

Approved at the March 25, 2008 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 26, 2008 – **5:00 pm**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Bill Shaw, Vice Chair; Greg Acton, City of Whitefish and Dale Lauman, County Commissioner. Absent: Nancy Askew, Board of Health and John Helton, Member at Large.

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

Attendee: Roger Benson.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank conducted the roll call.

3. Comments from public

Roger Benson from Somers addressed the Board. His letter, which was provided to the Board, outlines an alleged assault that occurred on January 18, 2008 by a scavenger at the Somers container site. He added that while he was attempting to unload his trash, this person was digging through his truck before he could get it unloaded. The person became aggressive when Mr. Benson asked him to stop. He stated that he has filed a report with the Sheriff's Office and intends to press charges. He requested that the Board post "No Scavenging" signs at the sites and urges the Board to adopt a policy of no scavenging. He also suggests that the sites be patrolled occasionally to help deter scavenging.

Hank thanked Mr. Benson for his report and explained that it will not be discussed at tonight's meeting, but the matter will be looked into.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2008 - **Action Required**

Dale Lauman moved to adopt the minutes for January 22, 2008 meeting. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Interview Committee for Member-At-Large Board Position – **Action Required**

With the resignation of Nathan Sande from one of the Member-At-Large positions for the Board of Directors, staff placed an ad in the Daily Interlake asking for interested persons to send a letter to the District. We received four letters of interest. The Solid Waste Board will make a recommendation to the Flathead County Commissioners who will make the final decision on a new member.

Hank Olson and Dale Lauman excused themselves from the interview committee. Hank served on the Kalispell City Council with one of the candidates and Dale is a County Commissioner who will be involved in making the final decision. Bill Shaw and Greg Acton were chosen to represent the Board for the interview committee. Dave will call Nancy Askew and John Helton to establish which of them will also serve on the interview committee.

Dale Lauman made a motion to create a three member interview committee to review and interview the potential candidates for the open Member-At-Large position for the Flathead County Solid Waste District and report back to the District Board with a recommendation. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.

b. Relocation of the Kila Container Site and Closure of the Marion Container Site– **Action Required**

The Board directed staff at the last meeting to prepare an action item for the work we have been discussing regarding the Kila and Marion Container Sites. Many issues surround these two sites for the District.

First are the safety constraints of the Kila Site. We have been unable to purchase more land from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contiguous with our current site. The current site is too small to handle the volume of use it receives and can't be fenced and gated as our other large volume sites have been over the last four years. The Kila Site is the third busiest site for our refuse trucks handling about 12.4% of the refuse.

The Marion Site, while one of our better sites, generates approximately 3.5% to 4% of the wastes hauled by our trucks. Its volumes are higher in the summer as compared to the winter as with most sites. The expense to operate this site is estimated at \$72,500 per year. This is the marginal cost difference between all the refuse going to the Kila site versus operating both sites as is currently occurring.

The engineer's estimate to construct a larger site just south of the existing Kila site totals \$283,900. This site would be 150 feet x 300 feet and have approximately 70 – 4 yd containers. An appliance recycling area and blue box recycling area are also planned. The payback for this modification is calculated between 3.5 years to 4 years. The new site will also be fenced, gated with a night security light and be able to have hours of operations.

Staff asked the Flathead County Planning and Zoning Department to provide population growth information for these two areas. BJ Grieve, Assistant Director, provided some information that is included in your packet. Both areas are growing at a sizeable population increase but the Kila area has seen a larger percentage increase. The Marion area has seen more subdivision growth since 1990 as compared to Kila.

Over the course of five years of working on these two containers sites, Dave has heard from citizens on both sides of this issue. Most folks like the container sites and do not want to lose one. However, he has talked with many residents that live close to the Kila site and are unhappy with our operations and believe we are not a “good” neighbor. Staff believes that these improvements will be beneficial to our hauling operations by providing a safe, secure and more user and environmentally friendly site.

This item is not currently budgeted for this fiscal year. If approved, any project work will likely occur in the fall of 2008 or into the spring of 2009.

Dave suggested conducting a public meeting to help educate the public on the reasoning for this decision.

Greg Acton moved to direct staff to budget funds to plan for the expansion of the Kila Container Site in fiscal year 2009 and prepare to close the Marion Container Site when the new Kila Site is operational. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed

c. Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for General Engineering Services – **Action Required**

A RFQ/P was requested by the District for our general engineering services. Responses were due on January 31st, 2008. Three firms provided responses to our request. Bryan A. Stirrat and Associates (BAS) who has been performing these services for the District for the last seven years, PBS&J and SWT Engineering a newly formed engineering company by three former members of BAS.

This consultant will be the engineer of record for the District and our solid waste operations. It is important that the selected consultant be able to provide the District with experienced solid waste engineering and permitting services. This contract is for a three year period with the possibility to extend the contract for two 2 year periods.

After a review and scoring of the submitted RFQ/P from Jim Chilton, Operations Manager and Dave Prunty, we are recommending that the District enter into a contract with SWT Engineering for this contract. Mr. Mike Cullinane, who was our project manager when he was with BAS, is the principle for this new company. Mike was the team leader when he was with BAS and knows our solid waste system better than any of the other firms. He has assembled a team of nationally known solid waste firms as sub-consultants that can provide excellent services to the District. SCS Engineers/Field Services/Energy will be utilized for the landfill gas work and CH2MHill (Spokane office) will be utilized for landfill final cover

design (alternative cover caps) and liner construction quality assurance work. Mr. Mike Fraser of Fraser Management Consultants, formerly of TD&H, Inc., Kalispell office, will perform construction management services and be available for small projects as needed. All of these consultants are extremely qualified to perform their directed tasks along with many other potential services the District may need in the future.

Dale Lauman moved to award RFQ/P No. SW2007-2 to SWT Engineering and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the contract. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Flathead Electric Coop (FEC) request for Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) was approved by the Internal Revenue Service. This allows FEC to construct a landfill gas to energy facility with interest free money. This significantly increases the financial ability of the project to be successful and should decrease the payback period of the project.

FEC has hired SCS Engineers to perform some preliminary project calculations that will generate an estimated capital cost and also an operational cost that will determine the total operating and maintenance costs. FEC will be interested in the overall final cost per kW of this energy source. This will help them to determine if the project is viable at this time. Their Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on February 29th, 2008 to discuss and potentially make a decision if to proceed on this project.

Negotiations between FEC and the District should be starting after this work is completed.

b. Prescription and Over-the Counter (OTC) Drug Take Back Program

As requested by the Board last month, staff contacted solid waste program officials in Bozeman and Gallatin County. It was believed that they may be currently running a program in Gallatin County. After discussing this issue with the Gallatin County Landfill Manager and the City of Bozeman Solid Waste Superintendent, we were unable to confirm such a program is running.

Jim Chilton has made contact with officials at Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) to inquire as to their disposal program. They showed interest in our program and a possible teaming arrangement, but we were unable to get much further than that.

Staff did find out that the Flathead County Sheriff's office is transporting controlled substances to KRMC for disposal.

The Board packet contains a letter of support from the Flathead Basin Commission regarding our potential program. They will be studying the shallow groundwater systems in the valley to determine if any contamination for both prescription and OTC medications has occurred.

Dave has requested a proposal from Veolia Environmental Services, who is our household and small business hazardous waste contractor, to provide an initial one day event for this project. They will also provide estimated costs for disposal based upon their experience in previously held events and volumes received. They are not permitted to handle any controlled substances. However, their company is currently working on their ability to include this waste product in the future.

c. Auction of 2000 Volvo-Wittke Refuse Truck

On February 20, 2008 staff held an auction to sell the above refuse truck. Four private businesses attended the auction. The truck was valued at \$57,550 by a third party independent business here in the valley. By state law, the opening bid was 90% of the value or \$51,795. The truck was sold to North Lincoln Sanitation in Eureka, MT for \$53,000.

When we purchased the refuse truck that replaced this vehicle we asked the bidders to give us the trade-in value in the bid. They offered \$35,505 for trade-in for an increase for the District of \$17,495. There was approximately 15 hours of staff time to prepare this vehicle for the auction.

d. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>January</u>
Total MSW to Landfill	7,440.32
Total Appliances Collected	713
Junk Vehicles Collected	4
Truck Trips to Landfill	506
Refuse tons/trip	6.34

e. District Financial Statements

Dave reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Dale Lauman: Everything is running well and thanked the management team on doing a great job.

Bill Shaw: Asked if Dave and Jim will be looking into Mr. Benson's situation. Dave stated that there have been other instances of fights, mostly between the scavengers themselves that the Sheriff has responded in the past. We are not able to do anything legally and the Sheriff's Office struggles with this as well.

Hank Olson: Suggested Dave call and inquire as to the cost for a security company to patrol some of the sites. Dave stated that he will look into it, but a security company would not be able to enforce anything. Currently there is no law on the books to prevent scavenging at the sites.

Dale Lauman: Will talk with the other commissioners to see if they can come up with a solution.

Greg Acton: Concerned about the liability for the District at the sites by allowing scavenging.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.