

Approved at the October 23, 2007 meeting

Flathead County Solid Waste District
Board of Directors Meeting
September 25, 2007 – **5:00 pm**
Landfill Office

1. Roll Call

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

District Staff present: Director David Prunty, Foreman Larry Bellmore, Foreman Jim Chilton and Recording Secretary, Deborah Morine.

Attendees: Mayre Flowers

2. Introductory Remarks from Chairman

Bill Shaw opened the meeting. Dave stated that Commissioner Dale Lauman is in Great Falls, but would participate in the meeting by phone if a quorum is needed for the Action Agenda. Dave will call Dale at 5:15 p.m.

3. Comments from public

There were no comments.

4. Approval of the Board Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2007

Hank Olson moved to adopt the minutes of August 28, 2007. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

5. Action Agenda

a. Authorization for Board Chair to Sign Public Works Director Employment Contract

The interview committee for the candidates for the new Public Works Department Director conducted interviews on August 30th. Two internal candidates were interviewed. The committee recommended that the position be offered to David Prunty. Dave and County Commission signed the contract on September 17th. The Solid Waste Board Chair must also sign the contract. The contract begins on October 1st and is for three years.

Hank Olson moved to authorize the District Board Chair to sign the employment contract for David Prunty as the Public Works Director. Nancy Askew seconded. Motion passed.

Since Chairman Nathan Sande was absent, Bill Shaw, Vice Chair signed the contract in his stead.

6. Director's Report

a. Landfill Gas to Energy Project

Dave Prunty and Jim Chilton accompanied the management team and two board members from Flathead Electric Coop on a tour of the Coffin Butte Landfill. The facility is approximately 50 miles south of Portland, OR. They have five internal combustion Caterpillar engines operating on landfill gas producing electricity through the generators. Three of the engines are older 825 kW engines and there are two brand new 1.6 mW CAT engines that they are just completing the installation process.

The electricity company (Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative) is purchasing the gas from the landfill owner (Allied Waste) much like the relationship we are contemplating. We have asked if we could obtain a copy of the agreement between the two entities for our negotiations.

One of the important aspects we learned on this tour was that the electricity company is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the landfill gas well field. This is different than Dave was originally thinking but could make some operational sense. The landfill has compliance requirements on the electricity company for the solid waste rules, but the operation of the well field is extremely important for the quality of gas entering the engine. If it is not tuned properly, the engine will not run efficiently. The operators have learned that if the gas quality of methane is less than 50%, operating the engine successfully is much more difficult.

We also took special note of the noise generation of this facility. There was a large open field that allowed us to get 300 yards or more from the plant. The noise generation surprisingly didn't diminish very much the further we traveled from the plant. Once we were in a treed area, the noise then seemed to decrease. This caused both Dave and Jum to think that the best place for the facility would be on the north perimeter next to KM Ranch Road. This allows for the landfill to act as a buffer for the neighbors to the west and the north tree buffer to minimize the noise to the neighbors north of the landfill. Dave believes and Flathead Electric agrees that we will need to engineer the facility such that the noise generation is negligible to our site neighbors.

**** Dave called Dale Lauman at this time to let him know there was a quorum and thanked him for being available.***

b. General Engineering Request for Qualifications/Proposal

Dave has been working with Blue Ridge Services to prepare the RFQ/P for the general engineering services for the District. Based on their schedule, they should have the document ready for review in a month and then it will be advertised in the Daily Interlake.

c. Greenwaste Diversion

Flathead Wood Recycling has begun weighing operations with their new scale system. They are accepting brush and stumps at \$25/ton. Dave believes that we will begin to see a reduction in the amount of this commodity at the landfill. After discussing with the scalehouse personnel the issue of different rates for greenwaste commodities, it appears that the best course of action at this point may be to wait to see how Flathead Wood Recycling affects our volumes.

Our scale records indicate that in 2006, we received 1,642 tons of barn waste (relatively constant through year) and 940 tons of grass clippings (April through July for majority of volume). These totals include both residential and commercial customers. One idea has been to charge commercial customers for the barn waste commodity at gate rate and continue to accept grass clippings at no charge for the alternative daily cover program. We would also allow residential barn waste customers up to 20 cubic yards per year under their assessment, but then charge them for any more barn waste above this level at normal gate rate. A sizeable amount of the grass clippings received at the landfill come from residential customers. The barn waste commodity is heavily weighted from commercial customers.

The Board had general discussion and directed Dave to pursue charging commercial customers that bring grass clippings and barn waste to the landfill the gate for disposal.

d. Annual Landfill Effective Density and Cover Ratio Calculations

Solid Waste Team Engineering (SWT) has calculated our annual landfill effective density and refuse to soil ratio for the fiscal year. The site was flown on July 11, 2007 to create the topographic map. That topo was then compared to the previous year's topo to generate the total volume of airspace consumed for the operating period. 269,000+ cubic yards of airspace was consumed in the operating period. The total tonnage deposited in the landfill in the time period was 128,657 tons. Deducting the volume of soil used for cover operations (49,700 cy) that calculates to a refuse density of 1,172 lbs/cy. Last year's density was 1,156 lbs/cy. The refuse to soil ratio was calculated at 5.4:1. The site balance requirements and industry standard is 3:1. This is an excellent ratio and is allowing us to use our expensive airspace at a very efficient utilization rate.

e. Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Disposal

Last month the Board asked Mayre Flowers to bring some more information back on the Washington State program that is reducing the amount of prescription and over-the-counter old drugs deposited in the landfill. Their pilot program is using pharmacies to take back the drugs instead of citizens throwing them in the landfill.

Mayre Flowers addressed the Board and reviewed her research. There were discussions regarding 'identifying controlled substances' and 'privacy issues'.

Nancy Askew asked Mayre to call Walgreens to see if they have a pharmaceutical disposal program in place.

Bill Shaw asked if the Board has a directive for Mayre. Nancy asked Mayre to attend the next Health Board Meeting to discuss this issue. The Board directed Mayre to continue her research.

f. Refuse Operations

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

| | <u>August</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Total MSW to landfill | 12,904.37 |
| Total Appliances Collected | 1,244 |
| Junk Vehicles Collected | 37 |
| Truck Trips to Landfill | 570 |
| Refuse tons/trip | 7.58 |

g. Budget

h. Financial Reports

The County hasn't closed out FY 07. There were no financials.

7. Comments from Board Members

Nancy stated that the trees along the highway looked healthy.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.