

Approved at the June 24, 2008 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
May 27, 2008 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Mary Phippen, Matt O'Connell, Bob Morrow, Mary Critchlow, Ray Schmitt, Ben Stone, Jim & Carla Roth, Mayre Flowers and Jonathan Smith.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson called the meeting to order and noted that Nancy Askew was absent. He then thanked everyone for attending.

3. Comments from public

Mary Critchlow from Glacier High School spoke of the new recycling program at the school. Many kids are on board and she is excited. Valley Recycling recently put a recycling container at the school and she anticipates even more student/faculty participation and believes that next year it will take off. She stated that the public is welcome to use the container also.

Mary Phippen from Cut Bank owns property in Essex. She stated that Essex residents are concerned with the proposed consolidation of sites and commends the District with the effort they have put forth in Essex hopes the site will remain.

Bob Morrow from Valley Recycling stated the e-waste event went well, had great volunteers and thanked the Solid Waste District for their involvement.

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

Dale Lauman moved to adopt the minutes for April 22, 2008. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

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

The proposed fiscal year 2009 budget for the solid waste department and the junk vehicle program are included in your packet. The employee costs that were not shown in the landfill gas monitoring and the hazardous materials in the preliminary budget have been included along with the estimated employee overtime expense for each cost center. There have also been other minor cost modifications that occurred since last month in a few line items as expenses were refined. The one line item that has increased significantly is the capital outlay for the construction of a new container site (\$300,000 to \$400,000) if we were to proceed forward with a site on Ashley Lake Road. This can be modified if we proceed with the engineer's estimate or deleted if the Board chooses. Dave would rather include the higher expense now and reduce/remove it as we receive more information.

Alan Ruby stated that he liked the idea of a new site at Ashley Lake Road that would consolidate the Marion and Kila sites.

Bill Shaw asked if the revenue included increased fees. Dave stated that it should be another year or 2 before the fees need to be increased.

Hank Olson asked if there was additional funding for manning and gating the sites. Dave stated that manning and gating all the sites won't be done this year, but will be looked at in the future.

Bill Shaw asked about increasing the fuel costs. Dave stated that it has been increased by \$45,000.

Alan Ruby moved to recommend approval by the Flathead County Commissioners of the solid waste fiscal year 2009 budgets as presented. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.

Mayre Flowers interjected since some people arrived a little late and were not able to comment earlier, that there is a student present who would like to give a brief presentation to the Board.

Ben Stone, a Flathead High School student, handed out a Recycling Program Overview to the Board. He stated he had traveled to Churchill High School in Eugene, Oregon and observed how they had tubs for recycling paper, cans and bottles and implemented the idea here. The program obtained sponsors and used volunteers to help with weekly pick-up in the classrooms. Ben stated that the program was successful and will hopefully continue to grow.

Hank Olson opened the floor for any other latecomers who wished to speak at this time.

Ray Schmitt gave a brief summary of the meeting on May 22nd on the green box sites in Marion that was coordinated by area residents. He stated that Dale Lauman attended the meeting. He asked the Board for written clarification on the reasons why the District is

considering closing the Marion site. Hank Olson said he would supply Mr. Schmitt with documentation.

Mayre Flowers handed out materials outlining Washington State's pharmaceutical take back project. She stated that we are still in the process of trying to find options for our area.

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Program for Marion and Kila

As directed by the Board, staff searched for property along Highway 2 between the Marion and Kila communities. A parcel of ground owned by the State of Montana has been located adjacent to Highway 2 at Ashley Lake Road. A map is included in your packet for your reference. Our discussions with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) about this parcel have been very positive. This land would be licensed from the DNRC for the site. The license would most likely be ten years. A longer period may be possible when the ten year license is expired. We have officially requested that the DNRC provide us with an estimated cost of the parcel (we requested an area that is approximately three acres) for the license to help us determine the financial impacts of this site. We will also need to have our engineer provide an estimated construction cost for the site.

The site is near the balance point between the two communities. It is located 6.5 miles from the current Kila site and 4.8 miles from the current Marion site. Site access is excellent from Highway 2 and Ashley Lake Road and can be well screened with the forest that is currently on the parcel. The lower section (1,000 feet) of Ashley Lake Road is scheduled to be paved in the near future as a result of a subdivision that was approved by the County Commissioners.

The Board held discussions regarding distance of new site from Marion and Kila, recycling at the proposed new site, bear proof fencing, 10 year license agreement for use of the property from the State of Montana and how an Army Corp of Engineer 404 permit is not needed as the property does not fall in a wet area.

Dave asked direction from the Board to obtain an engineers estimate. The Board agreed and Hank asked that the issue be put on the agenda next month.

b. Container Site Scavenging

Jonathan Smith from the County Attorney's office prepared a draft resolution prohibiting salvaging at the container sites. It is included in your packet. Jon will also be at the meeting to provide the Board with information on the District's potential liabilities for our operations. Staff has continued to have discussions with our insurance carrier to help in determining what the County liability insurance would cover at our container sites.

Jonathan Smith stated he has been researching the subject and has found no cases that set precedence. He stated "it's not like the good old days when you got hurt, you deal with it yourself. Now, 'someone' has to pay (for your negligence)" The Board directed staff to

return next meeting with the item on the action agenda for a vote on the resolution. Some work will need to continue with the County Attorney's office to finalize the resolution.

c. Electronic Waste Recycling Event and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Hazardous Waste Business Event

The annual electronic waste recycling event occurred on May 3rd at Valley Recycling. The event was again sponsored by Valley Recycling, Montana DEQ, Citizens for a Better Flathead and the District. The Montana Youth Conservation Corp also provided employees to help with the work load. The event was well received and removed 19,134 pounds of electronics from the waste stream. This is an increase of 4,794 pounds over last year's event. Valley Recycling acted as the lead partner for this year's event and did an excellent job.

Our sixth annual Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator hazardous waste business event will occur on Friday, May 30th at the landfill. This event is facilitated by the District and the WasteNot Project. Veolia Environmental is the service provider and categorizes the waste and transports it for recycling or disposal. Businesses must preregister for this event. We have typically had between 12 and 15 business participate each year. The businesses pay for their waste service but an economy of scale is utilized to greatly reduce the expense to the business while helping remove the hazardous waste from the waste stream.

d. City of Kalispell Recycling

The City of Kalispell is working on revising their recycling program. Valley Recycling has been providing free service to the area for years. They have told the City that they are unable to continue with this arrangement. Matt O'Connell, District Manager with Valley Recycling, provided Dave with the cost structure they have proposed to the City. After discussions with Hank Olson, it appears that the City is struggling in ways to fund this program and may be interested in requesting funding assistance from the District.

Unlike our program the City does not receive any revenue from the sale of the recycled products. Valley Recycling would hopefully cover their costs for the bins, hauling and processing the materials by the revenue received from the sale of the products. As you are aware our program expense increased significantly in the new contract that Valley Recycling was awarded this past winter due mostly to fuel expense increases.

The Board discussed how the recycling is handled in the city of Kalispell and if the District could help by giving a grant or somehow provide financial support for the project. Hank asked that the item be added to the agenda again next month.

e. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>April</u>
Total MSW to landfill	9,381.56
Total Appliances Collected	982
Junk Vehicles Collected	24
Truck Trips to Landfill	558

Refuse tons/trip

6.99

The District landfilled 19% less waste in April, 2008 as compared to April, 2007 and our refuse trucks hauled 17% less waste comparing the same time frame.

f. District Financial Statements

Dave reviewed the financial statements with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Dave stated that the Board had missed approving the Junk Vehicle Budget earlier and should probably take a vote at this time to clear it up. Dave reviewed the Junk Vehicle Budget with the Board.

Bill Shaw moved to recommend approval by the Flathead County Commissioners of the junk vehicle proposed fiscal year 2009 budget as presented. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

Alan was amused that his comments last month ended up in the minutes.

Hank is pleased with the recycling programs in the schools.

8. Adjournment

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