

## Approved at the January 25, 2011 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
November 23, 2010 – **5:00 p.m.**  
Landfill Office

### 1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Melanie Soderfelt, Adele Zimmerman, Becky Reisinger, Debbie Rathbun, Valerie Stewart, Mimi Beadles, Andrea Johnston, Matt O'Connell, Sew Lawrence and Mayre Flowers.

### 2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and distributed an ad from the newspaper detailing Walgreens drug take-back program.

### 3. Comments from public

Hank stated that the representatives from the Spay & Neuter Task Force may save their comments until the action agenda.

### 4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2010 - **Action Required**

**Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of the October 26, 2010 meeting. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.**

### 5. Action Agenda

#### a. Cat Trapping Plan and Implementation

At last month's meeting the Flathead County Spay and Neuter Task Force (SNTF) discussed their concerns with the volume of both feral and abandoned house cats at the landfill. The Board wanted to discuss the item and potentially take action if warranted. Staff has discussed the issue with Cliff Bennett, Shelter Director, Flathead County Animal Shelter and the Flathead County Commission. Paul Charbonneau, Flathead County Animal Warden, also has been consulted on the proposed trapping plan. The draft plan is included in the board packet for review.

Staff has concerns about allowing the volunteers from the SNTF to perform the trapping. They are proposing to be on-site at all times the trapping is occurring. From a liability aspect staff can't recommend we allow them to perform the activity. They have said they can provide insurance certificates that do meet the County's required level of liability insurance. They would also need to supply workers compensation coverage and auto liability coverage. Allowing volunteers to be active on the site when County staff (landfill, animal control or animal shelter) can perform the job is not necessary. Our operations are, in essence, dangerous and the fewer people our employees need to be concerned with, the better.

Our personnel will be able to check the traps regularly through the course of a day and we will call a primary contact for the SNTF to have them come on-site and remove the cat(s) from the traps. There also is the possibility that non-target animals, primarily skunks, may also be trapped. The Animal Wardens will need to be utilized if that occurs but with trapping during daylight hours that potential is low.

*There were general discussions among the Board regarding appropriate outside temperatures, not wanting the cats be brought back after alterations and whether the traps that were purchased were the ones recommended by the Spay & Neuter Clinic.*

*Hank opened up comments from the public for this topic.*

*Valerie Stewart asked what will happen with the cat(s) between the time they are trapped and picked up. Dave stated he doesn't anticipate too much time transpiring between being trapped and picked up. Staff was asked to create a shelter for the trapped animals during cold, wet weather.*

*There were concerns raised about trapping during cold weather and not leaving the animals confined for too long of time. Also, setting up feeding stations so the cats are used to confined areas and easier to trap. The spay & neuter clinic would supply food if necessary.*

*The general consensus of the group was the proposed cat trapping plan is acceptable. They are happy with the outcome and are here to assist where needed.*

*Mayre Flowers also updated the Board with the WasteNot Project.*

*Matt O'Connell from Evergreen Disposal stated that he is leaving Montana to take a job in California. He stated that Chad Bauer will be taking his place in January. Matt will bring Chad by to introduce him to Dave and Jim.*

**Hank Olson asked for a motion to approve the Cat Removal Procedures and direct staff to implement the plan at the earliest time possible to coincide with the next SNTF event. Bill Shaw moved to approve the Cat Removal Procedures as written. Greg Action seconded. Motion passed.**

b. Cancellation of December Board Meeting

The District's business is in sufficient order so that if the Board desires to cancel the December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting doing so will not jeopardize landfill operations. The next meeting would be held on January 25, 2011 at 5 p.m.

**John Helton moved to cancel the December 23, 2010 Board Meeting. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.**

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Project – Highway 2 East

Kyle DeMars, Maintenance Chief for Montana Department of Transportation (MDT), sent two emails with potential contacts with Martin Marietta Materials that are included in the packet. They are the owners of the Red Rock Pit property along Highway 2 in the Canyon. MDT is also in need of a lease for their existing operations at the pit. Kyle informed staff that they are removing a large pile of waste materials and that from their point of view the opportunity for the District to install a container site would most likely be acceptable with MDT. We don't know if the District could obtain a sub-lease from MDT or have to deal directly with Martin Marietta for a lease. If this does proceed forward it will most likely be beneficial for the District, with some potential help from the other lessee's, to install some kind of gate system for MDT, Schellinger and the District to control the flow of people into the various site areas and minimize unwanted action on the other properties.

b. Phase 4A Excavation and 2010 North and East Slope Phase 1 Landfill Closure Project

Noble Excavating and their surveying subcontractor have not provided us with their final invoice for the project. They are close to finalizing a close-out invoice after receiving the survey from the subcontractor to calculating the final quantities. When the invoice is provided and approved by the engineer, staff will provide a final accounting of the project.

SWT has been drafting the closure report for submittal to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The report will have multiple sections and provide as-builts of the construction and the required soils testing from start to finish. Fraser Consulting and NTL are providing multiple sections and then the report will be finalized and stamped by Mike Cullinane with SWT. The report should be ready for submittal by the end of December. The District will be looking for the DEQ to provide us with a notice officially closing the area from landfill operations.

c. County Ordinance No. 8

Staff worked with Wendy Ostrom-Price on her short segment on KOFI radio about the littering issue. The two - three minute spots aired on November 18 and 19. We have also worked with the Bee Broadcasting group to continue airing our "secure or cover your load" ads that air on seven of Bee Broadcastings radio stations. Staff also discussed with Joe Russell at the City/County Health Department the idea of sharing in the costs of the radio ads. Joe said he would take it to the Health Board for their input.

Staff requested information from Justice of Peace David Ortley on the fines levied for the litter violations. Montana Highway Patrol told us they had issued seven tickets since January 1, 2010. Judge Ortley said they were for lighted materials being thrown out of the vehicle. There is an email exchange with Judge Ortley included in the board packet discussing the issue of the state litter law and the County's Ordinance No. 8 requiring covered or secured loads.

d. FCSWD Strategic Plan

SWT Engineers have completed the revisions 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. Other modifications occurred based upon the Board's input and staffs review. All modifications were shown in "red line" format to facilitate an easier review.

The Board received the revision via email on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Staff has reproduced the pages and appendices that replace the previous version you received. If the board could bring their notebooks to the meeting staff will replace the modified sections and appendices and return them as soon as possible.

If the Board would like to proceed forward with the Strategic Plan we could post the document on the Solid Waste website for the public to view. After that, the Board could review any comments and provide direction to staff on their desires to modify or approve the plan as drafted.

e. Fiscal Year 2010 Volumetric Report for Landfill Operations

SWT Engineers has completed the volumetric report for the Landfill. The report is inclusive for wastes received from July 11, 2009 to July 9, 2010. In that time period, the landfill received 92,515 tons of waste. Cover soil usage totaled 28,450 cubic yards for a refuse to soil ratio of 4.1:1. The industry standard is 3:1 and also where the site "balances" for our projected life span meaning the potential need to purchase soil at the end of the operating life is low, assuming operations continue with this ratio.

The calculations show a net refuse density of 1,588 pounds per cubic yard and an effective density (total refuse filled divided by gross airspace consumed (refuse and soil)) of 1,276 pounds per cubic yard. The industry standard for refuse density is 1,200 pounds per cubic yard. Effective density is a better number to track since gross airspace utilized is what we are managing. This is a 14.5% increase in effective density over last year's number. Overall refuse settlement helps increase this number as the height of the fill increases the overburden causes consolidation increasing the effective density. When we start on the new liner next year the number will most likely return to the 1,000 to 1,100 pounds per cubic yard range.

It should be noted that our monthly average disposal tonnage decreased 8.9% during this review period and the North Area Landfill has 3.35 million cubic yards of remaining airspace or 23 years assuming NO change in tonnage occurs. The South Area Landfill has over 18 million cubic yards of airspace available.

f. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>October</u>
Total MSW to landfill	8,145.23
Total Appliances Collected	558
Junk Vehicles Collected	5
Truck Trips to Container Sites	440
Refuse tons/trip	7.23

The District landfilled 1.5% less waste in October, 2010 as compared to October, 2009 and our refuse trucks hauled 4.9% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Through October, 2010 (33% through the year) we have received \$319,696.48 (37.6% 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 wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Alan Ruby is pleased with the outcome of the cat issue. He also thanked Jim Chilton for the landfill tour prior to the meeting.

Jim Dupont praised Jim Chilton for taking care of complaints from the public concerning the Columbia Falls container site.

Alan Ruby also mentioned that someone came to him with a request to grade the Coram site entrance.

Bill Shaw stated that the Columbia Falls container site looks much better since the full time attendant has been there.

8. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.**