

Approved at the July 27, 2010 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 22, 2010 – **5:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Bill Shaw, City of Columbia Falls; Greg Acton, City of Whitefish; Jim Dupont, County Commissioners and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: John Helton, Member at Large and Wayne Miller, Board of Health.

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 noted that John Helton and Wayne Miller were absent. He also reiterated that he would like to continue looking into ways for the landfill to “go green”.

3. Comments from public

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the school tours and classroom visits. She stated they had reached 1476 children in the schools and had 660 children tour the landfill. Mayre also stated that the pharmaceutical event was quite successful. There were 255.5 pounds of medicines collected; second largest amount in the state.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for May 25, 2010 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of the May 25, 2010 meeting. Allen Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

There are no items on the Action Agenda

6. Director's Report

a. Container Site Consolidation Project – Highway 2 East (Nyack, Denny's & Essex)

Staff met with Dan Vincent, Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area (GNESA), Tim Manley, MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Matt O'Connell, Evergreen Disposal, a Glacier National Park representative and four business owners/residents from the canyon area on June 3, 2010. Dan has prepared a letter regarding the meeting that is included in

your packet. The citizens again addressed their concerns regarding the consolidation of the three canyon sites to the Coram Site. They believe they should receive container site service in the area and don't believe the District's concerns about the cost of the service are that big of an issue compared to the change the citizens would have to incur. GNESEA's main issues center on the concerns with grizzly bear troubles and the stored refuse.

Many different subjects were covered and Evergreen Disposal stated they can and will provide service to any resident and business that requests it. One main topic of interest was the idea to provide service just in the summer months (May thru September). Staff has estimated the expense for this hauling scenario (one haul per week) to be \$84.87/ton, compared to \$104/ton (two hauls per week) for yearly service. We have been providing once/week service since last fall to the sites. This scenario would still be the most costly container site to operate and would result in hauling 0.5% of the total refuse hauled by the District (0.9% for yearly service). To our knowledge there have been no businesses that have called and requested services from Evergreen Disposal since this proposal was presented. The expense spreadsheet is also included in your packet.

Staff recommends that the District continue with the proposed consolidation and close the three canyon container sites at the end of this summer season. FWP would be interested in the service continuing through October or November to minimize any potential bear issues this fall. Staff can agree that this extra month or two this season would not be detrimental to the overall consolidation proposal.

The Board had discussions including the use of the sites by commercial establishments, when and if to schedule another meeting with the canyon residents, and the logistics of Evergreen Disposal servicing the area.

Hank Olson asked that this item be placed on the action agenda next month.

b. Phase 4A Excavation and 2010 North and East Slope Phase 1 Landfill Closure Project

Noble Excavating, Inc. has continued to work on the construction project. The first test pad constructed by Noble did not pass due to low moisture content. Noble has been working to understand the low perm soils with relationship to the moisture needed and compaction requirements. So far it appears the second test pad is functioning properly and the soils will meet the 1×10^{-5} cm/sec requirement and will exceed it in an order or two in magnitude. Some test results are showing a 5×10^{-8} cm/sec permeability.

Other items completed or worked on include general excavation to stockpile and raising of the gas extraction wells. The low permeability layer installation began the week of June 14th and production is meeting or exceeding the contractor's schedule. The contractor estimates they have moved 37,000 cy of the approximate 210,000 cy for the job. The rains have stopped work on some days, however, the contractor has 80 calendar days to complete the project with rain days added on as needed. The final completion date is being tracked closely by our Project Manger and communicated to the Contractor so all parties are well informed on the completion date. The date for completion is now September 15, 2010.

c. County Ordinance No. 8

Staff has been contacting the Boy Scouts to gauge interest in their organizations ability/desire to clean up areas along the roadways for a donation from the District. So far, one troop from Kalispell seems to have some initial interest. Staff has discussed what level of monetary donation the District could provide to help the Troop for their services.

Included in your packet are emails from the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) listing the roads that are not currently enrolled in the Adopt a Highway program and concerns on the District providing monetary incentive to a service group to work on certain stretches of highway in the County. As a note, Highway 2 West going to the Ashley Lake site received a cleaning from its cooperator the week of June 6th. Groups who adopt a section of highway are required to clean the road a minimum of three times per year (spring, summer and fall presumably).

The Board held general discussions on this issue including the use of a public service announcement in the form of a billboard on the highway. Hank Olson asked that this item be continued next month.

d. Solid Waste District Strategic Plan

The Board decided to table the Strategic Plan prepared by SWT Engineers when Dr. Miller and Commissioner DuPont joined the Board in January. Staff would like to continue discussion on the draft and see if the Board would like to have input from the engineer and work towards finalizing the plan.

The Board discussed scheduling a workshop next month to discuss if the engineers have captured their vision for the future of the solid waste system in Flathead County. They agreed to meet at 3 p.m. for a workshop on the next scheduled Board Meeting (July 27, 2010)

e. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>May</u>
Total MSW to landfill	8,907.43
Total Appliances Collected	458
Junk Vehicles Collected	6
Truck Trips to Container Sites	464
Refuse tons/trip	8.35

The District landfilled 5.2% less waste in May, 2010 as compared to May, 2009 and our refuse trucks hauled 13.1% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2010 was projected to be \$850,000. In fiscal year 2009 the gate budget was \$1.2 million (amended to \$900,000 in the middle of the fiscal year) and we

ended the fiscal year at \$940,842.50. Through May, 2010 (92% through the year) we have received \$720,457.58 (85% of budget). We are currently behind plan to meet the projected gate revenue. Staff estimates we will end up about \$50,000 under the budget for fiscal year 2010. The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream.

f. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financial report with the Board

7. Comments from Board Members

Allen Ruby commented that we need to "tighten our belts" and that is the best reason for the consolidation.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.