

APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2012 MEETING

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
January 24, 2012 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Greg Acton, Vice Chairman; Jim Dupont, County Commissioner; John Helton, Member at Large; Lorin Lowery, City of Columbia Falls; 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: Carlo Arendt, Scott Mason, Mayre Flowers, Tom Jentz, Sean Conrad and Randy Burns.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank thanked everyone for attending and stated he had no additional remarks.

3. Comments from public

There were no comments.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for November 29, 2011 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of November 29, 2011. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2012 – **Action Required**

The District's By-Laws require the election of a Chair and Vice-Chair in January or February each year.

John Helton moved to nominate Hank Olson to serve as Chairman and Greg Acton to serve as Vice Chairman. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

b. Extension of Olney Container Site Lease with Montana Department of Transportation– **Action Required**

For several years staff has been working towards a possible easement agreement with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) immediately north of the

current Olney container site. The land is owned by DNRC but the MDT has an easement on the area for a gravel pit. The gravel is exhausted and DNRC was hopeful of having MDT relinquish the easement in hopes of granting the District an easement for a container site (comparable to our easement with DNRC at the Ashley Lake container site). After considerable wrangling in Helena between MDT and DNRC it appears that MDT has determined they will NOT relinquish their easement.

Based upon this and staff's discussions with both entities MDT understands the District's concern on improving the Olney site with only a ten year lease agreement. MDT has agreed to extend the lease to 20 years and increase the termination clause from 90 days to 180 days.

Staff has informed MDT that we may still pursue other ground with DNRC in the area but that we greatly appreciate their willingness to give the District some options for improving the Olney site to our current operating parameters with some greater assurance of a long term capitalization of the project costs.

Greg Acton moved to authorize the Public Works Director to execute the Addendum to the Olney Container Site Lease agreement with MDT which increases the lease period from 10 to 20 years and the termination clause from 90 to 180 days.

6. Director's Report

a. Groundwater Monitoring Results for December, 2011

The District performs semi-annual groundwater monitoring as required by the solid waste rules administered by Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Our December results showed an increase in tetrachloroethene (PCE) above the groundwater standards at monitoring well MW-3 and MW-6D (compliance well) on our eastern boundary. These wells are within the permitted landfill area and MW-6D is about 50 feet from the edge of the waste trenches and now well within our property boundary with the purchase of the Gray property. This is the same location the contamination was found in the late 1990's that required the District to perform corrective actions to reduce the impact to the aquifer.

There are certain requirements under the DEQ rules that the District will be required to perform with these increased results. The first item is a return to quarterly monitoring versus the semi-annual we have been performing since 2004. We have been better than the water quality standards for approximately 10 years. Both parties realized that when the corrective actions that were implemented they were based upon the premise that we likely would never completely remove the contamination but just make it better than the DEQ groundwater standards. The large groundwater recharge that occurred after last winter's record precipitation likely caused this reoccurrence.

Scott Mason, the District's hydrogeologist from Hydrometrics, will be at the meeting to brief the Board on this issue.

Scott Mason gave the Board an overview of the corrective measures the landfill has been operating under since 1994 or 1995. He stated that Montana Department of Environmental Quality has been notified of the recent contamination spike and has proposed to do a corrective

action assessment and proposes to go back to quarterly testing (from the current semi-annual testing)

Dave stated that the financial impact to the district would be around \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Wayne Miller asked if there are any additional wells beyond the landfill boundary (for example the Glacier Business Center or Spencer's Restaurant). Dave stated no.

Alan Ruby asked if freon gas migrates beyond the landfill boundaries, is Flathead Electric Co-op is responsible for mitigation? Dave said absolutely as FEC has assumed responsibility of the "gas" portion of the landfill.

b. Kalispell Growth Policy Update

Staff received a letter from Tom Jentz, Kalispell Planning Director, regarding the City's update of their Growth Policy. The policy was last updated in 2002 and they are meeting with multiple entities that affect the City of Kalispell and their future. Sean Conrad, Senior City Planner, will be at the meeting to discuss this project with the Board. We have included the information from the City in your packet.

Tom Jentz addressed the Board stating that the City of Kalispell is in the early stages of updating their growth policy. He displayed a map which indicated residential and commercial density and the service boundaries the city is prepared to annex if and when the time comes. He stated that this is just an initial introduction to their plan and asked the Board for their input on any ideas/concerns they think the city should take into consideration. John Helton suggested that the City require provisions for garbage pick-up and recycling be part of all new planned subdivisions.

c. ADANAC Kennel Building

The ADANAC kennel building has been vacate for approximately nine years since the property was purchased by the District. Discussions have previously occurred with the Board about utilizing the building as a "resale" center with Habitat for Humanity. With the purchase of the Gray property we now have a better location for this type of activity if it is going to occur. Habitat has viewed the Gray property and agreed this location would work much better for them since power and water are currently available.

The County Attorney's office has been consulted and agreed that the building is likely an "attractive nuisance" and should therefore be either secured or demolished. Both skunks and feral cats have utilized the building since it became vacant. It is staff's recommendation that the building be demolished. The cinder blocks will be utilized for road base within the landfill and the concrete will be hauled to one of the local contractors who are recycling this type of material.

The consensus of the Board is to tear down the old kennel building.

d. Land Purchase for Landfill Expansion

At the November meeting the Board asked to bring this item back for discussion to decide whether to table this item or to decide on a date for a special meeting with the neighbors regarding the potential land purchase to expand the landfills property boundary and capacity. If the project moves forward the Board thought that the meeting should occur after the holiday season. Our regular meeting schedule for the first three months of the year is January 24, February 28 and March 27, 2012. Due to the unknown number of citizens who might attend staff would recommend the meeting be held at the Earl Bennett Building in Kalispell. A 6 p.m. start time would also be appropriate for this meeting.

There were general discussions among the Board members. Dave recommended having a public meeting at the Earl Bennett Building on March 13th at 6 p.m. He will call the Health Department and see if the meeting room is available on that date.

e. Columbia Falls Site Greenwaste Drop Off Area

The Columbia Falls City Council asked Lorin Lowry to have the Solid Waste Board entertain the thought providing an area at the container site for greenwaste drop off. The original creation of the container sites was for the convenient drop off of household refuse which at that time included greenwaste.

With the advent of lining systems for landfills the airspace itself has become extremely expensive as compared to the previous unlined trench operations years ago. When staffing at the Columbia Falls site started the opportunity to increase the waste diversion and reduce damage to our hauling trucks was obvious, however, still considering the fact that citizens would want to dispose of small amounts of greenwaste in the containers. However, creating a separate storage area for greenwaste has some major concerns.

The District does not have the equipment or the facilities built to efficiently haul this material. An eight foot retaining wall facility and 40 yard roll-off truck and bin would be the most likely hauling configuration for a system like this. An increase in the site perimeter to the north would likely need to occur to accommodate this facility. The material could very easily become contaminated, much like our metals recycling program, when citizens would not adhere to the rules for drop off. A fire hazard is also very possible without regular removal of the material which increases the costs if the bin is not full.

Our current program at the landfill has the citizens when they haul greenwaste to the facility segregate the brush, limbs and stumps into one area and the grass, leaves, barn waste etc., into another area. Both piles go to beneficial use. One is for composting/alternative daily cover and the other to bio-mass for energy production. If there aren't two piles at the container sites then when the material would be hauled to the landfill by our forces it will go into the landfill as waste.

Lorin Lowery stated that the City of Columbia Falls Council has withdrawn the request. He asked that Dave put together a statement of clarification that can be published in the city news letter and webpage. Jim Dupont said to put an article in the Hungry Horse News as well.

f. Solid Waste Board Meeting Time

Dr. Miller requested the Board discuss changing the meeting time of the Solid Waste Board. The Solid Waste Board has met at 5 p.m. since May, 2001. Prior to that, the meeting time was 7 p.m. The fourth Tuesday of the month has been regular for the meeting day of the Board. There is no consistent meeting time for the various Boards and Committees within Flathead County and the County Attorney's Office said that the Solid Waste Board is free to determine their meeting time. As best as staff can tell it is an issue left up to the members of the Board to decide on what time they prefer.

There were discussions among the Board members regarding which time would be better; 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. It was decided that a 3 p.m. start time would be best for the other city representatives. Dave stated the by-laws would need to reflect the change, so will get that initiated at the next meeting.

g. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>November</u>	<u>December</u>
Total MSW to landfill	6,940.08	5,922.02
Total Appliances Collected	351	271
Junk Vehicles Collected	0	1
Truck Trips to Container Sites	415	446
Refuse tons/trip	6.72	5.59

The District landfilled 1.1% more waste in November, 2011 as compared to November, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 1.9% less waste comparing the same time frame.

The District landfilled 8.1% less waste in December, 2011 as compared to December, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 4.5% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2012 was projected to be \$750,000. Through December the gate has generated \$451,581.08 or 60.2% of revenue through 50% of the fiscal year.

h. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

There were no comments from the Board members.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.