

Approved at the July 28, 2009 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
June 23, 2009 – **4:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

There was a tour of the Landfill Gas to Energy facility before the regular meeting beginning at 4 p.m. The Board members met at the landfill office at 4 p.m. and toured the Landfill Gas to Energy facility. Paul Zeising, Project Manager described the functions of the facility.

Everyone met back at the landfill office at 5 p.m. for the regularly scheduled meeting.

1. Roll Call

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

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 and noted that Greg Acton was absent.

3. Comments from public

There were no comments at this time.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2009 - **Action Required**

Dale Lauman moved to adopt the minutes of May 26, 2009. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

There were no items on the action agenda.

6. Director's Report

a. 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 23rd. Jim will be in Helena for the meeting with the State Land Board to

answer any questions if necessary. Our design engineer will also be attending this meeting. The cost of the easement will be \$32,862.80. The District will have the easement for 5.666 acres at a cost of \$5,800/acre for 30 years.

We are targeting a site opening date of mid October if all proceeds forward without any delays in the process or construction. Based upon a preliminary schedule there may be the need for the District to call a special meeting in early August to award the contract for construction of the site. Staff will work to not have this meeting but it may be necessary to complete construction as early as possible to prevent weather delays or increase in construction costs.

Jim Chilton reported that he had just arrived back from the State Land Commission meeting in Helena in which the Land Board approved the easement of the Ashley Lake Road site to Flathead County. He stated that things can begin moving now. The site will be staked off tomorrow and the design and construction bid documents can be completed. Dave is hopeful to have bids due by next month's meeting for the Board's approval, but it might be pushing it. He stated that if it's not possible to have a bid back in time, we might have to call a special meeting to move ahead with the project in order to get it constructed this as soon as possible to minimize any weather related delays.

b. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

The District and Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC) have been working on a collaborative effort to install leachate injection lines in the refuse fill. These lines will be used for the circulation of landfill leachate and gas system condensate. FEC has agreed to pay for the perforated pipe which is of a higher quality (strength) so they can be used as horizontal gas collectors in the future. To pay for this installation FEC requested a modification to the 20 year contract between the parties that would have given them three five year extensions at the end of the 20 years. Currently, the contract has a clause that the parties both must agree to extend the contract after the 20 year period. Staff reviewed the proposed language with our design engineer from SWT Engineering who helped negotiate the original contract. We did not feel this was appropriate to extend the contract when operations have not commenced from the facility. We did offer to secure FEC's right to remove gas from the leachate injection system that will be installed as landfill operations continue over time.

At this time Hank Olson allowed Mayre Flowers to update the Board on the WasteNot Project. Mayre distributed the 2008/2009 detailed overview for the WasteNot Project in which is noted the attendance of the classroom, Landfill and compost garden presentation tours, the school recycling program overview, Electronic Waste Recycling, Small Business Hazardous Waste Event, WasteNot brochure and website project.

c. Purchase of Somers Container Site

The County Commissioners and Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) agreed to utilize Clark Real Estate Appraisal, Inc., to perform the second appraisal for the Somers Container Site. Staff met with Ellie Clark, MAI at her office in Whitefish to discuss the project. Ms. Clark will complete the project in four to six weeks. After discussions with Jonathan Smith of the County Attorney's Office, Ms. Clark will be providing the District

with an appraisal that has a range of value for the property. Dave is hopeful this will allow the District to better negotiate with the MDT to meet an agreeable price between the two parties. The District will be able to offer a price that falls between the high and low value that Ms. Clark determines the property is worth.

d. Container Site Consolidation Project

Included in the board packet is a revised cost sheet for the estimated expense to operate the container sites in the Highway 2 East corridor, including Nyack, Denny's and Essex. The estimated expense is \$104.01 per ton to haul the waste from the canyon. Over 50% of the expense is from the hauling. Our refuse truck empties the sites on Monday and Friday. There are times in the winter that the truck does not make the trip based upon road conditions. In discussions with Evergreen Disposal they only have one commercial customer (Burlington Northern) in the canyon so the 304 tons of material hauled in 2008 also includes commercial wastes. At this point we do not have an estimate as to how much commercial wastes are being generated. Staff is researching to see if we can determine the number of residents and businesses in the Canyon area east to the county line at Marias Pass.

e. Recycling at Container Sites

As requested by the Board staff performed a sensitivity study on our recycling revenues. Newspaper and cardboard are the main commodities in this program both by amount of material recycled and revenue generated. Prices have dropped dramatically at the end of last calendar year and have remained low for all products in the program. There will always be some fluctuation in the commodity prices but the large swings are what cause the program to have financial difficulties. Attached to your packet is the study we performed. Staff will discuss the analysis with the Board at the meeting.

The other issue that has become prevalent at the container sites is the appliance pile recycling. There are now multiple scavengers that have begun to remove material from the appliance pile and are selling it to Pacific Steel. We have included some pictures from the sites of these scavengers. Staff has talked with some of these people but is unable to stop their scavenging. When staffing at these sites is implemented we will be able to stop this practice. Currently, we are crushing our appliance pile and will be receiving \$70/ton for the material. Last year we received as high as \$175/ton. Significant revenue is generated by this program each year for the District.

f. Litter on Roadways

In May staff attended the Flathead City/County Health Department Board meeting to discuss the litter on the highways in the County. One of the Board members believes that the District is not doing enough to curb the amount of litter generated. Staff does not particularly agree with this opinion to a point that the District is not able to enforce the current litter laws (County ordinance or state law). We are utilizing the camera system installed a few years ago and just recently turned in one contractor to the Sheriff's Department. Our annual radio campaign this spring included a script directed at securing your load before you travel to the landfill or a container site. Staff also has talked with

MDT about signage on their roadways. They informed us that a few years ago they removed all the litter signs from their right-of-way. They do not believe they were effective. Discussions will also be occurring with the Montana Highway Patrol to see if they can/will help with enforcement of the litter fines. Ordinance No. 8 is attached to your packet for your information.

g. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>May</u>
Total MSW to landfill	9,394.80
Total Appliances Collected	911
Junk Vehicles Collected	13
Truck Trips to Landfill	552
Refuse tons/trip	7.65

The District landfilled 15.8% less waste in May, 2009 as compared to May, 2008 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.8% less waste comparing the same time frame.

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 eleven months of fiscal year 2008/2009. We budgeted \$1.2 million in gate revenue and through May (92% of the fiscal year) we have received cash payment and invoiced \$864,041.61 or 72% of the projected revenue.

h. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financial statements with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

John Helton stated that he will begin his summer routine and may not be here for some of the meetings depending on his work schedule.

Nancy Askew asked what the yellow pipes are that are along the road to the gas facility. Dave said they are the protection bollards for the groundwater monitoring well heads for the landfill.

Hank Olson said we should be putting notices on the Kila and Marion site that they will be closing soon.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.