

Approved at the May 27, 2008 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
April 22, 2008 – **2:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Marion site: about 64 people. Kila site: there were no attendees.

Landfill office: Edmund Fitzgerald, George Honroth, Matt O'Connell, Robert Morrow, Turner Askew, Theresa Napier, Todd Napier, Judy Stevens, Glen Stevens, Deann McCarroll, Carol Ambrogini, Thelma Fox, Ernest Thyreno, Ray Lehmann, A V Salyer, Sharon Salyer, Don Connors, Peter Gross, Tod O'Connell, Pat O'Connell, Gene Cordell, Randy Augusta, Christopher Saucier, Mach Stevens, Susan Snyder, Dan Hanolin, Nance Hanolin, Gerald Monk, D Vargas, Bob Fisher, Nancy Krause, Curt Vail.

a. Board Members tour the Kila and Marion green box sites

The Flathead County Solid Waste District Board Meeting began at 2 p.m. at the landfill office with Board Members touring the Kila and Marion green box sites. The Board arrived at the Marion site around 2:30 p.m. and continued to the Kila site.

Dave addressed the people who had gathered at the Marion site stating the Board is here to tour the site.

Hank Olson addressed the crowd thanking them for showing up.

There were comments from various people in the crowd after which people broke up into separate groups having conversations with the Board members and staff.

The Board members left the Marion site around 3:10 and traveled on to the Kila site arriving at 3:25.

Board members toured the Kila site and walked down the path to view the proposed area for the new Kila site.

Board members left the Kila site around 3:45 and continued onto the landfill office.

5:00 p.m. Commence the regularly scheduled meeting at the landfill office

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson called the meeting to order at 4:57 p.m. and stated that the tour was successful and gave the Board members a greater understanding and also introduced new Board member Alan Ruby.

3. Comments from public

- Todd Napier – Bitterroot Road. Wanted a copy of the handout map. And why are you considering closing the Marion site?
- AV Salyer – Lost Prairie Road. He figures 600 to 700 people per week use the site. It might be a cost savings to the District, but it me more costly for individuals. The site was just upgraded and to close it now seems ridiculous.
- Chris Saucier – N Bitterroot Road. It's Earth Day today. He stated the environmental impact of one truck vs having everyone take their trash to Kila is ridiculous and poor decision.
- Peter Gross - Bitterroot Drive. Agrees with what has been said and as suggested at last month's meeting he calculated that there would be about 4000 trips to Kila. He states it's ludicrous to shift the responsibility; waste of fuel. One (*garbage*) truck vs all those individual trips. "It's Earth Day, let's think about the environment". Let's not create a hardship for people.
- Todd O'Connell – Essex. The Essex dumpsters aren't being talked about today, but taxes (within reason) are for taking care of schools, roads and garbage etc. If it takes more money to run the trucks then consider an increase. It is worth the convenience to the people.
- Gerald Monk – Columbia Falls. Feels that there's nothing wrong with people "scrounging" in the dumpsters. He estimates that 100 to 150 tons of trash gets diverted by scroungers. For some people it's a way to make a little bit of money. By shutting it down, people will lose money, 2nd hand stores lose money and antique stores will lose money. He knows people are worried about identity theft, but in his opinion, he has enough problem with his own identity and doesn't want to take someone else's.
- Ernest Thyreno – Kalispell. Stated he is the one that was accused of assault at the Somers site in January. He acknowledges that he did lose his temper that day, but he didn't threaten Mr. Benson or assault him and will not be charged. The worse thing he's done is getting a traffic ticket. He scavenges at the sites in order to make extra money to support the cost of medication he's taking.
- Judy Stevens – Creston. She doesn't see any harm in taking things that are useable.
- Ray Lehmann – Kalispell. Agrees with what has been said about scavenging. He said it helps divert trash from the landfill and he doesn't bother anybody. He said there is a guy at the Columbia Falls site that dumpster dives after hours when the gate is closed. He is breaking the law.

- Art Vail – Bitterroot Road. Thanked the Board for touring the Marion site and seeing how many people are concerned about it. He said the system that is in place is efficient and if the Marion site were to shut down it would be inefficient for the people of Marion. Marion is growing and you need to look real hard at finding an alternative.
- George Honroth – Kila. He is a disabled Vet that dumpster dives in Kila. He said he helps clean the area and collects things that assist his income. He has witnessed people leaving lumber at the Kila site and has watched people come pick it up and cart it off. He would be willing to sign a liability waiver to keep dumpster diving.
- Dan Hanolin – Bitterroot Cove Court. He asked the Board if what the people are saying is making a difference. People met the Board at the site because they are concerned. Do our opinions make a difference? He asked if they needed to go to a higher authority in order to stop the closure. We out in Marion don't want you to close the site.
- Edmond Fitzgerald – Bigfork. Stated he is the one who published the article in the April 20, Daily Interlake. He outlined many suggestions for dumpster diving. He understands the concern of liability.
- Ray Lehmann – Kalispell. Stated that the garbage around the recycle bins is worse than around the entire sites. They are always dirty.
- Randy Augusta – Kalispell. Asked the Board for written outline on what they are planning to do. He works at Pacific Steel and Recycling and knows how valuable the metals are. He suggested private hauling of metal at the sites, bid it out.
- Sharon Salyer – Lost Prairie Road. Said she lives 23 miles from the Marion site and doesn't want to see more trash thrown along the roads. She said it's reasonable to pick recyclables out of the trash.
- A V Salyer – Lost Prairie Road. Said he would be opposed to contracting out metal pick up at the sites. He stated that everyone would be willing to sign a liability waiver if necessary in order to be able to scavenge.
- Don Connors – Kalispell. Stated he is an employee of the Solid Waste District and offered suggestions that were given him by people he's talked to. They are: a webcam to monitor the site(s); site(s) open limited days per week; an electric gate on a timer to open and close the site(s).
- Judy Stevens – Creston. Likes the suggestion of a waiver of liability for dumpster divers.
- Todd Napier – North Bitterroot Road. Said he didn't realize that dumpster diving was such an issue. Suggested charging for the privilege to dumpster dive. Sign a waiver and receive a badge or certificate. He also voiced his concerns with the highway approaches in the Kila area.

- Peter Gross – Bitterroot Drive. Referring to reported tonnages from the sites was asking the Board which site would be next on the list to close. According to the numbers he was looking at it would be the landfill. (*unsure of source of information used*)
- Kathy Saucier – North Bitterroot Road. She is concerned that this is leading toward giving Evergreen Disposal more business. She stated she has had problems with their billing. Doesn't like the idea.
- Susie Snyder – Somers. Stated she has made a living making art and landscaping out of materials salvaged from the sites. She said a sign warning that the county assumes no liability for injuries should be sufficient.
- Theresa Napier – North Bitterroot Road. Her issue with closing the Marion site is the inconvenience to the seasonal residents in the area.
- Mark Stevens – Lake Blaine. He has been scavenging since 1979. Pointed out that the gates and fences at the sites haven't stopped commercial dumping. Scavenging fills a vital need and if it's not interfering with landfill operations, it should be left alone. He would rather see areas at the sites for tires, batteries and hazardous materials to help keep these things out of the green boxes. He also stated that one garbage truck can haul more trash than "how many" vehicles.
- Gene Cordell – Flathead Drive. He is a disabled Vet who has been dumpster diving for a long time. He stated he hasn't sued anyone. He used to scavenge items from the landfill many years ago and nearly severed his hand; he didn't sue anyone. He sees no problem with liability.
- Todd Napier – North Bitterroot Drive. Commented that he hasn't heard one negative comment about dumpster diving and no one here supports the closing of the sites. Admonishes the board to listen to the public.
- Edmund Fitzgerald – Bigfork. Asked to take a picture of the Board with a camera that came out of the dumpster.

Hank thanked everyone for attending and stating their concerns and opinions.

Dale Lauman excused himself from the meeting at this time.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for March 25, 2008 - **Action Required**

Nancy Askew moved to adopt the minutes for March 25, 2008. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

- a. Request for Qualifications/Proposal for Landfill Gas to Energy Project – **Action Required**

The District received two responses to our RFQ/P for the landfill gas to energy project. Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC) has teamed up SCS Engineers/Energy and Greenfield

Energy, LLC from Liverpool, NY teamed up with Harris Group, Earth Tech, Inc., and PDC Technical Services, Inc.

After reviewing both responses, staff is recommending the District award RFQ/P No. SW 2008-1 to Flathead Electric Cooperative. FEC and their teaming partner provide the District with the best options for a successful project. SCS's experience is vast and specialized. They have more than 25 design or design/construct energy projects from landfills and digester gas and are operating/maintaining 13 power plants that have a total capacity exceeding 28 MW. FEC has also secured the ability to use clean renewable energy bonds (CREBs) to help make the project more financially attractive.

John Helton moved to award RFQ/P No. SW 2008-1 to Flathead Electric Cooperative and authorize the Director to enter negotiations with FEC to continue with the project. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Program for Marion and Kila

Staff has continued to gather information on the potential to consolidate the Marion and Kila container sites into one new site in Kila. During last month's meeting we had many citizens from the Marion area attend the meeting and voice their concerns about closing of the site. One of the issues brought forward was the funding received by the District should be more than enough to operate the container site. The District receives \$87,976 from assessments from residents and a few businesses in school districts 27 and 54. This area encompasses the Marion and Pleasant Valley area (see attached map in your packet). Based upon total expenditures from FY07, 15% from each unit assessed was used for container site operations in the District or \$13,502 of the total revenue from this area. Staff has calculated that the operations of the Marion site total \$72,500 per year.

Staff has included in your packet the breakdown of expenses for each cost center and the corresponding dollar amount of a residential unit charged in the assessment system (\$80.73/unit). We also included bullet points from Board members, Jim and Dave detailing reasons/ideas on this project.

Nancy Askew excused herself from the meeting at this time.

Hank handed out a paper with his comments and reviewed its contents with the Board. He asks "how do we maintain this system?" (Do we) "Raise the fees?" "Eliminate or consolidate the sites?" He further comments; "Why do we need revenue?" "Rising fuel costs", "continual maintenance at the sites", "equipment costs & repairs", and etc.

Alan Ruby asked Dave how Lake County's solid waste service operates. Dave stated that Lake County's transportation from the transfer station to the Missoula landfill are privately run. Lake County has 7 container sites and the refuse is taken to Missoula in large 40-yard containers or transfer trailers from the transfer station. Dave said he

believes their assessment is around \$120/year and that they have educators/monitors at their sites.

There was brief general discussion with the public.

b. Container Site Scavenging

As directed by the Board last month, staff has requested that Jonathan Smith from the County Attorney's office prepare a draft resolution that would not allow scavenging to occur at the container sites. Dave spoke with Jon in the middle of the month and was told he had not yet had time to prepare the draft but that he would get to it as soon as possible. Hopefully, staff will have a copy available to provide the Board at the meeting.

Jim Chilton, Operations Manager, met with the person who allegedly assaulted Mr. Benson at the Somers site this winter. He provided a copy of a letter from the County Attorney's Office that said they would not be prosecuting. We have included it in your packet. Dave has spoken with a couple of citizens since last meeting on this subject. One person thought that the salvagers were providing a service to the community by reusing and/or reducing the amount of material that went into the landfill and providing their livelihood while the other citizen vehemently wanted salvaging stopped based upon the concerns of identity theft.

Dave stated that we do have issues at the sites. Look at the police log! He stated that he has not previously been involved in a solid waste system that allows the salvaging we allow here.

Bill Shaw stated that "waivers" hold no value; the threat of law suit far outweighs the benefit of salvaging.

The Board directed Dave to return next month with some information on liability from the County Attorney and our insurance carrier.

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

Sure-Way Systems, Inc. has provided a proposal to hold a one day drug take back event at the landfill. Their proposal is included in your packet. After discussing their proposal with Sure-Ways representative, Kimberly Lamb, they are continuing to research issues on the event. The pricing for disposal will allow for the medications to be transported to a medical waste incinerator out of state for destruction. Ms. Lamb was also checking on the different kinds of medications they would be allowed to handle, specifically if they could receive controlled substances. Dave informed her that the District is very interested but that having the event on May 31st would most likely not be possible. Dave is encouraged that an event does look more like a reality for this late summer or early fall if the District decides to proceed forward.

Dave stated that things have changed since he wrote his Director's Report. Sure-Way Systems called him to say they could not honor their proposal. He said they gave no explanation as to why, just that they couldn't do it.

d. Fiscal Year 2009 Preliminary Budget

Dave reviewed the Fiscal Year 2009 Preliminary Budget with the Board.

e. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>March</u>
Total MSW to landfill	8,508.85
Total Appliances Collected	1,102
Junk Vehicles Collected	13
Truck Trips to Landfill	521
Refuse tons/trip	6.75

The District landfilled 24% less waste in March, 2008 as compared to March, 2007 and our refuse trucks hauled 18% less waste comparing the same time frame.

f. District Financial Statements

Dave reviewed the financial statements with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Alan Ruby: That was one heck of a first meeting.

Hank Olson recognized Mayre Flowers and told her she could give her update at this time. Mayre updated the Board on the e-waste on May 3. She stated that DEQ has contributed to funding for advertising. They are sending out flyers, and have posters and mailers. There will also be a live broadcast on a local radio station during the event. She also updated the Board on the school tours at the landfill as well as the recycling program at schools. She stated that recycle bins will be placed at Flathead High School, Glacier High School and the Flathead Junior High. She would also like to see a recycle bin placed at the Marion school.

Hank thanked the Board again and reminded them to please get their ideas back to Dave.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.