

Approved at the August 24, 2010 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
July 27, 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; John Helton, Member at Large; Wayne Miller, Board of Health 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 and noted that all members were present.

3. Comments from public

There were no comments.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2010 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of the June 22, 2010 meeting. Allen Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Container Site Consolidation Project – Highway 2 East – **Action Required**

The District has been analyzing the container site program for multiple years to assess cost effectiveness and operational efficiency. The Marion and Kila site were consolidated in 2009 to a new site on Highway 2W near the Ashley Lake Road. Staff has calculated the savings for the west corridor consolidation at \$40,000/year since operations began at the new site in November, 2009.

The Essex, Denny's and Nyack sites contribute 0.9% (approx. 275 tons/yr) of the tonnage hauled by the District annually. Note that this amount also includes commercial refuse since the only service provided by Evergreen Disposal in this area is to BNSF Railway at the Izaak Walton Inn. The cost per ton for hauling from the three sites is \$104/ton when hauling services are provided twice per week (Monday and Friday). Since last fall due to

the recession we have reduced the hauling to once per week until just recently (mid July) when refuse generation exceeded the container space at the sites. Expense for hauling once per week is estimated at \$72/ton. The annual expense of the sites ranges from \$32,000 (2x/week hauling schedule) to \$20,000 (1x/week hauling schedule). Annual revenue from the area totals \$25,000 from the assessment system, of which 15% or \$3,800 is calculated towards operation of the container sites.

The current expense of the Coram container site operation is calculated at \$36.25/ton and it is anticipated that the additional tonnage directed towards this site will have minor impacts to the current operations and expense. With the savings realized at the Ashley Lake site staff is recommending that the Board proceeds forward with the closure of the Nyack, Denny's and Essex container sites.

The Board deliberated and decided they would like to arrange one more meeting with the citizens in the Essex area before making a final decision. A meeting time and place will be determined before next month's regular Board Meeting.

Wayne Miller moved to table the action until after another public meeting can take place. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

b. Employment Contract – Public Works Director – **Action Required**

The Public Works Director contract for employment with the Solid Waste District and Flathead County ends on September 30, 2010. On July 21, 2010 the County Commissioners informed Dave they concur with his desires to continue the contract for another three year period. They agreed that the contract terms and conditions would remain the same including no salary increase this year and a three year term. A copy of the current contract is included in the board packet for review. The Board Chair asked that a motion which also agrees to the current terms for the Solid Waste Boards approval.

John Helton moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the Employment Contract for the Public Works Director at the terms and conditions of the current contract. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

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

Work on the excavation and closure project has continued through the month. Concerns have grown with the production from the contractor, Noble Excavating. In the initial five days of low perm placement they averaged 9,400 square feet per day. A meeting was held with their project manager Chris Bache and the owner, Chris Noble over the production concerns. Chris Noble committed to bring in another screen to increase the production of the low perm soils. They averaged over 14,000 square feet per day in the next work week which brings them back to a more comfortable level from the District view. To gain this increase the contractor modified his excavation procedures and haul of material to the

closure area. The project totals over 500,000 square feet of area that receives the low perm soils.

Staff and our engineering consultant have been closely monitoring the contract time and this has been communicated to the contractor at each weekly construction meeting. Our construction quality assurance (CQA) subcontractor (NTL) has utilized more of their budget to date than originally anticipated due to the contractor's production.

The contract calls for liquidated damages of \$1,000/day plus expenses (engineering and CQA costs) if the contractor does not complete the project on time. Staff and the engineer are very concerned about the potential of a winter shut down and is pushing to have the project complete before winter weather returns.

b. County Ordinance No. 8

Staff spoke with the manager of the Northern Joint Refuse Disposal District in Conrad, MT. This landfill accepts waste from Cut Bank, Valier, and Conrad and the associated counties. They have an entrance sign that states if the haulers load is not covered you will be fined. The manager said they have not fined anyone but have used the "threat" of the fine. It appears their law enforcement personnel have the same difficulty as ours. If they don't see the violation occur, they have not utilized the ordinance to fine the offender. They have a very windy environment and he said that most citizens take care to minimize any wind-blown litter from their loads but they do have litter along their roadways from a few who show little personal responsibility for the issue. They have had "litter parties" where groups of citizens and some landfill employees have remove litter from the roads in certain areas near the landfill.

There were general discussions regarding law enforcement involvement and possibly changing the wording of the ordinance to so compliance could be better enforced. Wayne Miller stated that he is not giving up on this matter!

c. Public Works Director Work Time

The Operations Manager at the Road Department retired in June. Due to the County's budget issues the Commissioners have decided not to replace this position at this time. Dave has been spending Monday thru Thursday at the Road Department and Friday at Solid Waste. Previous to this change he was at the Solid Waste offices two to three days per week. He and Jim stay in contact on a regular basis (daily if possible). Dave has full confidence in Jim and his ability to monitor/manage the operations and keep in contact so we continue with our standard of operations in the District's day-to-day business.

d. Pharmaceutical Take Back Program

At last month's meeting Mayre Flowers gave a report on the prescription drug take back program that was held on June 5th in Kalispell, Whitefish and Bigfork. We collected the second most drugs by weight in the state behind Billings. The program will hopefully continue but this event was led by the State of Montana Attorney General and the

Department of Justice. District staff believes this is a beneficial program and would like to see it continue in the future. Legislative efforts are needed to streamline programs due to some of the drugs received but it appears that is occurring. Our law enforcement community is also interested in continuing this program.

At this point it is unknown the amount of funding needed for an annual program but from the expenses from this year's event they don't appear to be overwhelming. Cost sharing between multiple departments (Health, Sheriff and SW) will certainly make the program more successful. There should be available monies in the FY2011 to continue this program.

Mayre Flowers reported that the Attorney General's office is planning on periodic collections throughout Montana. The next one is scheduled for September 24th, although Mayre wasn't sure if she would have enough funding to put something together for that event. She asked the Board for their opinion of how frequent the events should be; once monthly to coincide with the Household Hazardous Waste event or less often such as quarterly, bi-annually or annually. The consensus of the Board was to have it an annual event.

Mayre also reviewed the pharmaceutical brochure with the Board. She stated that it will go to print tomorrow.

e. Refuse Operations

Operations proceeded well for the month. We have revised the schedule to provide better coverage of the container sites at the end of June. For the first time in months we have not been able to keep up with the flow and we had some overflow issues at the busiest valley sites. We are down two FTE which contributed to the issues. As seen below our tons hauled per trip is as high as we have been in years. Tonnage/Volumes are shown below:

	<u>June</u>
Total MSW to landfill	9,922.61
Total Appliances Collected	447
Junk Vehicles Collected	10
Truck Trips to Container Sites	438
Refuse tons/trip	8.93

The District landfilled 4.8% MORE waste in June, 2010 as compared to June, 2009 and our refuse trucks hauled 0.1% MORE 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 June, 2010 (100% through the year) we have received \$805,223.18 (94.7% of budget) but there is additional revenue that has not been posted yet which will increase this number. We are currently \$44,776.82 short of the budget projection. The gate represents approximately one quarter of the District's revenue stream.

f. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board

7. Comments from Board Members

There were no comments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.