

Approved at the October 22, 2013 meeting.

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 24, 2013 – **3:00 p.m.**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

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

Attendees: Kim & Jera Schwegel, Lynnette Hintze, Josh Brown and Mayre Flowers.

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Hank Olson thanked everyone for attending and noted that John Helton and Gary Krueger are absent and Lorin Lowry has resigned from the Board. Hank stated that the City of Columbia Falls is in the process of finding a replacement to represent the city. He explained that the Solid Waste Board consists of representatives from the cities of Kalispell, Whitefish and Columbia Falls; county government representatives include Board of Health and County Commission and public representation includes two At Large members.

3. Comments from public

Mayre Flowers spoke on behalf of Citizens for a Better Flathead. She distributed a revised version of the Municipal Solid Waste memo from last month's meeting. She emphasized that recycling is not just a matter of reducing what goes into the landfill; it's also saving resources. It saves energy and is a value to society. Mayre acknowledged transportation costs are an issue and the public needs a better understanding of this as well. She encourages the Board to engage outside help to answer the important questions and to look into costs of private vs. county hauling. While using bailers at the sites; should they be used for just cardboard or can they be used effectively bailing other commodities as well. We need to get ahead of the curve and make an informed decision.

John Brown – Evergreen Disposal/Valley Recycling: Suggested the county should have an "untarped load fee". He also stated that the landfill cardboard recycle container has been experiencing a high volume of hypodermic needles in the bin. He doesn't want to jeopardize the relationship with his cardboard vendor. Someone is consistently (weekly) disposing of needles in the bin. They don't appear to be from illegal use; just someone who isn't disposing of them in the proper location.

4. Program Updates from Non-Profits

Mayre Flowers updated the Board on the use of the portable recycle containers at the Dragon Boat Races. She said that volunteers are important to the success. She said it took three hours to assemble the 50 bins and set them out. She was encouraged that they were stable in the winds and rain. They were well received and she said that in the future it will be important to work with vendors at these events as well. The bins next use will most likely be at the Whitefish Oktoberfest.

Mayre also spoke again with Frank Wright regarding his concerns about the roadside litter. He picks litter along Highway 93 between Whitefish and the landfill. He is frustrated with the amount of roadside trash and feels the landfill should be doing more to help educate/penalize the public to raise awareness and reduce the amount of litter. Mayre suggested handouts; Dave stated that we've been that route and people just throw it away at the soonest opportunity. Dave said writing citations to offenders is what's going to do the trick.

Alan Ruby asked Mayre how often Frank picks up along the highway. She said nearly every time he travels toward Kalispell. Alan mentioned that the Rotary Club has a section of Highway 93 which they pick up twice per year; fall and spring and that the closer you get to the landfill, the worse it is.

Wayne Miller said the worst section along the highways is leading up to the landfill. He would like to come up with a plan to help make the gate personnel more responsible. Wayne would like to encourage Frank Wright to call the Sheriff and state his concerns.

The Board agrees that the ordinance needs to be revised. Dave was directed to call the Flathead Builders Association to remind their members to secure loads as well as call Ravalli County to ascertain how they cite the public regarding securing or covering loads.

5. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for August 27, 2013 - **Action Required**

Greg Acton moved to adopt the minutes of August 27, 2013 meeting. Wayne Miller seconded. Motion passed.

6. Action Agenda

a. Recycling Request for Proposals – **Action Required**

The County Attorney's Office provided direction to staff on the termination of the RFP the District created for the Blue Box Recycling program. Tara Fugina said the Board needs to reject the response received from Evergreen Disposal/Valley Recycling (Valley) and close the RFP.

Staff has been in discussion with Josh Brown from Valley on the one year extension of the existing contract and has started to pull together information on the possible operations of the program including the installation of cardboard compactors at a few of the container sites. This is discussed in greater detail below in the Director's Report.

Alan Ruby moved to reject the response from Evergreen Disposal/Valley Recycling to the District's Request for Proposals for Recycling Services and close the RFP. Greg Acton seconded. Motion passed.

7. Director's Report

a. Bigfork Container Site

Staff has left messages for Ms. Margaret Conley asking to have a meeting to discuss the possible lease or purchase of five acres of property immediately east of the current Bigfork Container Site. We have not heard back from her at this point.

We also have had some discussion with Paul Mustachio regarding the citizen's group involvement in this process. At this point staff believes we should meet with Ms. Conley one-on-one so she has the opportunity to discuss any issues she feels are relevant to the possible purchase/lease. We also plan not to involve our attorney at this point so Ms. Conley doesn't feel any pressure from our side and can freely let staff know what she believes are the needed parameters for any possible land agreement.

Dave stated he and Jim met with Mrs. Conley last week and she is not willing to sell property to the District, but is willing to lease 5 acres and would like to get \$8,000 per year for the lease. The Board acknowledging the Solid Waste Board can recommend, but County Commissioners have the final say over leases and land purchases. Discussions included the possibility of the Bigfork community funding part of the capital costs and/or supplementing part the lease fees.

Hank Olson reiterated that in support of the Strategic Plan, he is not in favor of keeping or building a new container site in the Bigfork area as there are two sites within a reasonable distance that the residents can utilize. He said if the County Commissioners decide that Bigfork can keep their site, then that's what we'll do.

More discussions included costs associated with preliminary plans just to determine costs of building a new Bigfork site as well as the possibility of the community creating their own communal site and who would potentially service that site.

Wayne Miller recommended the Board obtain direction from the County Commissioners as to their intention before proceeding. He also inquired if we had transfer stations like Lake County, how many would there be. Dave stated two; one in the north end of the county and one in the south end.

Discussions continued regarding the availability of garbage service to the area. A preliminary rate structure for garbage pickup has been requested from the private hauler Allied Waste.

b. Recycling Program Request for Proposals (RFP)

Staff requested Valley Recycling to provide costs for a one year extension of the existing contract for recycling services at the 14 sites. Please note the three school sites have been discontinued at the request of the schools at this time. We informed Valley that all terms of the existing agreement would remain in effect, if needed. Mainly, the District would receive the value of the materials and Valley would be paid for the hauling, processing and bin rental. Staff prepared a spreadsheet that is included in your packet summarizing the revised costs for the hauling from the sites. We included the current rate, the proposed rate, percent increase and then the rate of the hauling at the end of the contract in January, 2013 and the percent increase to the proposed rates.

Valley was checking with their controllers on the potential changes to the processing/handling costs. It was discussed about not having a large increase to the expense like the hauling costs but possibly applying the September Consumer Price Index to the current rate starting on January 1, 2014 for the remainder of the contract. This option is currently in the contract so we would be seeing an increase like this anyway.

Staff believes that it would be prudent to reduce the number of sites where the District is placing the recycle bins. The possibility of a reduction in the number of sites in the future program is high so with the expense provided it appears now is an acceptable time to limit the expense to the District. Staff believes that placing the bins at the Columbia Falls, Creston, Somers and Landfill sites makes sense. These sites will most likely have the cardboard compactors and recycle bins in the future program, if this is approved by the District Board and the Commissioners.

Josh Brown added that they were very under priced in the previous (expired) contract and the current pricing has been challenging. He said they have to price the service where it will be profitable and he hopes the Board understands from a "business sense". Discussions also included which sites will continue to be serviced in order to get a handle on costs.

Hank Olson stated that raising the landfill fee should still be an option in order to keep the recycling program at its current level. Dave stated the County Commissioners are emphatic about not raising the landfill fee to cover recycling costs.

Greg Acton reiterated his experience with the City of Whitefish and their lack of willingness to pay extra for recycling.

Josh Brown asked for clarification as to which sites will be kept; Staff has recommended to the board 4 sites: Columbia Falls, Creston, Landfill and Somers.

Discussions also included the possibility of purchasing compacting units and recycle containers, then contracting out the hauling in order to create competition.

c. East Corridor Container Site Construction and Hours of Operation

The East Corridor (Essex) Container Site construction is completed. PaveCo is working on a few punch list items but substantial completion has been reached. The project went very well and the new site will be a substantial improvement to our current three unimproved sites along Highway 2E with the fencing, security lighting, paved entrance way and gravel dumping pad.

Previously, staff discussed with the Board the need to establish days and hours of operation. When we discussed this at the public meeting held a couple of years ago at the Izaak Walton Inn we informed the citizens we were looking at possibly having the site open three days a week and have hours of operation. For the most part staff believes the citizens understand this since such a small volume of waste is generated in the canyon. Currently, we are hauling about 275 to 300 tons per year from the area and we suspect that a sizeable portion of that is from the businesses operating in the area.

Staff believes that having the site open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday is a reasonable approach but this is open to the Board ideas. We also think that with such a small volume of waste that an 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. time would make sense and help in minimizing expense for the independent contractor to open/close the gate. It was also brought up at the public meeting that with the reduction in population in the winter there is the possibility of closing the site shortly after the New Year's holiday and opening again in mid April to early May. Year around citizens in the area would likely use the Coram site when they come to town for varies reasons.

Staff is looking for direction and will have this item on the action agenda next month. We also have discussed delaying the opening of the site until next spring which will give us time to modify the "bear" cans that we intend to use at the site along with notification to the citizens in the canyon.

d. Volumetric Report for Fiscal Year 2012/2013 – Flathead County Landfill

SWT Engineering has completed the annual review of the operations of the Landfill. The site was flown on July 12, 2013 to generate a topographic survey of the property. This topo is then compared to the previous year topo and the volume of fill utilized and the amount of soil removed for cover is calculated.

From July 11, 2012 to July 12, 2013 the operation consumed 158,815 cy of airspace and disposed of 97,035 tons of refuse. The effective density, which is the total weight of refuse disposed divided by the gross airspace used, equals 1,208 lbs/cy. The Board's annual goal for this number is 1,000 lbs/cy. The estimated refuse density is

1,492 lbs/cy and the calculated refuse to soil ratio is 4.3:1. The site balances at a 3:1 refuse to soil ratio. Any ratio exceeding the site balance indicates an excellent utilization of our landfill's airspace. We are landfilling more refuse with less cover soil to help extend the life of the landfill. The volume of waste accepted at the landfill increased 3.5% as compared to the previous year's volume.

Along with this utilization work SWT Engineering also refines our Closure/Post Closure cost estimates for the facility. This is an annual requirement of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as required by the Solid Waste regulations. The cost estimates were increased with an inflation factor of 2.3%, as reported in the Engineering News Record - Construction Cost Index. The closure costs of the North Area Landfill are estimated at \$4,205,985, the South Area Landfill at \$14,428,000 and the 30 year post closure monitoring expense is \$7,061,435. The total of these costs is \$25,685,420. The District has \$8,285,852.13 in our Closure/Post Closure trust account or 32% of the needed money.

Hank directed Dave and Jim to write commendation letters to the employees.

e. North Storm Water Detention Basin Repair

Last month the Board awarded the repair work to LaSalle Sand and Gravel. That work has reached substantial completion and the basin is on-line for the coming winter season. International Lining Technologies, Inc. from Reno, NV performed the synthetic liner installation and seaming after LaSalle Sand and Gravel removed the old liner and prepared the subgrade. Mike Cullinane, with SWT Engineers, monitored the installation and performed construction quality assurance testing for the District. Mike will prepare a summary report for submittal to the MT DEQ. This completes our projects for the upgrades to the landfill corrective actions that we submitted to the DEQ based upon the report prepared by Hydrometrics, Inc. for the District groundwater remediation work.

f. Refuse Operations

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

	<u>August</u>
Total MSW to landfill	10,046.54
Total Appliances Collected	613
Junk Vehicles Collected	3
Truck Trips to Container Sites	499
Refuse tons/trip	7.53

The District landfilled 11% more waste in August, 2013 as compared to August, 2012 and our refuse trucks hauled 5% more waste comparing the same time frame.

Gate revenue for the fiscal year 2014 was projected at \$800,000. Through July we have received \$390,926.14 or 48.9% of revenue through 17% of the fiscal year.

g. Budget and Financials

Dave reviewed the Budget and Financials with the Board.

8. Comments from Board Members

Greg Acton asked Dave if the green waste “alternative daily cover” will increase the methane production. Dave stated it will have an effect.

Wayne Miller directed Dave to call Ravalli County to determine how they charge (or cite) uncovered loads as well as contacting the Flathead Builders Association to get the word out to their members to cover their loads.

Hank Olson asked for an update on the southern area tree planting/growing success rate. He stated we want those trees to be mature before we start digging in that area.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.