

Approved at the September 25, 2007 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 28, 2007 – **5:00 pm**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

Board Members present: Nathan Sande, Vice Chair; Nancy Askew, Board of Health; John Helton, Member at Large; Hank Olson, City of Kalispell and Bill Shaw, City of Columbia Falls.
Absent: Mike Eve, Chair and Dale Lauman, County Commissioner.

District Staff present: Director David Prunty and Recording Secretary Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Turner Askew, Cyndi Sweet, Debbie Rathbun and Mayre Flowers.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Due to Mike Eve's absence, Nathan Sande was acting Chair. Nathan briefed the Board on Mike Eve's circumstances and "our thoughts are with him" and hope is that he regains his health soon.

Nathan also apprised the Board there will be a change in the agenda. Item 5-f "Flathead County Public Works Department" will be placed in the Action Agenda as item C.

3. Comments from public

Mayre Flowers updated the board on the WasteNot Project. Her emphasis was on disposal of pharmaceuticals. She distributed information from a web page regarding pharmacies in Washington State that accept unused/unwanted medications for disposal. She would like to work with the Health Department and Solid Waste Boards to try and create a similar program. Dave told Mayre we can put this on the agenda for next month's meeting. The Board asked Mayre to send them more information so they may review it prior to next month's meeting.

Mayre also updated the Board on the recycling program at the schools. Glacier High School has also applied for a mini-grant. Since the City of Kalispell has approved their budget to purchase large recycling bins, the smaller bins that are currently used could be available to be placed at some of the schools for their recycling programs.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for July 24, 2007

Hank Olson moved to adopt the minutes of July 24, 2007. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Resignation of Board Chair Mike Eve

Mike Eve is in Seattle dealing with some very serious health issues. He has resigned from the chair position on the Board but would like to maintain his position as the City of Whitefish representative upon his return to work.

John Helton moved to accept Mike Eve's resignation from the Chair position. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

b. Election of New Board Chair for the Remainder of Calendar Year 2007

The Board needs to nominate and approve a new Board Chair for the remainder of Mike Eve's term (through this calendar year).

Hank Olson nominated Nathan Sande to replace Mike Eve as Chair for the remainder of calendar year 2007. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

Hank Olson nominated Bill Shaw as Vice Chair for the remainder of calendar year 2007. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

c. Board Representative for the Flathead County Public Works Department Interview

The County posted the Public Works Director position in August and Dave has submitted an application for the position. Interviews are scheduled for August 30th. The Solid Waste District Board needs to select a representative to participate in the interview process.

Hank Olson nominated Bill Shaw as the Solid Waste Board representative at the County Public Works Director interview. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Dave Prunty and Jim Chilton will be accompanying Flathead Electric Coop personnel to tour the Coffin Butte Landfill Gas to Energy Facility south of Portland, Oregon on September 12th. This facility is producing about 2 MW of power from the landfill through the use of an internal combustion engine and a generator.

We have been unable to schedule any preliminary negotiation meetings in August. Conflicting work schedules and vacations have made it difficult. As summer winds down Dave will be able to meet with the FEC staff to work on the agreement between the two entities.

FEC has continued to work on the financial model for this project. In preliminary calculations, the cost of the renewable landfill gas power is about 2.5 times as expensive to produce as their current electricity expense from Bonneville Power Administration. They informed Dave that

this is not a show stopper at this time, but it does show the difficulties small landfills have with the economic development of this resource.

b. Solid Waste District Strategic Plan

Our engineering design firm, Bryan A. Stirrat and Associates (BAS) can begin on the Strategic Plan shortly. Unfortunately, Mike Cullinane is no longer with their firm. Mike was our Project Manager and was integral in all the work their firm has completed for the District the last seven years. Mike's involvement in this project would have been less detailed, but he was important in the respect that he was the most knowledgeable about our facility and operations. John Boucher, who was going to be the project manager after Mike's departure, has also given his notice at BAS.

We can authorize BAS to start the project immediately or we could delay the project to a later date after we have had time to assess our engineer's personnel for this project. Dave has been considering requesting authorization from the Board to prepare a Request for Qualifications/Proposals (RFQ/P) for our general engineering consulting for the District. This may be the time to perform this RFQ/P before we continue with the Strategic Plan.

Dave has asked Blue Ridge Services to prepare an RFQ/P. He said it could take 4 – 6 months to send out requests, receive replies and make a selection.

c. Greenwaste Diversion

The landfill currently accepts greenwaste (grass, leaves, brush, limbs, stumps etc.) from homeowners under their property assessment. Businesses are charged disposal fees (\$28.75/ton) for their brush, limbs, and stumps. This waste is ground up and transported to Stone Container in Missoula, Plum Creek in Columbia Falls and hopefully this year to the new Glacier High School as boiler fuel. Grass, leaves and barnwaste are received from businesses at no charge. This material in the past has been used in our alternative daily cover program to cover the refuse at the end of the operating day and in our small composting operation. Its beneficial use allowed us to accept it at no charge. We currently have been receiving more of this material than we can utilize in our cover program and our compost program. Dave has been exploring our ability to accept this material at no charge and when we reach the volume needed to supply these programs, charge the disposal fee to our business customers. After talking with Jon Smith with the County Attorney's office, he feels that this would be a policy change and not a rate change issue. That would allow the District to pass a resolution regarding the policy change and the public would have the opportunity to comment on this change during our regular meetings.

Flathead Wood Recycling has recently installed a scale system at their facility next to the landfill. They have informed me that as soon as their scale becomes operational, they intend to charge a rate that is less than our current disposal rate. Dave anticipates this will make many of the commercial greenwaste customers use their facility instead of ours for the material that can be used as boiler fuel. This will entail a small loss of revenue for the District (\$35,363 in FY 07), but our expenses (\$19,065 contracted expense in FY 07 plus internal operating expenses) should also decrease commensurably to offset the reduction.

d. Container Site Operations

Dave has been in contact with representatives from Plum Creek Timber Company regarding land purchases in the Kila area. They checked their holdings and do not believe they have any suitable land (2 to 3 acres) that is accessible in the Kila area. Their ground in this area is inaccessible from Highway 2, is steep terrain or is further removed from the highway where it would be difficult to access in the winter months.

We have budgeted for some upgrades to the Lakeside Container Site. We had a contractor dig some test pits at the site to evaluate the subsurface conditions. This site was initially a gravel pit for Montana Dept. of Transportation. It appears that we will not need to install a geotextile fabric, nor import much pitrun material to build the section. The engineer has performed a preliminary construction cost. It is anticipated that the upgrades, which will include perimeter fencing with a gate, night security light and increased surface area, will cost approximately \$89,000. We have budgeted \$207,000 for this project.

Nathan asked Dave about the Somers site; Dave reported he had recently spoken with Steve Herzog from the MT DOT. He confirmed that the State would likely be ready to sell the site at Somers to the District. Dave is optimistic that the Somers site could be purchased in the near future. The Board decided to hold off on any upgrades at the Lakeside site until it is known if the Somers site will be purchased.

e. Fenders Restaurant Building Sale

Mr. Noel Poux is the current owner of the old Fenders Restaurant building. He currently has the property on the market for \$750,000. It includes the building (8,000 ft²) on 1.72 acres. Dave said he would let the Board know it is on the market. Other county departments have investigated a purchase of the property (E-911 center) but no decisions have been made.

~~f. Flathead County Public Works Department~~

g. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>July</u>
Total MSW to landfill	12,484.77
Total Appliances Collected	1,328
Junk Vehicles Collected	32
Truck Trips to Landfill	579
Refuse tons/trip	7.83

h. Budget

i. Financial Reports

Dave reviewed the budget with the Board. This is the budget that will go to the public hearing on September 6, 2007 and on to the Commissioners for their approval.

7. Comments from Board Members

There were no comments

8. Adjournment

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