on March 4, 2011. Five bids were received and are shown below:

Sandry Construction	\$1,423,079.00
LHC	\$1,527,920.00
S&L Underground	\$1,896,954.00
Noble Excavating	\$1,900,223.50
Knife River	\$1,967,496.75

The lowest, most responsive bidder is Sandry Construction. Discussions have occurred with the contractor and they are capable of handling the project as designed. The revised engineer’s estimate is \$1,756,175.10.

Greg Acton recused himself from this action as his son is employed by Sandry Construction.

Wayne Miller moved to award the bid for the Phase IV-A Groundwater Protection System to Sandry Construction for a total bid price of \$1,423,079.00 and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the contract documents. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

c. **Spring Campaign for Littering Issues – Action Required**

District staff, along with the Waste Not Project, has completed the slogans and billboard design for the litter campaign. There will be two billboards placed, one on Highway 2 and the other on Highway 93. The first billboard will show the tailgate from a pickup telling citizens to “Secure your Load” and “Don’t Trash Flathead County”. It also will discuss briefly to “Stop Littering” and “Don’t Risk the \$200 Fine.”

The second billboard will have a pickup truck pulled over with a Flathead County Sheriff Deputy writing them a littering ticket and will again say “Don’t Trash Flathead County” and “Secure It – Don’t Risk the \$200 Fine.”

Along with the billboards, staff has modified the existing radio ad on the subject to include the container sites along with the discussion of securing your load when going to the landfill.

The Flathead City/County Health Department has agreed to fund \$3,000 for this campaign. A presentation was made to the Flathead Electric Cooperative “Round Up for Safety” on March 10th for a grant to also help with funding this project.

Dave updated the Board that Round Up for Safety declined to grant funding as they felt the campaign was more educational than safety oriented.

Wayne Miller moved to approve the proposed litter reduction campaign and billboard slogans for implementation this spring. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Preliminary Budget for Solid Waste and Junk Vehicle Departments

Staff has prepared the preliminary budgets for the Solid Waste and Junk Vehicle Departments. Please note these numbers may be modified before the board meeting and staff will have new handouts if needed for the Board's review at the meeting.

The Solid Waste budget is anticipating \$6,822,108 in revenue. The majority of revenue is derived from the assessment system paid by residents and businesses. The gate revenue has been reduced to \$750,000 for the coming year due to estimated reductions in construction/demolition waste generation.

Expenses for the coming fiscal year are anticipated to be \$7,002,855. The Finance Department has not supplied an expense for the personnel cost for the Columbia Falls site attendant but should have that information by the meeting. There are no new employee requests for the coming year as directed by the Commissioner's office. Transfers will again occur from the liner and closure accounts for FY2011/2012 to pay for the Phase IV-A liner and post-closure maintenance for the closure project performed last year on Phase 1. The transfers to the liner trust (\$600,000), closure/post-closure trust (\$600,000), land acquisition trust (\$200,000) and LFGTE improvement trust (\$30,000) are also included.

The Junk Vehicle budget is anticipating \$140,736 in revenue. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides the funding for this department through a grant. Monies are generated through the licensing of motor vehicles in Flathead County. The revenue is anticipated to be equal to the amount received in FY2010/2011.

Expenses will total \$140,736 and include personnel costs for the office administrator (0.2 FTE), Operations Manager (0.02 FTE) and Public Works Director (0.01 FTE). Finance has not included the 0.75FTE for the Junk Vehicle Inspector but that should be available by the board meeting. Staff should have the revised budget for handout at the meeting. Any excess funding remaining at the end of the fiscal year is transferred to the capital outlay account and held for future funding. There will be a concrete containment pad estimated at \$55,000 constructed with money from the capital improvement fund to capture the fluids (oil, gas, transmission etc.) that are generated when DEQ crushes the vehicles for market. The crusher captures some of this material but with our groundwater monitoring network we don't want to risk a groundwater issue that can be avoided.

Dave reviewed the Preliminary Budget with the Board.

b. Container Site Consolidation – Highway 2 East

Staff has contacted Neil Grant from Martin Marietta Materials (MMM) regarding the potential land purchase. We informed Neil that until the snow melts we are in a holding pattern on the purchase. In one to two months we will start the project back up. Neil said there was no issue with a delay from their point of view.

c. Habitat for Humanity (HH) Usage of Adanac Kennel Property

At the February meeting, Habitat for Humanity made a presentation to utilize the Adanac Kennel building for a drop off center for materials. The Board requested the item be discussed at the March meeting. HH is looking to use the front portion of the building as a drop off for unwanted building materials. They have said the materials would be removed from the property each day to the re-sale store in Kalispell.

Staff is interested in demolishing the actual kennel portion of the building. It is not useful for what HH is requesting and at this point is a locale that feral cats and skunks are using.

The County Attorney's Office has reviewed the initial idea and does not see any insurmountable issues to prevent the District's participation in this project.

Hank asked the Board if they desire to move forward with this proposal. Wayne stated that as long as the place doesn't turn into a dumping ground he is for it. The Board directed Dave to pursue the request and ask Habitat for Humanity for a proposal.

d. Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report

Hank Olson reviewed the Fiscal Year 2010 report and had several questions. Hank hoped the board members would review the report and any items will be discussed at the meeting. Some of his questions were:

- The landfill assessment amount and a cost of living adjustment every two to three years?
- Why is the lead acid battery recycling level down?
- How much money has been placed in the land acquisition trust?
- Does the LFGTE plant continually power 800 homes or is it intermittent?
- Should the District entertain the idea of hauling the recyclables from the container sites with our own personnel?
- Is the District's Mission Statement still functional at this point in time?
- Is it time to review and modify the District's goals and by-laws?

Staff will answer any other questions from the Board on the Fiscal Year 2010 report.

The Board discussed organizing a work session to be held at 4 p.m. before the meeting next month to discuss revising the goals and by-laws.

e. NxENRG, LLC

Mr. George Robertson with NxENRG, LLC provided information about his company and their desires to site a "plasma enhanced melter" for the destruction of solid waste. This is an alternative process that the Strategic Plan discussed and previously the Board declined the invitation. After discussing these alternative disposal options with our engineer, SWT, both

they and staff believe that this technology needs to be proven before the District would be interested. It is our understanding that any of these sites are working at a small scale to prove the technology before the serious capital investment would be viable. The email and informational sheet is included in your packet.

The Board discussed the issue and directed Dave to inform Mr. Robertson that the District is not interested at this time.

f. Refuse Operations

Operations proceeded well for the month. Tonnage/Volumes are shown below:

	<u>February</u>
Total MSW to landfill	4,918.10
Total Appliances Collected	300
Junk Vehicles Collected	1
Truck Trips to Container Sites	394
Refuse tons/trip	5.69

The District landfilled 7.9% less waste in February, 2011 as compared to February, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 13.0% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Through February, 2011 (67% through the year) we have received \$528,620.82 (62% of budget). The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream.

g. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

John Helton commented that he ran into Sheriff Curry and took the opportunity to thank him on behalf of the landfill Board for supporting the covered load issue.

Hank Olson commented on the letter written by a citizen concerning identity theft by people rummaging through the containers at the sites. He would like to add the issue to next month's agenda.

Hank also asked if it would be possible to add lettering to the county garbage trucks as a way to "educate" the public about littering and covering loads. He also suggested we could stencil the green boxes with some sort of littering message.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.