

Approved at the September 27, 2011 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 23, 2011 – 5:00 p.m.
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Tom Gordon and Mayre Flowers

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that John Helton and Greg Acton were absent.

3. Comments from public

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for July 26, 2011 - **Action Required**

Jim Dupont moved to adopt the minutes of July 26, 2011. Lorin Lowry seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Lease Agreements for Lakeside and Bigfork Container Sites – **Action Required**

Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has prepared the lease agreements for the Lakeside and Bigfork container sites. The leases are for a ten year period and MDT modified the termination section from 30 days to 90 days after staff requested the change. However, due to a requirement that MDT receive “fair” compensation for the land that they lease (much like is the requirement for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation) the cost of the lease increased from \$250 per year to \$2,000 per year for the first five years and the cost is to be reevaluated at that time. This occurred when we obtained another ten year period for the Olney site last year. As was done with the Marion site a few years ago if the District cancels the lease if we proceed with consolidation there is no penalty to end the lease.

Alan Ruby moved to authorize the Public Works Director to execute the lease agreement with MDT for the Lakeside and Bigfork container sites. Lorin Lowry seconded. Motion passed.

b. Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan - **Action Required**

The District engaged SWT Engineers to prepare a Strategic Plan document that will help guide the District in its solid waste operations including the landfill, container sites and recycling programs along with analyzing other solid waste technologies. The plan has taken multiple years to complete and has been posted on the District website for public review. It was also vetted in an article in the Daily Interlake. There were a few comments received from the public pertaining to the potential landfill sites if the District was to site a new facility. The comments centered on locating the new landfill near Flathead Lake but all proposed sites that met the size criterion except two adjacent to the current landfill were eliminated.

This plan is intended to be a living document with a recommended review every five years. Adoption of the plan will help guide the District with our solid waste system for years to come. At times certain business decisions may be made by the Board that is different than the Strategic Plan. This document is meant only as a guideline and is not intended to be the mandated direction of the District.

Wayne Miller moved to adopt the Flathead County Solid Waste District Strategic Plan as prepared by SWT Engineers. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

c. Annual, Less Than Two Year and Longer Than Two Year District Goals – **Action Required**

The Board has been reviewing and modifying the District's goals for the past couple of months. Motion to approve the revised list of annual, less than two year and longer than two year goals is requested.

Alan Ruby moved to approve the Flathead County Solid Waste District annual, less than two year and more than two year goals. Jim Dupont seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Phase 4A Liner Construction

The liner project is nearing completion. Sandry Construction is producing and deploying the two foot thick protective cover soil layer and performing other required minor tasks. On-site soil is utilized for this layer but must have any rocks greater than three inches in diameter removed. Originally this material was to be imported from an off-site borrow area. After final review of this material it was determined that the material was too sandy and would have not performed well for a driving layer or on the side slopes of the liner. The material that had already been produced at the off-site location is being blended with the screened on-site material to utilize what we were on the hook to purchase since it was already produced. There was a change order for this modification but it resulted in a very

minor cost increase of approximately \$6,000. Another change order was executed to increase the length of the guard rail along the access road for \$3,800. It is currently estimated that the project will be completed within +/- 1% of the original contract amount of \$1,423,000. The contract completion date is September 13, 2011 but Sandry Construction anticipates finishing the job by late August.

SWT Engineering is producing the Construction Quality Assurance Report that must be submitted to Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before we can utilize the liner. In the past DEQ has given us a verbal approval to use the liner and followed up with the official letter. It is in our best interest to cover as much of the floor of the liner before inclement weather to reduce our leachate generation for the coming winter and spring seasons.

Hank Olson asked Mayre Flowers if she would give her update at this time.

Mayre distributed the newest WasteNot Recycling brochure for the Board to review. She said they added the pill drop off site at the Justice Center as well as the secure load campaign in the brochure. She talked about recycling at the schools and plans to help increase awareness of the container in the Evergreen location. She also stated that the WasteNot Project is periodically reviewed by the college and the WasteNot Project came through highly endorsed by the college. The brochures will be distributed at schools, local government and public facilities.

b. Non-Profit Organizations at Container Sites

Flathead Industries has begun their work at the Columbia Falls container site. They will have staff at the site on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through this fall. It is anticipated that during the winter the program will shut down and start back up in April or May next year if all proceeds as planned. The Daily Interlake did a story on the program and Flathead Industries has committed to advertizing the program to help increase public awareness.

Staff has been approached by Lakeside Blessings Exchange, which is affiliated with the Baptist Church, to set up a "donation box" at the Lakeside container site. There are some potential issues with this request and staff has been in discussions with the County Attorney's office. One major hurdle will be the County requirement to provide liability, auto and workers compensation coverage for their volunteers. The group provided an initial plan for the project.

Dave stated we need to figure out an appealing slogan for this program.

c. Essex Container Site Land Purchase

Clark Real Estate Appraisal of Whitefish has been engaged to perform the appraisal to determine the cost of the land at the Red Rocks Pit site near Essex. The cost to perform the appraisal is \$2,000 and it is to be completed in three to four weeks. Ms. Clark did the appraisal for the District when the Somers container site was purchased.

Staff has met with the Flathead County Planning and Zoning office and the environmental health office of the City/County Health Department to determine any permitting issues with the site. There have been no fatal flaws determined with the land to date.

Staff has scheduled a community meeting at the Izaak Walton Inn on Tuesday, August 30th at 6 p.m. Flyers informing the public have been placed at the three container sites and businesses in the canyon. A poster board with the site topographic survey and probable site location will be on display for the community to view at the meeting.

Dave stated he has informed Dan Vincent (GNESA) and Tim Manley, FWP about the meeting.

Alan Ruby asked Dave to prepare bullet points to hand out that includes the chronology of where this issue started through to the proposed conclusion. Include anticipated hours/days of operation etc.

Lorin asked if the zoning at the proposed site is acceptable for this type of use. Dave stated it was acceptable but that the District will need to utilize the local government exemption since the lot size will be less than the 10 acre minimum. It will have to go through a public meeting with the Board of Adjustment before being utilized, but doesn't see any issues.

d. Refuse Operations

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

<u>July</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	9,540.46
Total Appliances Collected	617
Junk Vehicles Collected	2
Truck Trips to Container Sites	502
Refuse tons/trip	5.77

The District landfilled 0.1% more waste in July, 2011 as compared to July, 2010 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.6% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2011 was projected to be \$850,000. Numbers for the gate revenue has not been finalized due to the end of the fiscal year but the preliminary balance shows the gate revenue at \$855,330.83 or 100.63% of budget.

e. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board.

7. Comments from Board Members

Dave stated that there have been 6 new wells drilled for the Gas to Energy Plant. It has helped to increase their production a bit. He also stated that the VERS credits are now certified.

Dave also commented that he talked with the county attorney and they were adamant that the Board is not involved with personnel issues unless a District employee wishes to file a grievance.

Hank Olson stated that he had spoken with Don Connors after the last meeting and reiterated the Board is not able to be involved in personnel issues.

Hank also stated that he would like to pursue discussions regarding purchasing the neighboring properties.

Hank asked what (types of garbage) the landfill assessment (\$80.73) included. Dave explained that household garbage consists of bagged trash as well as a reasonable amount of household items, which is typically limited to a couple pickup loads. Otherwise, commercial trash is calculated by generation (or minimum assessment). Other commercial or extra residential refuse is charged at the gate rate (\$31.05 per ton).

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.