

## Approved at the May 28, 2013 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 23, 2013 – 3:00 p.m.  
Landfill Office

### 1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Greg Acton, Vice Chair; Lorin Lowry, City of Columbia Falls; Gary Krueger, County Commissioner; Wayne Miller, Board of Health. Absent: John Helton, Member at Large and Alan Ruby, Member at Large.

District Staff present: Public Works Director Dave Prunty and Recording Secretary Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Scott Mason, Robert Crabtree, Kim & Jera Schwegel and Mayre Flowers.

### 2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that John Helton and Alan Ruby were absent.

### 3. Comments from public

There were no comments from the public.

### 4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers reported the first of the school presentation and landfill tours will start this Thursday and Friday. She stated there are 15 schools participating this year which is slightly higher than last year.

Hank Olson asked if the Board Members could tag along for some of the tours. Mayre asked that she be given advanced notice when they want to attend so she can accommodate. The Board was given the school tour schedule.

Mayre also updated the Board on the community recycling project. The first event this year will be the Spartan Event on May 11<sup>th</sup>. They will use the container from the Fairgrounds with modified lids.

Mayre stated that she is in contact with the Montana Department of Highways to ascertain how much trash is collected during the Adopt A Highway cleanups around the valley.

### 5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2013 - **Action Required**

**Lorin Lowry moved to adopt the minutes of April 2, 2013. Wayne Miller seconded. Motion passed.**

6. Action Agenda

a. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget for Solid Waste and Junk Vehicle – **Action Required**

Staff has prepared the preliminary budgets for Solid Waste and Junk Vehicle Departments. Please note these numbers may be modified by the Commissioners after the board meeting as the County continues the budget process.

The Solid Waste budget is anticipating \$8,320,963 in revenue. The majority of revenue (\$4.8 million) is generated from the assessment system paid by the residents and businesses. The gate revenue projection will be \$800,000 (up \$50,000 from the current year) and recycling revenue is forecast at \$134,300, mainly from the metals program. There is also a transfer in from the trusts totaling \$2,471,800.

Expenses for the coming fiscal year are anticipated to be \$8,425,269. The District is NOT requesting any additional personnel in the upcoming budget year. Staff is recommending a transfer to the lined cell lateral expansion trust of \$600,000, which includes approximately \$500,000 from depreciation and \$100,000 direct cash deposit. The land purchase trust is planned at \$700,000 for future land acquisitions for the Landfill. This money could also be used for a container site land purchase if necessary. The LFGTE improvement trust will again be funded at \$30,000, with Flathead Electric matching that amount, and the closure/post-closure trust will receive \$600,000 as has been done in the past. **The only substantial modification from the preliminary budget reviewed by the Board at the last meeting was an increase in expense of \$80,000 for the repair of the north stormwater pond liner.**

The Junk Vehicle budget is anticipating \$129,177 in revenue. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provides funding for this department through a grant. Monies are generated through the licensing of motor vehicles in Flathead County.

Expenses are estimated at \$129,177 for the program. There has been a significant reduction in the volume of work for this program the last few years. In years past the District would haul 300 to 400 vehicles in a year. Currently, with the increase in scrap metal value the vehicles are now worth hauling for the revenue generated on the scrap so we are down to 20 to 30 vehicles in a year as the vehicle owners and salvage companies take advantage of this value. In previous years the District kept any remaining unspent money and transferred it to the Capital Improvement Program budget line item but DEQ recently changed that decision. Now any remaining money at the end of the year will adjust the revenue received for the next fiscal year up to the total of the grant, with DEQ retaining the excess funding for the program.

**Lorin Lowry made the motion to recommend approval of the budgets as presented for the Flathead County Solid Waste District and Junk Vehicle Program by the Flathead County Commission for fiscal year 2013-2014. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.**

7. Director's Report

a. Groundwater Corrective Actions Evaluation

Scott Mason with Hydrometrics, our groundwater hydrogeologist, is at the meeting to discuss the evaluation recently prepared by Hydrometrics and sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The report, which was included in the

Board packet, discusses our corrective actions for the groundwater contamination from the unlined portion of the old landfill.

*A copy of a memorandum from Scott Mason and Carlo Arendt from Hydrometrics Inc. was distributed to the Board regarding the Background and Update on Groundwater Contamination and Corrective Action Effectiveness Evaluation. The memo outlines the timeline of corrective actions from 1993 through present; summarizing the facts, figures and maps in the report.*

*It was concluded that the spikes in contamination detection are in sync with precipitation levels and Scott anticipates we'll see spikes off and on in the future.*

b. Landfill Expansion Project

Mike Pence, County Administrator, Tara Fugina, Chief Deputy County Attorney, and staff met with five property owners, with two more meetings pending, in the southwest corner and the owners from SkyAir. So far all the parties have been interested in the sale of their properties in the immediate future. A couple have discussed being “underwater” on their mortgage but they are analyzing the difference between the amount owed and the ability to make other arrangements to pay back the bank after the County purchases the property with the mortgage money they would be saving.

The “lease back” or more correctly named the “retainer of rights to occupy” appears to be very important to the residents we have met with in the southwest corner. The “retainer”, which is allowed by statutes within the Montana Code Annotated (MCA), would allow the citizens to stay on the property after the County completes the purchase but allows the County to forgo the issues with a landlord/tenant agreement. The citizens would be allowed to stay on the property as long as they didn't do any illegal activities and the District would not be required to act as a Landlord regarding repairs and the like.

It is anticipated that the Commissioners will be making a final decision in the immediate future as to which parcel(s) the County would move forward with.

*Gary Krueger was pleased with the response from the neighbors so far and praised Dave's efforts mediating with the property owners. Dave said there are a few neighbors who are underwater in their mortgages and are analyzing their options.*

*There was general discussion regarding residents continuing to occupy their homes for a period of time as well as taking the dwelling and/or stripping the property to take with them when they leave as the homes will be destroyed after they are vacated.*

c. Olney Container Site Construction

The construction project is currently in the bidding phase. Bids are due on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff will have the award on the agenda for the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board.

*Dave reported he spoke with an attorney in Whitefish who was contacted by a neighbor of the Olney site. They were fact finding in order to decide if there was a justifiable case.*

d. Recycling Program Request Proposals (RFP)

The RFP for recycling services has been advertised in the paper and emailed to the companies here in the County who are potentially interested in responding. We moved back the due date to April 19<sup>th</sup> to give the respondents acceptable time to work on their proposals. Staff, along with our engineer from SWT Engineering, will be reviewing and conducting interviews with the firms in the immediate future. Staff hopes to provide a summary review at the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting for the Board of Directors so a firm can be chosen for the seven year contract. If the Board desires the decision can be delayed until the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting so members can discuss the results at the May meeting.

*Dave reported that the District received one proposal from Valley Recycling. He said we are in the process of developing a spreadsheet to outline the costs which will be e-mail it to the Board members for their review. Dave stated if we stayed status quo it will cost the District \$193,504.08 per year to continue recycling. There are other options included in the bid which would reduce the pickup locations therefore reducing the overall cost. This is something that the Board needs to analyze and decide how to proceed.*

*There were discussions that included potentially raising the landfill fee to offset the cost of recycling. Other options are to cut or eliminate the service. The Board has decided to continue discussing the issue at the May meeting and move forward in June.*

e. Billboards for Highway Litter Awareness

The District, along with funding support from the City-County Health Department, purchased a billboard along Highway 93 south of Kalispell to raise awareness of the highway litter issue and the resulting fines possible for transporting an unsecured load to the landfill or container sites. The initial contract was for a two year period that expired on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The new contract was reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and will be executed when approved by them.

We are changing the billboard to the west side of Highway 93S, directly across from the current location. The new location is facing oncoming traffic on the same side of the road and is illuminated. The Health Board met on April 18<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Miller will give the Board an update on funding help from the Health Board. The two-year contract totals \$7,200. The Health Department contributed \$3,000 for the previous contract.

*Wayne Miller stated that the Board of Health is struggling with its decision to contribute funds again for this contract as they aren't convinced litter awareness conveyed this way is working.*

*There were discussions of various Board members traveling through neighboring counties and observing other counties have less litter along their roadsides. Dave stated it has a lot to do with how waste is handled overall. Waste is transported differently in some of the surrounding counties which helps contribute to the lack of roadside litter.*

*Other discussions included the efforts of the Flathead County Sheriff's Office and its effectiveness. It was decided that Wayne will compose a letter to the Sheriff's Department asking for a litter enforcement plan to be outlined by the Department. Also, continued efforts of the landfill scale house personnel to remind people to secure loads, as well as tracking how well the loads are secured when brought to the landfill.*

f. Refuse Operations

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

<u>March</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	6,930.86
Total Appliances Collected	484
Junk Vehicles Collected	0
Truck Trips to Container Sites	436
Refuse tons/trip	6.33

The District landfilled 9.2% more waste in March, 2013 as compared to March, 2012 and our refuse trucks hauled 2.8% more waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2013 was projected to be \$750,000. Through March the gate has generated \$664,195.94 or 88.6% of revenue through 75% of the fiscal year. Last year at this time the gate had generated \$564,086.54 for eight months of FY2012.

g. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board.

8. Comments from Board Members

Greg Acton commented that he went to a conference in Helena this month and concurs that neighboring county's roadsides are a lot cleaner than Flathead.

Lorin Lowry went to the same conference as Greg and he is in agreement with Greg's comment.

Dave Prunty discussed the letter from the City of Columbia Falls which Lorin Lowry brought to the meeting in regard to their request to change the hours at the Columbia Falls container site. Dave said he will add it as an agenda item for discussion at the May meeting, but stated that changing the hours at the site would not be congruent with landfill operations. The letter cites the city has noticed increased random waste dumping in city-owned areas which they've had to deal with. Dave also offered to address the issue with the Columbia Falls City Council if they would like.

Hank Olson asked Dave for edification on the green box site rules.

9. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.**