

**Approved at the May 26, 2009 meeting.**

Flathead County Solid Waste District  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 28, 2009 – **5:00 p.m.**  
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Mayre Flowers.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending.

3. Comments from public

There were no comments.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2009

**Alan Ruby moved to adopt the minutes of March 24, 2009. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.**

5. Action Agenda

a. Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget – **Action Required**

The Fiscal Year 2009/2010 Budget has been revised after last month's preliminary review by the Board. The District is anticipating \$6,011,692 in revenue and \$6,213,044 in expense after the transfer from cash reserve for equipment replacement for the coming year. Revenue projections have been reduced due to the economic downturn. The gate revenue is forecast at \$850,000, down from \$1.2 million in the current fiscal year. We have also included the revenue received from the verified emission reduction credits (VERs) and the annual improvement fund from Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC). This revenue is placed into two funds controlled by the District per our contract with FEC that are required to fund to certain dollar level (Annual Improvement Fund \$300,000 and VERs Fund \$200,000). Therefore, it is not available in our operating revenues but must be shown much like our trust transfers.

The personnel projections were modified to include the Container Site Educator (0.5 FTE) and one seasonal spotter/laborer (0.5 FTE) as requested by the Board. If approved by the Commissioner's we will have reduced 0.5 FTE (summer time Spotter/Laborer) from the current budget.

The junk vehicle program budget is also attached for your review. Revenue for this program is received from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). It is based upon the total number of vehicles registered in Flathead County. The District will not know how much it will receive until mid-May to June. The budgeted revenue is the same amount that was received for this year's program.

The program will be replacing the tilt bed on the Kenworth truck this coming fiscal year with a roll-back model. This will make for a safer loading procedure on this truck. Cost is estimated at \$42,000. The program has sufficient funds in its capital improvement fund for the purchase.

*There were general discussions among the Board.*

**Hank Olson asked for a motion to recommend approval by the Flathead County Commission of the solid waste and junk vehicle proposed fiscal year 2010 budgets as presented.**

**John Helton moved to approve the FY2010 budget as presented. Greg Acton seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

6. Director's Report

*Mayre Flowers updated the Board telling them the school tours will begin this Friday, that Jim had given her a tour of the facility and the Gas to Energy project and the e-waste event day is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>.*

b. Ashley Lake Container Site

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) has informed staff that the State Land Commission will review the proposed easement for the Ashley Lake container site on June 16<sup>th</sup>. If they approve the easement the document will then be forwarded to the District for signature. DNRC has also committed to perform the logging at the site. The District will be responsible for the clearing and grubbing but the marketable timber will be removed by their contracted logging company.

The County Commissioners will hold a public meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m. regarding the abandonment of the right-of-way at the site. The design engineer has also committed to a three week design period. They already have much of the information they need from the work to date performed by them.

We are targeting a site opening date of mid October if all proceeds forward without any delays in the process or construction.

*Greg Acton asked about the reclamation of the Kila site. Dave stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service might be using the space for a parking lot for wildlife viewing and the Rails to Trails group have also expressed an interest in parking. Staff will be researching this and will inform the Board when information is gathered.*

c. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Construction has proceeded well on the engine facility and well-field upgrades. All new laterals and headers have been installed and the new wells have been providing gas to the flare for a month or so. The engine facility is nearing completion. It is anticipated that the energy production system will be started in May. It will then have to go through final acceptance testing and fine tuning before the facility will be in full production.

Staff has increased monitoring gas probe No. 3 since the project started. We have seen some elevated landfill gas readings exceeding the lower explosive limit for methane (5% by volume) which is the compliance level. This monitoring well is near the engine facility and has been impacted by the construction project. There were days where no landfill gas has been detected also. DEQ has been informed of the results and has continued to allow the District to remain in a monitoring scenario. Recently the production well nearest the monitoring well was increased to maximum vacuum and the well No. 3 showed no landfill gas for four consecutive days.

d. Purchase of Somers Container Site

Jonathan Smith from the County Attorney's Office authorized the use of Gene Lard to perform the appraisal for the Somers container site. Gene thought he could have the appraisal completed by mid to late May. After a quick review of the in-house appraisal performed by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) he believed their market value of \$175,000 was high.

e. Tire Removal and Recycling Bid

The District has used Envirotire to remove whole tires that have been brought to the site by our residential customers. One of the owners of Envirotire is a Flathead County Sheriff Deputy. Staff was informed by our Risk Manager that there is a potential conflict of interest with utilizing Envirotire unless they have won a contract through a competitive bid process. Jonathan Smith helped draw up the bid notice and the potential contract that will be awarded. We anticipate bidding the contract and awarding it in May. Annual expense for this project is less than \$10,000.

f. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>March</u>
Total MSW to landfill	6,622.81
Total Appliances Collected	512
Junk Vehicles Collected	11
Truck Trips to Landfill	457
Refuse tons/trip	6.92

The District landfilled 22.2% less waste in March, 2009 as compared to March, 2008 and our refuse trucks hauled 16% less waste comparing the same time frame. Volumes have increased as the weather improved around the County and spring cleaning is occurring.

Staff is also closely monitoring the revenue stream for the District. Our assessment system is relatively secure funding but the gate revenue is very dependent on the economy. So far we are under projections through nine months of fiscal year 2008/2009. We budgeted \$1.2 million in gate revenue and through March (75% of the fiscal year) we have received cash payment and invoiced \$737,563, or 61% of the projected revenue.

The landfill took possession of the new landfill compactor. The machine was purchased from Caterpillar and is an 826H. So far we have been extremely pleased with its performance.

g. Budget and Financial Report

Dave reviewed the budget and financial reports with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Alan Ruby asked if he heard Dave correctly that the sites in the Essex area cost is \$100/ton?

John Helton stated that BNSF dumps a lot of trash there (Nyack)

Dale Lauman thanked Dave and Jim on having a good handle on the budget. He also noted that he's gotten a few calls about the recycle boxes at some of the sites being full.

Jim Chilton stated that they have been working on the recycling issue and are meeting with Matt O'Connell to see what else can be done.

Hank Olson commented that he had recently talked with a lady from Idaho who stated that all their sites have attendants. He asked that the next sites considered for closing to be added to the agenda next month. He also said he would like to talk more about tire removal.

8. Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**