

Approved at the July 22, 2014 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 24, 2014 - **3:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Kim & Jera Schwegel, Paul Mutascio and Mayre Flowers.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Greg Acton thanked everyone for attending, noted that Susan Nicosia was absent and stated that he would be absent from next month's meeting.

3. Comments from public

Paul Mutascio – Bigfork: Addressed the Board regarding a comment from a Board member in a previous meeting stating that “is Paul Mutascio the only one who is unable to get private hauling service?” He clarified private hauling isn't easily accessible, or available throughout the county. He also addressed the percentage of residents that are in incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. He said the answer is as easy as going to the County Planning Department or the County website. He stated the “study” only looked at the incorporated areas which is only 35% of the county population. He has difficulties with the phrase of “meetings held in public” vs. “public meeting” and would like to see a definition in writing. He also would like more clarification from the private haulers as to what areas they will, won't or can't service. He concluded by stating the District is asking people to take on an extra burden and incurring costs to what purpose.

Gary Krueger explained how meetings held in public and public meetings are defined. He explained that a Board conducts its business in public without the public being involved in the decision making process, but the public has opportunity to comment either at the beginning or end of the meeting.

Wayne Miller concurred with Gary's definition. Greg Action clarified that the Solid Waste Board is an appointed board, not an elected board.

4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers distributed the WasteNot Project 2014 Detailed Overview and gave the Board an update

on the accomplishments over the past year.

Alan Ruby suggested that Mayre contact the organizers for the Thunderbird aerial show to see if the Community Event Recycle bins could be utilized during that event.

5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for May 27, 2014 – **Action Required**

Hank Olson moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014. Wayne Miller seconded. Motion passed.

6. Action Agenda

- a. There were no items on the Action Agenda

7. Director's Report

- a. Revisions to Chapter 5 of the Strategic Report for the Flathead County Landfill

On May 29th the public meeting was held regarding changes to the hauling section within the District's Strategic Plan (SP). All eleven of the stakeholders asked to participate were at the meeting along with the District's consultants from SWT Engineering and CH2M Hill. Approximately 75 citizens attended the first part (public comment) of the meeting. Public testimony was taken for about 1 ½ hours after a short presentation by staff and CH2 regarding the Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) tool that will be employed for their work. All of the comments received were from citizens who didn't want to see change in the container site program. Most of them were from either the Bigfork or Lakeside area.

After a lunch break all but a few citizens left and the stakeholders group began their discussions with the consultants on creating the decision goal and subsequent evaluation criteria. There was very worthy discussion for the next couple of hours. The consultants did a good job of drawing the group back on track as you can imagine it was very easy for the discussion to get onto other tracks quickly. In the end the consultants left with acceptable info for them to return to their offices and work on the project. The DRAFT decision goal created at the meeting is as follows:

“Optimize the network of container sites for Flathead County that meets the drop-off needs of County residents, maximizes social and environmental benefits and minimizes costs.”

They are working next on identifying and specifying evaluation criteria and then on developing performance measures to assess how well each alternative meets each evaluation criterion.

Another task of the project is to perform a survey of our customers' thoughts regarding the District's operation of the container sites. Staff and the consultants, along with the stakeholders group worked on these questions also. Then the questions were sent back out to the stakeholders for another review. Staff and the consultants reviewed the comments and made additional changes. We intend to have contracted labor (Express Personnel) help us administer these questionnaires throughout the County. We will start at public gathering places like supermarkets around each area in the County, both in the incorporated cities and in the County. We'll see

what our response level is and then look at more ways to get increased response if needed. We are not conducting a statistically defensible survey but hope to get an “unbiased” opinion of differing sentiments throughout our customer base.

There were discussions regarding how much reference to recycling should the questionnaire have. The conclusion was it's a survey regarding the container sites themselves and not a recycling survey specifically. Recycling is a separate issue and we don't want to ask leading questions. Perhaps a question such as “is recycling important to you” with answers of “important, not important and no opinion” could be integrated in the survey.

Wayne asked that a specific “Recycling Report” be added to the agenda as an individual topic of discussion. He would like the public to know that recycling isn't a dead issue to the Solid Waste Board. There were more discussions regarding getting through 2015 with the new recycle contract to obtain data, then revisiting the issue.

Wayne also asked if the “consultants” could visit some of the rural areas in the county so they are familiar with the challenges some residents face with regard to where they live and the likelihood of obtaining service from private haulers.

b. Potential Location for New Bigfork Container Site

Staff inquired of the Commissioners if they wished to proceed forward with the purchase of the five acres of property from Tim Calaway for the site. The Commissioners stated they want to proceed forward with the purchase immediately. The land is located just north of the Little Brown Church near the intersection of Highway 83 and 35. The appraisal prepared by Gene Lard returned a value of \$150,000 for the five acres. Staff has discussed the purchase with the County's surveying firm, Peccia and Associates, so they are aware of the work needed to split the land, generate the certificate of survey and file when the purchase is completed. The Planning Office was again consulted to make sure everything is acceptable with any zoning issues, which they stated there are none. Mr. Calaway was also consulted on the granting of a 60 foot easement along his property just east of the Little Brown Church for the access road to the new site. He agrees with this method to assure access to the land.

Preliminary cost estimates have been given to the Commissioners regarding the creation of a “special” district to help fund the operations of this container site. The Commissioners are still in discussions regarding this option but asked that staff prepare the estimate for their discussions and the Solid Waste Boards input. It could be beneficial to create a subcommittee of two Solid Waste board members and Commissioner Krueger to discuss what costs may be included in any special district. The committee would report back to the Board and then a recommendation from the entire Solid Waste Board could be forwarded to the Commissioners.

It is anticipated there will be a shared costing structure for the construction and operations. Currently, staff estimated the District would buy the land and the capital improvement costs would be split 50/50 with the new district, amortized over a 20 year period. We would also cover the hauling costs of the refuse and appliance pile. The Bigfork District would cover

the recycling infrastructure and hauling if they want this service and the operational expenses for staffing and associated costs. School District 38 (Bigfork Elementary) and School District 4 (Swan River) are currently the starting point for the discussion of the boundary for this District. There are 3,350.25 residential assessments for Solid Waste in those two school districts. With the ESTIMATED costs at this point each assessed unit would cost \$34.77. A spreadsheet with these costs is included in your packet for review.

General discussions regarding a new tax (or fee) district in the Bigfork area to help offset costs associated with keeping a container site in Bigfork.

Dave reported that he had contacted the neighbor who objected to the proposed location. She was unable to speak with him at length and promised to call back. As of meeting date, she has not been back in contact with Dave.

Discussions also included creating a visual barrier with berms and vegetation/trees.

Wayne noted that Bigfork can thank Jim Chilton for finding this location.

c. Hours of Operation for the Somers and Creston Container Sites

The Commissioners approved our request for an additional 4.0 FTE employees for container sites attendants in FY15. The current hours of operation for these two sites are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week. When these employees are hired the time of operation will need to change so we have staffing at all hours of operation. It is staff's desire to institute the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven day per week schedule. This is what occurred at the Columbia Falls site when the staffing started. The employees will work four nine hour days with a four hour shift on day five to make their 40 hours. We'll then have a third employee cover the remaining days at the two sites to make up their 40 hour week. The fourth employee will be used as a rover between Bigfork and Lakeside five days per week.

Staff is interested in the Board's desires for the hours of operation at these two sites. We'll come back at a subsequent meeting with an action item for the Board's discussion and approval to set the hours.

d. Recycling Program and Infrastructure Improvements

The task order for 48 North Engineering, through the master service agreement with SWT Engineering, has been executed. Brett Walcheck has been working on the design and bidding documents for the project. We are hopeful to have documents ready for bidding in mid-July. The award should be in August with construction taking place in mid-September to early October.

Staff has been working on finding two more compactor companies to obtain a quote for the three compactors and boxes, along with the 30 yard bins for the other recycle materials.

e. Landfill Expansion Property Acquisition

The Weed property was purchased on June 5th. We now own eight of the 14 properties in the expansion area and also have a ninth property, the Hedstrom's, under contract for purchase in early July. We exceeded the budgeted funds for property purchase by \$16,000 for FY14 but received Commissioners approvals to do so. The funds will come from existing cash reserves. The funds for the Hedstrom property will be from FY15 where we have budgeted \$500,000.

f. Construction of Phase IV B Groundwater Protection System

Sandry Construction has been submitting required documentation for the materials used to construct the liner. They are anticipating starting their work immediately after the July 4th holiday. Ample lead time is needed to produce the geosynthetics, namely the 60 mil HDPE liner, by the material supplier. The rest of the utilized geosynthetics seem to be more readily available but the main liner can be difficult to procure in a timely fashion. As we have in the past, SWT and their subconsultant (Mike Fraser) must review and approval all materials before they can be installed by the contractor.

Dave stated that the project should get under way after the July 4th holiday.

g. Refuse Operations

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

	May
Total MSW to landfill	9,809.96
Total Appliances Collected	781
Junk Vehicles Collected	1
Truck Trips to Container Sites	461
Refuse tons/trip	7.51

The District landfilled 3.1% less waste in May, 2014 as compared to May, 2013 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.2% more waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2014 was projected at \$800,000, and was revised in April, 2014 to \$1,550,000 at the direction of the Finance Department. Through May we have received \$1,408,301 or 90.7% of revenue through 92% of the fiscal year. This increase in gate revenue is attributable to the Montana Department of Transportation project in Whitefish which generated a sizeable volume of contaminated soils brought to the landfill.

The East Corridor Site (Essex) site is operational. The three old sites have been removed and the properties restored. So far, we have had very little issues with citizens leaving wastes at the old sites. We have had a few complaints about the days of operation but it has been minimal. There has been some discussions occurring about the hours and site location but, in general, it has been a very smooth transitional period.

On June 16th the Commissioners passed the expenditure and capital improvement plan for FY15. There were very minor changes made to the budget from the one the Board recommended to the Commissioners for approval. The rest of the budget will be approved in late August or early September when the valuations are received from the State of MT.

Jim also added that Lorraine Stotts, the weekend scale attendant, retired last week and we are in the process of looking for someone to fill her position.

h. Budget and Financials

Dave updated the Board.

8. Comments from Board Members

Wayne Miller requested that the Board be kept updated on the Bigfork land purchase.

Gary Krueger recognizes the District's need to consolidate (operationally), but the County Commissioners also recognize the "personal factor" for those services which are currently provided and the desire of the community to keep them.

John Helton acknowledged that the goal is to staff the container sites.

Wayne Miller asked when the added staffing would take place. Dave said it would probably be fall before the hiring process is complete.

Greg Acton stated that consolidating and staffing the sites has been a long term goal and we didn't set out to "pick on" Bigfork. He said what we're coming up with is an excellent compromise and thanked Jim for finding a location.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.