

Approved at the November 29, 2011 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
October 25, 2011 – 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; Loren 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: Robert Roe and Mayre Flowers

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson welcomed everyone and noted that all Board members were present.

3. Comments from public

Robert Roe introduced himself as the new manager for Evergreen Disposal/Valley Recycling. He stated he and his wife moved from Southern California. He is pleased to be in this area and he will be meeting with Dave and Jim tomorrow.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for September 27, 2011 - **Action Required**

Wayne Miller moved to adopt the minutes of September 27, 2011. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Canyon Container Site Land Purchase – **Action Required**

Staff received an email from Neil Grant with Martin Marietta Materials (MMM) informing the District that he believes his company would be acceptable to selling three acres to the District at a cost of \$10,000 per acre. This price is well below the appraisal value determined by Clark Real Estate Appraisal at \$20,000 to \$25,000 per acre for the land. MMM is interested in “donating” the land at the reduced value. Their appraisal from a few years ago valued the land at \$10,000/acre and they would also receive a small tax advantage they believe for the donation. Deputy County Attorney Tara Fugina has reviewed this idea and says it is acceptable for the District/County to proceed this way.

Staff asked SWT Engineering to do a preliminary site layout and staff also dug two test pits on the property to assess the underlying soils. No issues were found with the layout or the soils. There will be approximately 3,500 cy to 4,000 cy of fill to bring the area up to a usable driving surface for the site. It is believed that some or the entire general fill material can come from on-site which helps reduce the expense of building the site. This will be a costly site to build for the volume of waste that will be handled.

John Helton made the motion to recommend the County Commissioners proceed forward with the acquisition of three acres owned by Martin Marietta Materials at the Red Rocks gravel pit approximately 3.5 miles north of Essex, MT adjacent to Highway 2 East for a new container site for the area. Loren Lowery seconded. Motion passed.

b. **T.B. Gray Property – Action Required**

The Travis Gray property along our access road at the landfill is now owned by Mountain West Bank in Helena. The property is approximately 25 acres and has a log house and a few outbuildings. The District attempted to purchase this property in the late 1990's and was unsuccessful in the negotiations with the Chamberlain's, the owners at that time.

The property is again for sale and staff has made contact with Mountain West Bank. They are looking to sell the property as soon as possible and have an appraisal that was performed recently valuing the property at approximately \$600,000. We have requested a copy of the appraisal and all pertinent information on the property.

This property would be an excellent addition to the landfill operation. A class III/IV site or a transfer station for the future are strong possibilities for this property. We also are currently paying for a water treatment system on this property due to groundwater contamination from the old landfill operation.

There were general discussions regarding the groundwater issue on this property and the probability of being able to move the test wells if the property is purchased. Wayne Miller requested that this potential purchase not delay moving forward with the property acquisitions to the west.

Dave stated if the Board approves this action, he will present it to the County Commissioners tomorrow for their approval.

Alan Ruby requested that the mining and mineral rights be researched as that could have an impact on the future use of the property.

Wayne Miller moved to recommend the County Commissioners proceed forward with the acquisition of the T.B. Gray property located at 4150 Highway 93N, Kalispell. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Phase 4A Liner Construction

The liner project is completed and in use but the contractor's surveying firm has not delivered the final as-built plans to the District. We are holding their retention payment until the drawings are delivered. We are not able to finalize the project until this work is completed. Hopefully, it will be done by the November meeting.

b. Litter Issues

Dr. Miller and staff met with Jordan White, Undersheriff and Cal Beringer, Patrol Commander, with the Sheriff's Department. As requested last month at the board meeting, we desired to have an update meeting with law enforcement on the litter reduction campaign. Both parties have continued to work on the issues and agree there appears to be some improvement in the amounts of litter on the highways. Both parties also agreed there is still significant improvement that is needed.

The Sheriff's Department wants to continue with the educational part of the program and has not written any citations yet. Undersheriff White did say they would write a ticket to a "gross violator" if the Deputies see such a vehicle on the road. There is concern from their point with the perception that the Deputies are actively out to "write citations" on the litter ordinance and that the general state of the local economy has made the public on edge with law enforcement. The Undersheriff was concerned about the welfare of our solid waste employees and that some upset citizen could do something regretful after receiving a litter ticket.

We noted that the District was wanting to see "immediate" results with our efforts but the Sheriff's Department believes continuing with the educational part is most important now. Deputies are more active on this issue than before and have been to the container sites showing a presence.

Undersheriff White didn't think a change to Ordinance No. 8 was warranted at this time. A Deputy spoke with our gate personnel to help him understand our definition of a "secured" load.

Loren Lowery said he had enquired about covered load laws in the Northern Montana Joint Refuse Districts. He distributed the literature they sent him. They require that loads be secured according to the laws of the State of Montana.

The Board agrees to continue educating the public through the use of the billboards, radio ads and signage at the container sites.

c. Non-Profit Organizations at Container Sites

Flathead Industries has stopped their service at the Columbia Falls container site for the season. We had hoped they would continue through October but personnel issues moved the date forward a couple of weeks.

Mike Allen, Flathead Industries General Manager, said they were pleased with the program and excited to start back up next spring, probably sometime in late April or early May.

Both parties hope to increase the participation next year as citizens in the area learn more about the service and times when the site is staffed. Our assessment is the program should continue and that advertising is crucial. Regular staffing times and more time at the site would also be beneficial but Flathead Industries has some difficulty in meeting staffing requirements and the needed training for their special needs employees.

d. Land Purchase for Landfill Expansion

Staff drafted the proposed letter to our neighbors who own property that the District may desire to purchase to increase the landfill capacity. Most board members responded to the email sent out with the letter for review that they didn't have any comments to the letter. The County Attorney's Office also reviewed it and felt there were no changes needed.

e. 2011 Volumetric Report for Flathead County Landfill Operations

SWT Engineering has completed the volumetric report for the fiscal year 2011. The topographic surveys from July 9, 2010 and July 10, 2011 were compared to generate the volume of airspace consumed and the amount of soil used in cover operations. For the time period 160,000 cubic yards of airspace was utilized. Of that, 21,781 cubic yards was cover soil. During this time period 95,257 tons of waste was placed in the phase II and III area of the landfill. A resulting refuse to soil ratio of 6.3:1 was calculated. A significant volume of soil was moved during this period for construction activities for the closure and liner projects completed the past two seasons. The contractors hauled cover material and stockpiled it near the refuse working area. The calculations of the refuse to soil ratio utilized load counts provided by the contractors which sometimes lack in accuracy. The 6.3:1 ratio is exceptional and SWT and staff believe the ratio is less than calculated but still above the industry standard of 3:1.

The effective density calculated this year was 1,193 pounds per cubic yard. This is the total waste disposed in the landfill divided by the gross airspace consumed. This number is a better reflection of our operations in that you don't have the estimates of the soil utilized through the year. Our effective density dropped from the previous year but was better than two years ago. This also leads staff to believe the refuse to soil ratio is not as high as calculated but still very good when compared to industry standards for a landfill of our size.

f. Hydrogeologic Services Contract – Hydrometrics

Hydrometrics, Inc., has provided groundwater monitoring and related services to the District since March, 2007. They were the selected contractor in a competitive proposal process. The contract was for three years with two, two-year extensions. The first extension was given in March, 2010 and ends in March 2012. Hydrometrics has requested the contract be extended for the second two year period.

Staff asked for this letter from Hydrometrics so there would be acceptable time to prepare a Request for Proposal if the Board wishes to go that way.

Hydrometrics has performed their tasks exceptionally well with staying on-time and within budget in the four and a half years they have been working for the District.

The Board agreed to extend the contract with Hydrometrics and asked Dave to discuss their rate structure for their services for the extension.

g. Refuse Operations

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

<u>September</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	8,103.28
Total Appliances Collected	464
Junk Vehicles Collected	1
Truck Trips to Container Sites	458
Refuse tons/trip	6.99

The District landfilled 5.2% less waste in September, 2011 as compared to September, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.6% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2012 was projected to be \$750,000. Through September the gate has generated \$231,756 or 31% of revenue through 25% of the fiscal year.

h. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Wayne Miller stated he will not be at the November meeting. He also requested to discuss the meeting time be moved to business hours starting around early to mid afternoon at the January meeting.

Hank asked if Mayre Flowers had any comments. Mayre distributed a copy of an ad that will be running in the local papers in November.

Hank Olson inquired about creating a materials recovery facility. Dave explained the process and stated that we are not a large enough facility to effectively utilize this process and that the tipping fees would have to go up substantially to make it cost effective.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.