

Approved at the September 24, 2013 meeting.

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 27, 2013 – **3:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Paul Mutascio, Robert Crastra, Josh Brown, Kim & Jera Schwegel, Charlotte French, Charles Hubbard, Lynnette Hintze, Faith and Lloyd Brynie and Mayre Flowers.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that Alan Ruby was absent.

3. Comments from public

Paul Mutascio – Bigfork: Said he was glad that the Board and staff allowed six more months for the Bigfork Committee to help find a solution to keep their container site. He addressed increased costs to residents who would have to travel further to dispose of garbage and the difficulty of curbside pick-up for most of the rural population. He said there are currently 3 options: Utilizing the neighboring parcel to the east, either leased or purchased. Expanding the current site to the south by leasing a portion of the neighboring property, or upgrading the existing site.

Mayre Flowers distributed a copy of the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) memo prepared by Citizens for a Better Flathead. She encouraged the Board to realize how much material is going into the landfill and how much of that could be recycled. She referred to the memo which shows that up to 25% of MSW could be recycled. She stated that there is significant value in recycling if we could resolve the transportation issue.

4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the progress of the public event recycling bins. She brought an example bin which people could look at after the meeting. She said there will be 50 bins for loan and she is in the process of creating a contract/bin loan form. She will document how much material is recycled and report back to the Board. Once the bins are assembled, she will issue a press release to get the word out about the program.

5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for July 23, 2013 - **Action Required**

John Helton moved to adopt the minutes of July 23, 2013. Lorin Lowry seconded. Motion passed.

6. Action Agenda

a. Olney Container Site Hours of Operation – **Action Required**

The Olney container site project has reached substantial completion. There are a few minor areas of clean up for the contractor but those tasks should be finalized shortly. Staff has transitioned the cans to the new site and continues to install our normal signing package. A sign informing the customers what the hours of operation will be and when they will take effect is needed. At our other sites that we don't staff which are gated the hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days per week. Staff has been discussing the gate opening/closing work with our independent contractor who plows the snow in the winter but we don't have a confirmation yet from him to perform the work.

Greg Acton moved to establish the hours of operation of the Olney Container Site from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days per week and make these hours effective after a minimum two week notice is posted at the entrance to the site. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

There were discussions whether the hours should be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or the longer hours. It was determined that the other unstaffed sites had longer hours and the Olney site hours should be consistent with those. Dave stated the hours of operation will begin on September 16th.

b. Solid Waste District Container Site Operating Policy – **Action Required**

Staff prepared and the Board reviewed a policy for the operations of the District's container sites at the last Board meeting. The goal of the policy is to have a standard set of guidelines that the District can utilize as our container sites continue to be used more heavily and need tighter control. While staffing would be required to fully implement these guidelines, as we have done at the Columbia Falls site, this policy will allow staff to start to educate citizens when inquiries are made. When staffing is approved the policy will be in place to implement immediately and give our attendants the direction needed.

Lorin Lowry moved to adopt the Container Site Operating Policy with an effective date of September 1, 2013. Wayne Miller seconded. Motion passed.

c. North Storm Water Detention Basin Repair – **Action Required**

SWT Engineers have prepared plans and specifications to repair the storm water detention basin on the northern boundary of the landfill. This pond was constructed when the corrective actions were approved for the landfill's groundwater contamination. The pond

receives runoff water from a portion of the landfill and surface flow from the basin north of the landfill.

A PVC liner was installed when the pond was constructed and now has degraded to the point of needing to be replaced. A high density polyethylene (HDPE) liner, like the one used for the landfill liner, will be installed. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$67,926.71. The State law that requires the District to go through the formal bidding process changed in the last legislative session. It is now \$80,000 instead of \$50,000. Staff received permission from the Commissioners to go out for a formal "quote" instead of the full bidding process since County policy has not been changed yet from the \$50,000 level.

SWT contacted geosynthetic installers to provide a bid to three general contractors in our area who have done work for the District. Those companies are LaSalle Sand and Gravel, Sandry Construction and LHC. The quotes are due on August 26th and staff will provide the quote results to the Board at the meeting.

Dave reported that the bids came in as follows: LaSalle Sand and Gravel - \$73,119.44, Sandry Construction - \$99,599.25 and LHC, Inc. - \$139,745.15

John Helton moved to award the construction of the North Storm Water Detention Basin Repair project to La Salle Sand and Gravel and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the contract. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.

7. Director's Report

a. Bigfork Container Site

Included in the packet is the summary report from the citizen group the Board formed to work with staff on the Bigfork container site issue. If the Board and the County Commissioners are interested in the possible expansion of the site to the property owned by Margaret Conley to the south and/or east of the current site staff needs to start the preliminary discussions with Ms. Conley. Discussions occurred between the citizen group and Ms. Conley and staff met her one time at the current container site with the group. It is not known at this point if Ms. Conley is interested in either a lease or an outright sale of property. Staff is interested in a five acre parcel and that has been communicated to her.

If we pursue either a lease or a purchase we will need to work closely with the County Planning Department and make sure that we are able to meet their zoning requirements or at a minimum go through the process of some kind of an exemption for any zoning issues that are present.

Discussions included the need to speak with Mrs. Conley to ascertain her willingness to lease or purchase the property to the east and whether an acceptable price can be reached. The county can only purchase property at appraised value and is wary to lease land for more than what we're currently paying to lease DOT or DNRC land at other sites. Dave stated he is

apprehensive to lease any land to the south of the current site because he doesn't want to get into a "two landlord situation" and the problems that might arise.

b. Recycling Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

On August 20th the workshop on the recycling program occurred with the County Commissioners and the Solid Waste Board of Directors. There was an excellent discussion of issues surrounding the current program and the RFP that Valley Recycling responded to. From the discussions staff has started to analyze other possible program configurations including internalizing the program with District equipment/personnel and the possible installation of a cardboard compactor at the Somers and Creston container sites and possibly the landfill. Staff will prepare a financial analysis that will look at the expenses and savings of these options and utilize the Columbia Falls site for data from our last three years of staffing the site with the compactor installed. Integral to the option is the need to staff the sites to operate the compactor and help efficiently fill the 30 yd blue bin with the other recycled products.

Staff is also working with the County Attorney's Office to determine what can be done with the program in the interim as this work is occurring. Initial thoughts are, we negotiate with Valley based upon the RFP and look at a shorter duration (one year or so) or we can see if there is an ability to extend the current month-to-month contract extension we have executed with Valley based upon the contract that expired in January, 2013. There will most likely be a significant negotiation process with Valley and their rates for the work with either of these options.

As stated in previous meetings there also is the option to end the program in the interim while this work is ongoing but the starting and stopping of a program such as this is usually detrimental to the program in the long run.

It was concluded that staff will continue to work with Valley Recycling on a month to month basis so long as Valley is willing, so another RFP can be drawn up in order to help resolve the issues that have surfaced within the last one.

c. Refuse Operations

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

<u>July</u>	
Total MSW to landfill	10,102.70
Total Appliances Collected	689
Junk Vehicles Collected	3
Truck Trips to Container Sites	489
Refuse tons/trip	7.25

The District landfilled 8.7% more waste in July, 2013 as compared to July, 2012 and our refuse trucks hauled 3.4% less waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for fiscal year 2013 was projected to be \$750,000. Through June the gate has generated \$998,712.22 or 133.2% of revenue through 100% of the fiscal year. These numbers have not been finalized by the Finance Department yet but we don't anticipate much of a change if any.

Gate revenue for the fiscal year 2014 was projected at \$800,000. Through July we have received \$95,672.50 or 12.0% of revenue through 8.3% of the fiscal year.

Jim updated the Board regarding his letter to the Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area requesting consideration of funding for the fence at the new Essex site. GNESEA sent a check in the amount of \$6,233.28 for the 5-strand electric wire fence.

d. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the budget and financials with the Board.

8. Comments from Board Members

Gary Krueger expressed his appreciation for the recycling workshop and said it was very productive.

Hank Olson also expressed that the recycling workshop was beneficial and helps keep the Commissioners and Solid Waste Board informed on the issue.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.