

Approved at the November 23, 2010 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 2010 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Barbara Palmer, Sue Lawrence, Melanie Soderfelt, Carmen O'Brien, Mimi Beadles, Valerie A. Stewart, Tim Williams, Amy Williams, Darcy Albert, Linda Rebhuhn, Adele Zimmerman, Robin Young, Lori Heatherington, Samantha Fetveit, Mayre Flowers and Cliff Bennett.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson acknowledged the letter of apology from Ian Sterchi that was enclosed in the Board packet and the staff response to the email from Jerry O'Neil.

3. Comments from public

Melanie Soderfelt addressed the Board regarding stray cats at the landfill. She stated that 19 cats have already been removed and requested permission to trap abandoned cats on landfill property. She distributed a handout detailing the cats that were removed from 8/31-10/25.

Barbara Palmer, Spay Neuter Task Force, informed the Board that her group will provide the insurance to cover the volunteers. She stated their insurance provides coverage for volunteers from the Task Force to retrieve cats and distributed a handout from Feline Practitioners.

Mimi Beadles, Executive Director for the Spay Neuter Task Force, spoke with the Board regarding stray animals they have received from the landfill. She stated their group is experienced in trapping animals and also requested permission for animals to be trapped at the landfill. She stated that her organization has liability insurance that will provide coverage for any volunteers on landfill property. Copies of the Certificates of Liability were given to staff. She suggested that either they trap and take the animals to their shelter, the landfill has an animal warden do the trapping and take them to the animal shelter or call her group, or landfill employees do the trapping and either call her group or have the shelter pick up the animals.

Valerie Stewart, Spay Neuter Task Force board member, voiced her support for Melanie.

Adele Zimmerman, Flathead County Animal Shelter volunteer and Animal Advisory board member, stated her groups support the effort and offered her groups' assistance.

Sue Lawrence stated she has been involved with the animal groups in the valley and urges the Board to utilize the resources that are available.

Carmen O'Brien, Shelter Friends board member and Flathead County Animal Shelter committee member, echoed the comments by Adele and Sue. All three non-profit organizations present are willing to help address the issue.

Lori Heatherington, Humane Society Executive Director, stated that the Humane Society has taken many animals from the landfill over the years. She urged the Board to allow the stray animals to be removed. The Humane Society has provided the signs regarding abandoning animals which are at the sites and asked if additional signs can be placed at the landfill.

Darcy Albert provided the Board with pictures of animals she has rescued from the landfill. She also supports Melanie in her efforts.

Samantha Fetveit stated she has provided foster care for many animals from the landfill and would like to know why the Board would not allow animals to be trapped at the landfill. She asked when a decision would be made.

Hank thanked the speakers and stated liability was a big issue with staff. The Board will address the issue as an agenda item in the near future. Bill Shaw asked why this was before the Board and not an administrative decision. Dave stated additional signs regarding abandoning animals can be placed at the landfill.

Mayre Flowers distributed a letter from Flathead High School regarding the recycling bin at the high school. She updated the board regarding the pharmaceutical program and stated that the pharmaceutical brochures are in place at all of the pharmacies.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for September 28, 2010 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2010 meeting. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

There are no action items for the October meeting

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Project – Highway 2 East:

Dave distributed minutes from the GNESEA meeting he & Jim attended. Staff made contact with Al Schellinger regarding the Schellinger gravel pit on Highway 2 E in the canyon. Al said that his company is not very interested in selling or leasing a parcel of their gravel pit to the District. They have been battling trespassing and vandalism issues lately. They also access their portion of the pit through a lease with Martin Marietta from Salt Lake City.

Martin Murrieta's adjacent pit area is finished and has been through reclamation. Al thought that there could be a possibility they might be interested in some kind of lease or sale to the District. He will be forwarding the contact information he has to us shortly. Their property appears to be well configured for a site from the aerial photos staff has looked at, but the entrance road is long and could have significant expense to keep plowed in the winter.

Staff has also located a couple of parcels of land currently for sale in the area. Information on one parcel is included in your packet. It is 4.56 acres with an asking price of \$99,900 and is adjacent to Highway 2. It is level with heavy timber and an easement for a footpath to the river exists. The parcel has covenants and is also zoned according to the information sheet so we'll have to find out from the County Planning office and selling agent if there are any issues from that perspective.

- b. Phase 4A Excavation and 2010 North and East Slope Phase 1 Landfill Closure Project: Work on the excavation and closure project has continued through the month. Anticipated completion date for the project is October 22nd. The hydroseeding and erosion protection work is completed and the graveling of the roads is occurring. The contractor will be completing the project within the allotted construction time and it is anticipated the project will be completed within budget. Engineering expenses are higher than originally budgeted due to the low permeability layer installation taking longer than anticipated. We are required by the MT DEQ to have the engineer monitor, provide soil testing and certify the project met specifications so it is imperative that the construction quality assurance personnel monitor all of the construction. Staff will provide a final cost accounting of the project at the November meeting.

Dave stated that the project is finished and offered a tour to any member desiring one. Hank suggested making the tour an agenda item at the next meeting which is scheduled for November 23. An earlier meeting time was suggested for the tour.

- c. County Ordinance No. 8: Included in your packet is County Ordinance No. 8 which requires transporters of solid waste to either the landfill or a container site to contain, cover or otherwise control the load such that no garbage or trash may blow or fall from the vehicle. Staff discussed with Mayre Flowers the idea of asking the schools to help develop a slogan to be utilized in our campaign to reduce roadside littering used on billboard(s) around the valley. Mayre said she will work on ideas to get them involved in the near future.

Our fall ad campaign on the Bee Broadcasting radio stations started in early September. We again are running ads discussing securing your refuse when headed to the landfill or a container site. We also created a new ad on this topic to help get the message out and not be redundant with the same ads.

Mayre Flowers mentioned a "Go Local Flathead" publication and the article about Smith Valley residents that have adopted a highway. The Adopt-A-Highway program has 200 groups that have adopted 419 miles of highways in Flathead County. The county has no program for the 400 miles of paved county roads. She asked if the Board wanted to include county as well as state roads in the campaign. She cited an article that stated the majority of littering is intentional.

Dave informed the Board that seven violations have been written and 20 warnings issued by the Montana Highway Patrol since January 1. There is a difference between the state litter law and county ordinance no. 8.

Dr. Miller stated the majority of the litter he sees along the road is not discarded intentionally but falls from vehicles. Dr. Miller feels that if the county is not going to enforce Ordinance No. 8, the Commissioners should repeal it. He asked about progress creating a “catch” phrase as that is a vital part of the campaign. Dr. Miller feels a billboard is in the future, but would like to see more advertising now and suggested expanding the advertising to include other radio stations and print media. He stated a cooperative effort with the Health Department is possible. It was suggested that Dave and/or Jim appear on “Coffee Talk” on KOFI to discuss the issue.

Staff would like a phrase/slogan selected by February, 2011.

d. FCSWD Strategic Plan:

SWT Engineers have continued work on the Strategic Plan. Significant work has occurred on the rail haul option. Discussions occurred with BNSF and Montana Rail Link regarding their lines throughout Montana. SWT also discussed the rail haul option with the City of Livingston and Park County. Currently, Park County is the only jurisdiction in the state that is utilizing rail haul. Their wastes are being transported to a landfill in Lewis and Clark County. City of Livingston waste is being long hauled via transfer trucks to a facility in Cascade County. SWT is also looking to out-of-state landfills in Washington and/or Oregon as potential disposal sites. It has been determined that significant capital expenditures will be required to utilize rail haul in the future for containers and intermodal facilities.

SWT has committed to providing information to staff in early November for review and it will be sent out to the Board before the November meeting for sufficient review time prior to the meeting.

If Board members have specific comments or edits, even if typographical or grammatical, we would like the Engineer to address these. Please provide copies and we will PDF them to the Engineer so that they will be incorporated into the final draft.

e. Truck No. 75:

The truck that was totaled last year has been in service for a month or so. There was significant work to install the old refuse body on the new chassis but Dalen’s Diesel did excellent work in installing the refuse body. The complicated electrical and computer systems required weeks of troubleshooting to meet factor specifications but the truck is currently functioning well.

f. Refuse Operations:

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

	<u>September</u>
Total MSW to landfill	8,545.28
Total Appliances Collected	563
Junk Vehicles Collected	13
Truck Trips to Container Sites	437

The District landfilled 1% MORE waste in September, 2010 as compared to September, 2009 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.6% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Through September, 2010 (25% of the year) we have received \$204,092.44 (24% of budget). The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream.

7. Comments from Board Members

The board commented on the feline issue. Bill Shaw stated that he felt this was an agenda item.

Hank directed Mayre to contact staff if she has any questions regarding the campaign to select a slogan.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.