

Approved at the August 18, 2009 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
July 28, 2009 – 5:00 p.m.
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Lee Griswold and Matt O'Connell

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that John Helton was absent. He also stated that the Landfill Gas to Energy project has been getting some great publicity.

3. Comments from public

Lee Griswold: Highway 2 West, Kila/Marion. Stated he has looked at the new Ashley Lake Road site plans. He commented on several road specs within the document and stated that they do not follow the Flathead County Road Standards. He also expressed his hope that the privacy fence around the site will be green in color.

Dave Prunty addressed the road standard issue. He stated that the road standards allow the ability of applicants to engineer the road designs allowing flexibility for each situation.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2009 - **Action Required**

Dale Lauman moved to adopt the minutes of June 23, 2009. Alan Ruby seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. August 25th Board Meeting for Flathead County Solid Waste District

The construction schedule for the West Corridor Container Site Project (Ashley Lake) has been prepared. The bid opening will occur on August 6th. We are trying to complete the construction by October 22nd. To increase our time allotted for construction and minimize any potential weather delays it would be beneficial to move the August meeting date forward one week to August 18th. This will allow the contractor to move up their schedule

one week and help minimize any potential construction delays during September and October. Staff discussed this with Jonathan Smith at the County Attorney's Office and he said there are no problems with moving it forward as long as we advertise as we normally do in the Daily Interlake.

Nancy Askew moved that the August 25th, 2009 monthly meeting of the Flathead County Solid Waste District to August 18th, 2009 at 5 p.m. at the landfill office. Bill Shaw seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Ashley Lake Container Site

The District has given a check for \$32,862.80 to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) for the easement on 5.6 acres of land for the new container site. The easement document is complete and will be forwarded to District staff for signature from the DNRC.

The area for the container site was logged in July by the DNRC and all merchantable timber has been removed. The clearing and grubbing of the site will be part of the contract for the construction of the site.

The project will be advertised in the Daily Interlake on July 23rd and July 30th. The bid opening is scheduled for August 6th and the award of the project should occur on August 18th. Construction is slated to begin on September 8th and be completed by October 22nd.

b. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

The energy facility has continued to operate since last month's tour by the Board. The operator continues to tune the system to operate at the highest possible efficiency. Current production of energy is 750 kW using approximately 335 scfm of landfill gas. The methane content is 44% and there is approximately 0.8% oxygen at the blower pad.

Alan Ruby asked if any of the neighbors have complained of noise from the generator. Jim Chilton stated that the closest neighbor said they can hear it, but it's not loud enough to be an issue for them.

c. Purchase of Somers Container Site

Clark Real Estate Appraisal, Inc. is nearing completion of the appraisal for the land at the Somers Container Site. They are hopeful to have a report to staff by July 24th. We will provide the report to the Board at the meeting if it is available.

Dave distributed the appraisal to the Board. He stated that the range of value came back between \$110,000 - \$130,000. No change from the previous appraisal. Dave stated that we can only offer the Montana Department of Transportation \$130,000. If they cannot accept that offer, Dave will try and negotiate another 10 year lease. He stated the lease price will

likely increase from the current rate of \$250 per year. The Board directed Dave to offer the Montana Department of Transportation \$130,000 for the Somers site.

d. Container Site Consolidation Project

As directed by the Board last month, staff has continued to work on the consolidation of the east corridor container sites. The District is specifically looking at closing the three sites (Nyack, Denny's and Essex) along Highway 2 east of West Glacier. We are attempting to determine a site location and time to have a public meeting so residents can hear the District's proposal and provide their input. The West Glacier area will likely be the location for the meeting and we are working on getting in contact with the Park Service to see if their facilities may be of use or the West Glacier School building.

Jim stated that the gym at the West Glacier School is available for the public meeting. We need to set a date and inform to the people in the Nyack/Essex area. It was agreed to advertise the meeting in the Canyon Inquire, Hungry Horse News and Daily Interlake as well as put flyers at the container sites and area businesses. The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and the date is still to be determined.

e. Fiscal Year 2009/2010

The County Commissioners have approved the expenditures portion of the fiscal year 2009/2010 budget. This is the first year the County has approved the expenditures budget in this manner. The full budget will not be approved until late September or October this year. Information on the taxable values provided by the State of Montana needed by the County is delayed this year. Since the District is an enterprise fund, we do not rely on the information from the state like other county departments. However, we still will not have an approved budget until final adoption by the Commissioners.

f. Litter on Roadways

Staff set up and attended a meeting with the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) regarding this issue. Clancey King, head of MHP Kalispell office and Sergeant David Mills met with Jim to discuss any options available to minimize litter generation on the roadways. After the meeting the MHP talked with their officers and said they want a "zero tolerance" on littering. They did note that it is difficult to enforce this law and that the officers must see the littering occurring to have any hope of a successful outcome with writing a ticket. They are also implementing a "zero tolerance" policy for unsecured loads as long as the officer has visual confirmation that the debris came from the load. MHP hopes to provide staff with statistics in a few months for any stops or tickets issued.

Dave and Jim stated that a billboard with a catchy slogan could be used to draw attention to the litter problem. Perhaps the Health Department could help with the campaign and associated costs.

g. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>June</u>
Total MSW to landfill	9,463.79
Total Appliances Collected	882
Junk Vehicles Collected	20
Truck Trips to Landfill	502
Refuse tons/trip	7.5

The District landfilled 13.6% less waste in June, 2009 as compared to June, 2008 and our refuse trucks hauled 6% less waste comparing the same time frame. For fiscal year 2008/2009 the landfill received 15% less waste than fiscal year 2007/2008. The container sites also showed a decrease of 7.5% for the fiscal year.

Staff is also monitoring the revenue stream for the District. Our assessment system is relatively secure funding but the gate revenue is very dependent on the economy. We are under projections through twelve months of fiscal year 2008/2009. We budgeted \$1.2 million in gate revenue and through June (100% of the fiscal year) we have received cash payment and invoiced \$940,842.50 or 78.4% of the projected revenue.

h. Budget and Financials

There were no financial statements this month.

7. Comments from Board Members

Alan Ruby stated he was in Libby for the announcement of Stinger Welding business and noted that Governor Schweitzer had used the scenario of Flathead Electric Co-op and Flathead County Solid Waste Landfill Gas to Energy project as how two entities can come together to benefit the area/people.

Dale Lauman stated that Flathead County seems to be "first" in a lot of things. If we could come up with a catchy phrase/slogan for litter it would be great. Dave Prunty stated we could ask Mayre Flowers to put together a contest and get school children to create slogans and perhaps have a prize for the winner.

Hank Olson stated that we need to create a list of reasons why we are closing the sites in the Nyack/Essex areas and have them ready before the public meeting.

Hank also asked about the trees lining the highway. He wanted to know how tall they were going to be before we start using the southern portion of the landfill. Dave said that hopefully within 15 years, the spruce trees should be pretty tall. Right now, the voles are eating the root wads on some of the smaller trees. It's an ongoing problem.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.