

**Approved at the March 15, 2011 meeting.**

Flathead County Solid Waste District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 22, 2011 – **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; Wayne Miller, Board of Health and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: John Helton, Member at Large.

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

Attendees: Mayre Flowers, Bob Morrow, Bill Berg, Chris Hyatt and Don Connors

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

3. Comments from public

Chris Hyatt from Habitat for Humanity; Introduced himself and stated the mission of Habitat for Humanity. He said they are interested in using the old Adanac Kennel building as a drop off spot for useable construction items. He stated he thinks it would be a convenient drop off center and help divert some construction debris coming into the landfill. He said they take pride in keeping everything neat and organized; don't allow "dumping" to give a positive perception. He asked the Board to add the proposal to next month's agenda.

Mayre Flowers distributed brochures to the Board. They consisted of a Litter brochure from North Carolina, Recycling calendar for Flathead County, Pharmaceutical drop off program and Littering campaign proposal for Flathead County.

Mayre asked the Boards direction regarding the littering campaign. She asked if the proposed slogan/key message "Littering is Wrong and it's Illegal" is acceptable. She stated she would like to push back the implementation of the campaign to May as she has several projects this spring that will be taking up time and resources. She also outlined the costs and who pays for what regarding the campaign. Alan Ruby asked if she has considered applying for a grant from Roundup for Safety from the Flathead Electric Cooperative. She stated she hasn't but will look into it.

Wayne Miller stated that time is of the essence and the billboard project wouldn't take up much of her time. Jim Chilton reiterated that the leases are up on the billboards in March, so he would like to have something ready in order to reserve/lease a couple of them.

Hank Olson acknowledged Don Connors (a recently retired Solid Waste employee). Don stated he has been a 22 year member of the Solid Waste workforce and will be attending meetings from time to time.

Bob Morrow – Valley Recycling; Updated the Board regarding a new recycling program they hope to implement this summer. They have purchased a new bailer which will be delivered in June. They hope to start curb service recycling beginning with businesses and include residential recycling as time goes by.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for January 25, 2011 - **Action Required**

**Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of January 25, 2011 meeting. Wayne Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

5. Action Agenda

a. Two Year Contract Extension for SWT Engineering – **Action Required**

SWT Engineering and their partners, SCS Engineers, CH2MHill and Fraser Management Consulting are nearing the completion of their three year contract with the District to provide on-call engineering services. Mike Cullinane, P.E., is the president of the Company and our project manager. Mike has been the District's engineer for over ten years and has provided excellent service with his previous employer and now through his own firm. SWT provided a letter detailing their major accomplishments over this contract period which is included in your packet. They also provide ancillary services to the District for smaller issues and projects.

Their service to the District has been excellent and their experience is a major reason for our success in operations and with our regulatory community. SWT has also agreed to maintain their 2010 rates for the extension. Staff recommends their contract is extended.

*The Board held discussions regarding costs associated with the contract, and given the economic times if we went out for another round of Request for Qualifications, the costs for an engineering firm would come in lower. Dave Prunty stated that the RFQs do not include costs, but only "qualifications" of the engineering firm(s). Costs come into play while negotiating with the firm selected. SWT has helped the District tremendously with the regulatory body at DEQ who considers us the "best run landfill" in the state.*

**Greg Acton moved to authorize the Public Works Director to execute the first two year extension for the contract for on-call engineering services with SWT Engineers. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.**

6. Director's Report

a. County Ordinance No. 8

Staff has been in contact with Jace Olson from Lamar, the company owning many of the billboards around the County. We have been looking at boards in the Hwy 2 corridor north of Kalispell and into the canyon along with boards in the Hwy 93 corridors south of Kalispell.

Prices vary by area and direction of travel (inbound or outbound) from the area. A price list is included in the board packet.

Also, we have continued to run the radio ads. We are currently paying \$600 per month but we have reduced the number of plays per day. We have paid as high as \$1,200 per month but there were many more spots being played.

*Dave estimated the cost for a billboard would be \$3,600 - \$5,600 depending on size of billboard. Dave stated that we are still negotiating with the Health Department on sharing costs.*

*There were discussions regarding which location(s) would be best/available, wording/image on the ad and how to verify if this kind of campaign is working.*

*Wayne would like to get this implemented as soon as possible.*

*Jim Dupont stated that he has conversed with John Hendricks of KGEZ radio who is interested in discussing "county business" (including Solid Waste issues/events) on his broadcast several times per month.*

b. Container Site Consolidation – Highway 2 East

Staff has been in contact with Neil Grant with Martin Marietta Materials (MMM) who own the Red Rock Pit property in the Hwy 2 corridor north of Essex. Their property is about 65 acres and is north of the Schellinger gravel operation. Staff has discussed two areas that interest the District for purchase where a container site could be located. MMM would prefer that our site is located at the northern point of their property. See photos included in your packet. They recently had an appraisal done on their property that valued the land at \$12,300/acre. Mr. Grant agrees that their northern boundary has some unusable ground due to the configuration and that it would be prudent for another appraisal if this area was to be divided off and sold to the District. Staff has also made them aware of the laws we work with when it comes to the purchase of property. Most likely the District will end up paying the cost for the appraisal.

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has also been in discussions with MMM. MDT has said that they would prefer the District is in the northern area also to minimize any problems with our customers and their site and equipment. It also would remove us from the entrance that Schellinger uses for the gravel pit. MDT said that an approach permit would most likely be acceptable to them for a site in the northern parcel.

It is staff's recommendation that we pursue this property. We will discuss this option with the Commissioners on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Any land purchase will need to be approved by them before the District can secure the property. We will need to wait for the snow to melt to totally assess the viability of the property but it appears at this time to be acceptable for a site to be constructed.

*There were discussions regarding closing the site during the winter months. The Board also discussed arranging another meeting with the residents before getting too far into negating a*

*sale. The hope is that the residents would be supportive as the other option on the table was to eliminate all container sites in the area.*

c. Phase IV-A Groundwater Protection System

SWT Engineers has prepared the construction documents for the Phase IV-A liner installation. A mandatory pre-bid meeting was held at the landfill on February 11, 2011. Twelve different contractors attended the meeting and viewed a power-point presentation SWT prepared due to the snow cover in the construction area. Bids are due on March 4, 2011. The engineers estimate for the project is between \$1.2 million and \$1.5 million, depending on some additive alternates that may or may not be awarded.

The project is approximately four acres of liner with a construction completion date of July 31<sup>st</sup>. Weather will be very dependent on the completion date but the sooner the project is complete the earlier waste placement will start. This will greatly reduce the volume of leachate generated if the floor portion of the liner is covered in waste. Staff will have a recommendation for the award at the March 15, 2011 board meeting.

d. Mobile Home Disposal Charges at Landfill

After many months the County Attorney's Office was able to direct staff on the new laws regarding the creation of "Districts" like the Solid Waste District. After their review they believe we do not have to recreate the District just to change the fee we charge for the disposal of mobile homes. When we change our assessment we will need to go through this process.

Months ago we discussed changing the disposal fee from a cost per ton to a flat fee for mobile homes. Our issue is that regularly the mobiles wheel base is too large to fit on our scale so we take one weight and double it. The mobile is also still on the hitch of the truck which also will have a bearing on the correct weight of the mobile.

After reviewing some previous disposal records and checking with the mobile home manufacturers, we believe that a flat disposal fee of \$300 is fair to both the customer and the District. We are recycling the frames of the mobiles so we are able to completely compact the material after it is removed from the frame.

Next month we will need to pass a Resolution of Intent to change the fee schedule to include a flat fee for mobile homes. The Board would then give notice and hold a hearing, then pass a resolution adopting the fee subject to County Commissioner approval. The Commissioners, assuming they agree, would go through a similar process, starting with a resolution of intention, but they are not required to hold a public hearing unless 50% of the residential units in the district protest. Once the time for protest passes, or a public hearing is held after 50% protest, the Commissioners could adopt a resolution approving the fee change.

e. Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Budget Preparation

The County has begun the work to prepare the next fiscal year budget. Early indications from the Commissioner's office are there will be no additional FTE's and a "hold the line" spending

direction. The Solid Waste budget will likely be reduced in the coming year since no large construction projects are anticipated.

Staff will have a preliminary budget for the Boards review in March and the final budget for April meeting.

f. FCSWD Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan has been placed on the District's website for download. The Daily Interlake ran a story on the plan in late January. We have received a few phone calls on the plan and one written comment (included in your packet). All comments were regarding the location of a new landfill and were requesting that it not be placed by Flathead Lake. The Plan eliminated all of the sites but two. They are immediately adjacent to the current landfill in our southwest corner or just across Prairie View Road on land owned by Hank Galpin. It appears that the citizens did not look or read the plan but relied on information in the newspaper article.

Stoltze Timber also called to discuss their land that was discussed as a possibility. After explaining to their General Manager that the search criteria was for areas that were 500 acres or larger and that all their property was eliminated from consideration, they said they would convey that information to anyone who called their office.

g. Refuse Operations

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

|                                | <u>January</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Total MSW to landfill          | 6,730.03       |
| Total Appliances Collected     | 325            |
| Junk Vehicles Collected        | 2              |
| Truck Trips to Container Sites | 403            |
| Refuse tons/trip               | 6.13           |

The District landfilled 22.2% MORE waste in January, 2011 as compared to January, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 0.2% MORE waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Through January, 2011 (58% through the year) we have received \$493,005 (58% of budget). The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream. Four larger demolition jobs occurred in January that greatly increased our gate revenue for the month.

Pacific Steel and Recycling was the high bidder on the appliance crushing. The District will receive \$208/ton. The total weight hauled to the recycling facility was 639.11 tons and will generate \$132,935 in revenue.

h. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board

7. Comments from Board Members

Greg Acton stated that he supports gating and staffing the new Essex site right away.

Hank Olson stated that the “Goals” in the 2011 Landfill Report need updating. He would also like to update (if necessary) the By-Laws at the same time. He asked that it be added to the agenda next month.

The Board members were reminded that the next meeting will be March 15<sup>th</sup>.

8. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.**