

Approved at the September 25, 2012 meeting.

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 28, 2012 – **3:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Hank Olson, Chairman; Greg Acton, Vice Chair; Lorin Lowery, City of Columbia Falls and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: John Helton, Member at Large; Wayne Miller, Board of Health and Cal Scott, County Commissioner.

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

Attendees: Mayre Flowers, Dia Sullivan, Kim Schwegel, Jera Schwegel, Jean Hook and Randy Burns.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that Cal, John and Wayne were absent. He also commented that the neighborhood meeting on the 16th went well.

3. Comments from public

Dia Sullivan – 1115 Prairie View Road: Thanked Dave, Jim, Cal and Hank for listening to their concerns and answering most of their questions. She stated there are some remaining items from the list that they would like clarified. Hank told her to write a list of specific questions and we'll try to get them answered.

Jean Hook – 905 Prairie View Road: Reiterated there were items on the list that weren't explored as completely as they would have liked. The lease-back situation, addressing some homeowners situation of being financially upside down in their property, landlord tenant situations, timing of landscaping the (new) perimeter of the landfill, etc. Hank asked that they write a list of the specific questions so staff can address them.

4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers said she would address the Board during the Community Event Recycling Program agenda item.

Hank commented that, as a county, we need to do a better job of recycling.

5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2012 and Special Board Meeting for August 7, 2012 - **Action Required**

Alan Ruby moved to adopt the minutes of July 24, 2012. Lorin Lowery seconded. Motion passed.

Greg Acton moved to adopt the minutes of the Special Board Meeting for August 7, 2012. Lorin Lowery seconded. Motion passed.

6. Action Agenda

There are no items on the action agenda this month

7. Director's Report

a. Landfill Expansion Project

The informational meeting with the neighbors regarding the possible expansion occurred on August 16th at the Landfill conference room. About 25 citizens were in attendance. A list of questions drafted by Kim Schwegel, 1145 Prairie View Road, was handed out and formed the basis of the discussions for the night. Attending for the District were Cal Scott, Hank Olson, Tara Fugina, Jim Chilton and David Prunty. As questions progressed based upon the letter from Kim, other issues were brought up and addressed. Staff believes the meeting was very positive and helped answer questions of the neighbors, as best as possible. Some of the questions did not have answers at this point in time and that was conveyed if needed.

Staff has continued to work with Gene Lard to start the appraisal process. Any vendor who works for the County must provide the appropriate insurance with the required limits before they can start working. Gene has been pulling that info together and hopefully will be starting on the appraisals in the immediate future. He is waiting on receiving an independent contractor's exemption certificate from the State of MT for workers compensation coverage. This is the last item needed prior to beginning his work.

Alan Ruby asked for clarification and definition of boring wells and perched water zones. Dave stated that boring wells are exploratory drilling that will determine the soil type(s) and depth to ground water along with finding perched groundwater that is above the main aquifer.

b. Community Event Recycling Program

Mayre Flowers from the WasteNot program will be at the meeting to discuss with the Board an idea for a "Community Event Recycling Program." Mayre discussed the idea with staff and we thought it would be a good idea to inform the Board about this potential new recycling opportunity. There is an initial expense to purchase the bins of around \$800. Mayre didn't have this money in her budget for the WasteNot project this fiscal year so staff decided it would be best to discuss with the Board and entertain funding the program from the solid waste program budget.

Mayre distributed a memo regarding "Minimizing Waste at Public Events" to the Board. She stated that the WasteNot Project has received requests for assistance with minimizing waste at public events. The organizers would like to establish recycling opportunities during events throughout the county. She stated that area Chambers as well as Solid Waste could be involved in getting this type of program up and running.

Mayre will explore having the bins built locally and then loaned out to the community as needed. Logistic, labor and revenue still need to be figured out.

Dave stated it is important the event planners need to be the ones paying for the bin rental/usage; not the District. Revenues from the recyclables collected can go to the event organizations.

c. Canyon Container Site Construction

Now that the purchase of the land for the canyon container site is completed, staff has been working with Forest Management Specialist, Inc. (FMS) to prepare the logging plan for the property. FMS will provide the details and estimated expense and revenue for the logging so staff can solicit quotes from a few of the area loggers. It has been recommended that the logging be completed by mechanical means (clipper) instead of a traditional chainsaw logging. We are planning on this work in September or possible October. The slash and stump burning will be done next spring during open burning.

d. Summer Hours for Columbia Falls Container Site

At the July board meeting Lorin Lowry, at the request of the City Council, requested the Board discuss expanding the site hours at the Columbia Falls container site during the summer time. The current hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days per week. These hours are consistent with the landfill hours. The other container sites that are gated are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week.

When the container site monitor started work at the site a few years ago the Board voted to make the hours consistent with the landfill. It is staff's recommendation that as we progress through the consolidation process we eventually make all the sites consistent with the Landfill. Since we are open seven days per week it is rational to think that there is adequate time within a week for citizens to dispose of their refuse. We currently have our site attendant open and close the gate at the site which resulted in savings of \$9,000 per year paid to an independent contractor who use to open and close the gate. Depending on what hours we might change to this expense probably wouldn't be this high.

It is staff's recommendation that we do not change the hours. We believe there is adequate hours of operation since we are open seven days per week, are consistent with the landfill hours, have staff coverage for all hours the site is open and have reduced expenses for the District.

There were general discussions regarding shifting hours of operation during the summer months, but agree that it would be too confusing in the long run. The Board prefers to stay status quo and consistent.

Lorin stated there have been issues of dumping in a subdivision the city owns up the North Fork. He hopes it will cease once the area is more developed.

e. Auction of House on Gray Property

The auction of the house at 4150 Highway 93N will occur on August 23, 2012. Staff will update the Board at the meeting on the outcome of this auction.

Dave stated that there was one bidder for the house and it sold for \$3150.00 and is expected to be moved before the November 1, 2012 deadline.

f. Refuse Operations

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

<u>July</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	9,760.82
Total Appliances Collected	474
Junk Vehicles Collected	5
Truck Trips to Container Sites	472
Refuse tons/trip	7.87

The District landfilled 2.3% more waste in July, 2012 as compared to July, 2011 and our refuse trucks hauled 1.9% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2012 was projected to be \$750,000. Through July the gate has generated \$125,543.96 or 16.7% of revenue through 8.3% of the fiscal year.

g. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board

8. Comments from Board Members

Hank asked if the District employees could do any of the prep work at the Olney site since we have to wait until next spring before starting the project. Dave stated that overtime would be an issue if we explored that option.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.