

Approved at the September 29, 2009 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
August 18, 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, John Helton, Member at Large and Alan Ruby, Member at Large. Absent: Dale Lauman, County Commissioner.

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

Attendees: Rodney Dresbach, Cyndi Sweet and Mayre Flowers

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson noted that Dale Lauman is absent and had no further comments.

3. Comments from public

Rodney Dresbach, Chief of the West Valley Fire Department addressed the Board requesting a fee exemption for the debris from the building of their new fire station at Farm to Market and Pine Cone Lane. He stated that members of the Fire Department will be hauling the debris to the landfill in their own vehicles.

He also stated (reading from the letter written to the Board) “The landfill and the Fire Department are both tax base, but both agencies do not receive funding from each other. The landfill would like to charge the Fire Department for the new station construction trash. If this is the policy of the landfill Board, West Valley Fire & Rescue will start charging for responses to the landfill for fire suppression. Starting with the fire call on July 11, 2009.”

Alan Ruby asked how much money would be involved? How large of a job is it? Rodney stated he guessed it would be the equivalent of two 20-yard roll off containers.

Dave stated that the only fees the Board has authorized to waive are community clean-up. Hank Olson asked to have the item added to next month’s agenda to be discussed and decided.

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the pharmaceutical grant that the WasteNot Project has been successful in obtaining. They plan to have a workshop to create an action plan as well as publish a brochure to give guidance on how to dispose of pharmaceuticals. She also updated the Board on disposal of fluorescent bulbs and the businesses who accept them.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for July 28, 2009 - **Action Required**

Alan Ruby moved to adopt the minutes of July 28, 2009. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

- a. Award Contract for the West Corridor - Ashley Lake road Container Site – **Action Required**

Bids were received from five general contractors for the construction of the Ashley Lake Road container site. The bids are as follows:

Schlegel and Sons	\$219,506.05
Schellinger Construction	\$227,010.00
Murphy's Excavating	\$255,174.60
LHC	\$282,662.00
Neumann Construction	\$284,196.70
<i>Engineer's Estimate</i>	<i>\$318,196.32</i>

After reviewing the bids for compliance with the bid documents it was determined that the lowest three bids exceeded the requirement of 4% of the total bid price for Bid Item No. 1 – Mobilization, Bonding and Submittals. The reason for this maximum percentage is so the bidders do not load up this bid item since it is typically invoiced and paid shortly after the start of construction. In discussing this issue with Jonathan Smith of the County Attorney's Office he said the Board could waive this requirement (since more than one bidder made the same mistake) and award the bid to the lowest bidder. The engineer also recommended this approach and commented that this has occurred recently on other jobs and they believe they will be modifying their standard bid requirements to increase the allowable percentage for this item.

There is \$400,000 budgeted in the current fiscal year for this project.

The Board held general discussions concerning the 4% requirement for Bid Item #1 and asked Dave to negotiate with the contractor to collect the remainder of Bid Item #1 after 20% of the work is complete.

Bill Shaw moved to waive the requirement of a maximum dollar amount by percentage for bid item No. 1 of the contract documents for the construction of the West Corridor - Ashley Lake Road container site. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Shaw moved to award the contract for the construction of the West Corridor, Ashley Lake Container Site to Schlegel and Sons in the amount of \$219,506.05 and authorize the Public Works Director to execute the contract. John Helton seconded. Motion passed.

6. Director's Report

a. 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. The 600 hour engine maintenance performed in July was successful with no issues of concern. Current production of energy is 760 kW using approximately 365 scfm of landfill gas. The methane content is 46.5% and 0.85% oxygen at the blower pad.

b. Purchase of Somers Container Site

Staff spoke to Shane Mintz, who is the head of the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Right-of-Way office in Helena. The County Commissioners authorized staff to offer \$130,000 for the purchase of the Somers Container Site property. Shane was optimistic that the offer would be accepted. They are seeing the decrease in property values in the Flathead and with two independent appraisals provided by the District showing the property to be worth \$130,000 he believed it will proceed. However, the approvals will come from the upper management of MDT and we have not heard affirmation yet. The letter conveying the offer for the property is included in the Board packet.

c. Container Site Consolidation Project

The public meeting for the consolidation of the East Corridor container sites on Highway 2E is scheduled for August 26th at 6 p.m. at the gymnasium at the West Glacier School. Notices were placed at the container sites on August 10th and at any business along Highway 2 above West Glacier that allowed staff to place one on their bulletin board. Ads about the meeting will be in the Daily Interlake, Hungry Horse News, Mountain Trader and Canyon Inquirer. The principal of the West Glacier School also put a notice on a mailer they sent out about the proposed project in their school news letter that went out recently to all parents in the West Glacier School District.

Staff has prepared information and included it in the Board packet detailing the reasons for the proposed consolidation. As previously discussed these three sites are the highest expense to the District on a cost per ton basis to operate but remove less than 1% of the waste stream hauled by our trucks to the landfill.

d. 100 Year Strategic Plan Preparation

SWT Engineering is nearing completion of the final draft of the Strategic Plan. They will be forwarding copies for management staff review in the next month. SWT will make a presentation on the results of the Strategic Plan. The presentation will focus on the various solid waste management alternatives identified in the Strategic plan, which are available to the County. SWT will solicit input to rank the various solid waste management alternatives based on capital and operational costs, environmental protection, long-term liability, public interaction, ongoing control of the waste stream, privatization or other parameters as related

to the overall the needs of the County. It is anticipated that SWT presentation will be given to the Board at either the September or October regularly scheduled Board meeting. SWT will then finalize the Strategic Plan for general distribution.

There were general discussions regarding which month would be best for the engineers to address the Board. Everyone agreed they would like to have a copy of the draft for review before the engineers arrive. Dave will request copies of the Strategic Plan draft.

e. Disposal Charges for Mobile Homes

When mobile homes are brought to the landfill for disposal the generator is required to have the proper documentation that the home has been removed from the County tax rolls before we can accept it for disposal. This system has been in place for a few years now and has helped the County Assessor's Office tremendously in cleaning up the personal property tax rolls.

We have struggled to utilize the disposal cost per ton charging method for these trailers at the scale house. Typically, either the wheel base for the trailer is too wide to fit on our scale or the hauling vehicle can't get close enough to the scale house to get the trailer completely on the scale. We try to average out a weight by weighing half of the trailer and then doubling it. Staff believes we are under-weighting these trailers due to the weight of the trailer that is supported by the tongue of the trailer on the tractor.

We pulled 19 of the last invoices for this waste stream at the landfill. The average from them is 7.30 tons per trailer and the revenue averages out to \$226.57 per trailer. When we looked at the common weights of trailers being manufactured today they range from 15 tons for a 14'x70' and 20 tons for a 16'x80'. The trailers we are accepting currently are 20 to 30 years old so we don't know if there has been a change in manufacturing materials for trailers. We are going to try and get an exact weight of a few of these trailers if possible over the next month or so either by internet searches of manufacturing companies or by having them unhook from the tractor unit for a smaller wheel base trailer on the scale.

The District could modify their charging schedule for trailers by either charging a flat fee for mobile homes or a disposal cost based upon the square footage of the trailer. The Board would need to a pass resolution of intent to change the fee schedule then hold a public hearing and pass the resolution subject to County Commissioner approval. The Commissioners would then need to have a similar process completed, if they agree, to change the method of charging.

Our equipment is capable of processing the trailers for efficient airspace utilization. It is time consuming work as compared to regular waste brought to the landfill. We are recycling the trailer frames with Pacific Steel which helps generate some revenue from the special processing involved.

f. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>July</u>
Total MSW to landfill	10,088.27
Total Appliances Collected	976
Junk Vehicles Collected	26
Truck Trips to Container Sites	538
Refuse tons/trip	7.81

The District landfilled 13.3% less waste in July, 2009 as compared to July, 2008 and our refuse trucks hauled 5.9% less waste comparing the same time frame.

g. Budget and Financials

There were no budget or financials this month.

7. Comments from Board Members

John Helton reiterated that we have taken 4 phone calls and one e-mail concerning the Canyon Consolidation.

Hank Olson said he will meet Dave at the landfill office and ride to West Glacier with him.

Alan Ruby asked why Cyndi Sweet was present at the meeting. Hank stated she is a neighbor of the landfill and has attended meetings off and on. Alan also commented that he knows Rodney Dresbach and hopes we can come to some amicable conclusion. Dave will ask Jonathan Smith about the legality of a volunteer fire department's ability to charge for fire suppression.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.