

Approved at the October 23, 2012 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 25, 2012 – 3:00 p.m.
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Greg Acton, Vice Chair; John Helton, Member at Large; Lorin Lowery, City of Columbia Falls; Alan Ruby, Member at Large and Wayne Miller, Board of Health. Absent: Cal Scott, County Commissioner.

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

Attendees: Kim and Jera Schwegel, Dia Sullivan, Mayre Flowers and Randy Burns.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that Cal was absent because he's away attending the MACo conference in Great Falls.

3. Comments from public

Kim Schwegel: 1145 Prairie View Road – distributed a list of questions for clarification to the Board. He stated that they are in “yes” and “no” format.

4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the community event recycling at the Dragon Boat Races hosted by Flathead Lake Lodge. The Fairgrounds provided 33 containers to use for collecting recyclable materials. Event attendees were quite cooperative and there was minimal trash mixed in with the recyclables collected. Mayre would like to proceed with the purchase of at least 25 bins that can be loaned out to future community events. Cost for the containers will run about \$2,000. Mayre would like to eventually have 50 containers available.

Funds for these containers will come from the District's Educational fund.

Mayre also stated that the funds for the pharmaceutical take back program (receptacles) at the Columbia Falls and Whitefish police stations have been approved. These cities can soon move forward in implementing the program at their respective stations.

5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2012 - **Action Required**

Greg Acton moved to adopt the minutes for August 28, 2012. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

6. Action Agenda

There are no items on the action agenda this month

7. Director's Report

a. Landfill Expansion Project

Staff has continued to work with Gene Lard to start the appraisal process. Any vendor who works for the County must provide the appropriate insurance with the required limits before they can start working. Gene has submitted his liability and auto insurance but has not submitted his Independent Contractor's Exemption Certificate for Worker's Comp coverage. This certificate is issued by the State of Montana and Gene has been working with them to get it here as soon as possible. He was promised it on September 17th but it didn't show up. He has contacted them again and been told it is in the mail.

Dave stated that Gene received his ICEC last week and will start scheduling appointments with the neighbors next week.

Dia Sullivan asked if she could ask Dave to send his response to the questions (given earlier in the meeting) to her as well. Dave said he would write up an e-mail response and send it to her and she could distribute it to the neighborhood.

Hank stated that the questions could be quickly gone through at this time.

Dave read through the document and answered the questions (to the best of his ability).

Answers to the questions were as follows:

The "southern portion" referred to in the workshop is considered the former "Warner" property.

There are approximately "ten to 15" years left at the current landfill site.

*If the decision is to purchase the 14 neighbor site, the next area of development will be the south area (former Warner property on 93): **YES***

- a. If yes, work in that area will begin in "six to ten" years.*
- b. There is a "forty" year capacity at the south area (former Warner property on 93) site.*
- c. Activity at the 14 neighbor site (development of the site in any manner, i.e., tree planting, fence building, moving or regarding hillsides, cutting trees, etc.) could occur within "a couple years". **Dave said it is up to the County Commissioners to decide whether residents could stay in their homes if the county bought the properties. His recommendation would be to let them if they want. Properties will not need to be developed into landfill for ten to twenty years.***

*If the decision is to purchase the Sky-Air site, the south area (former Warner property on 93) will NOT be used for any landfill development. **Dave's recommendation is no, but the county reserves the right to use if necessary.***

If the decision is to purchase the Sky-Air site, the 14 neighbor site will NOT be purchased. Dave's recommendation is to NOT purchase the 14 neighbor site if Sky-Air is purchased.

*If the decision is to purchase the Sky-Air site, activity (development of the site and surrounding vicinity in any manner) could occur within "three to four years" *.*

**Facility improvements such as road infrastructure, intersection design, access road, etc. Landfill preparation on site would probably occur within ten years.*

b. Bigfork Container Site Closure

As many of you are aware there was an email exchange regarding this project with Paul Mutascio, who is active in the Bigfork Community. This email was forwarded to many people in the Bigfork community and has been well circulated by now, it is safe to assume. There are two good meeting places in Bigfork that he has used. The first one is the Playhouse on Electric Avenue and the other is the basement of the Lutheran Church on Highway 209. The Playhouse has the larger seating capacity but is less acoustically friendly. We have contacts for both places to set up the community meeting. Staff is looking for direction on scheduling this meeting.

The Road Department did complete the traffic counts for the Somers and Creston container sites. Somers had a seven day average of 679 vehicles and Creston had a 759 vehicle average. We were unable to obtain a count at the Bigfork site due to the entrance geometry but by utilizing our tonnage data we estimate that there is around a 780 vehicle per day average at Bigfork. Staff believes that both the Somers and Creston sites are capable of handling Bigfork traffic/waste volumes if we proceed forward with the closure. Staff has discussed having the closure occur in the spring of 2013.

Discussions regarding when to schedule a community meeting time/location were talked about. It was decided that next spring/summer would be best.

There were also general discussions regarding closing Bigfork and staffing the Somers container site needs to be concurrent.

c. Canyon Container Site Construction

Staff has received the report from Forest Management Specialists, Inc. (FMS) on the logging for the Essex site. It estimates that there is around \$13,798 in revenue from 36.6 thousand board feet of timber. FMS also provided names of logging companies to contact for the project. Staff will work with the County Attorney's office to prepare the bidding documents and get it out on the street. We would hope to have the work completed in October or November at the latest.

The temporary approach to the site is also currently being constructed. There has been considerable coordination with the utility companies since the approach will cross them into the site. Fortunately, all the utilities are buried at the proper depths so the construction will not be overly burdensome. This preliminary approach will also be used for the permanent approach next year but with more improvements to meet the Department of Transportation requirements.

d. Union Negotiations with Operating Engineers Local 400

The Operating Engineer's Union, who represent our landfill workers, requested to negotiate the collective bargaining agreement this spring. After nine bargaining meetings it appears that we have reached an agreement on a three year contract. The Union members still need to ratify the contract but staff is hopeful that the contract will be approved. The bargaining team consisted of Mike Pence, Jim Chilton, Tammy Skramovsky from Human Resources and David Prunty. The Commissioners will then need to approve the contract after ratification from the Union.

Dave updated the Board that despite recently concluding negotiations, the Operating Engineer's Union asked to re-open negotiations and go back to the bargaining table.

e. Moving of House on Gray Property

Scott Hedstrom and his contractor have been working on the house to prepare it for moving. Staff has coordinated with them and will continue to do so. There are approximately two loads of timber that will need to be removed before the house can leave the site. Staff is planning on having this timber hauled to the mill and will generate a little revenue for the District. It appears that this project is on schedule to have the house moved before the November 1st deadline.

f. Refuse Operations

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

<u>August</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	9,046.92
Total Appliances Collected	548
Junk Vehicles Collected	4
Truck Trips to Container Sites	500
Refuse tons/trip	7.00

The District landfilled 1.3% less waste in August, 2012 as compared to August, 2011 and our refuse trucks hauled 2.1% more waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2012 was projected to be \$750,000. Through August the gate has generated \$252,104.30 or 33.6% of revenue through 16.6% of the fiscal year.

g. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board.

8. Comments from Board Members

John Helton stated he received a phone call from a person who was approached by scavengers at the Coram site. The person was a bit annoyed by the situation.

Greg Acton stated that he supports the idea of a site attendant at the Somers site once the Bigfork site is closed. Need to budget for it. Lorin Lowery and Wayne Miller agree.

Jim offered to take the Board members on a tour of the Somers and Creston sites.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.