

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

March 3, 2010
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leon Pfaff, Jason Gilman (exc 11:45), Steve Hogden, Margaret Wood, Pete Riester, David Eddy, Dave Corcoran

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Nick Nichols, Tom Mosher (Wabasha County), Rick Frank (Houston County), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom and Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Warren Shuros (Foth), Gary Harter (Harter's Quick Clean Up Arr 9:15), John Staats (STCSWC), Floyd Reister (Wabasha County), Carolyn Jenkins (La Crosse Citizen), Glenn Jenkins (La Crosse Citizen), Dave Lange (Arr 10:30), Orin Wiseman

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Leon Pfaff, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (December 16, 2009)

MOTION by Eddy/Corcoran to approve the December 16, 2009 Committee Minutes. **Motion Carried Unanimously.** (Freedland, Hexom absent)

INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments and questions were welcomed and open throughout the meeting.

LAND USE PLAN

Hank Koch reviewed the Land Use Plan Development Schedule for the Landfill. He explained that the purpose of the plan is to make sure we are using the landfill property for the best use in the long term. Koch mentioned that projects currently underway include stakeholder interviews, development of a web-site to make the plan available to the public and solicit their input, and a newsletter. In June there will be an informational meeting for the public. No major changes have occurred since the last update. There has been some discussion with the City of La Crosse about opening up a portion of the site for hiking trails. This would involve moving a fence along the east property line approximately 600-800 feet to the east for approximately 1200 feet. No decisions have been made. Updates will continue to be provided at Policy Board Meetings.

STATUS REPORT ON SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Hank Koch provided an update on the Solid Waste Department.

Work Load – Compliance has been good and there are no issues to report. Have received less than six reports of trucks getting stuck. Tonnage is down.

Staffing – All staff openings have been filled with the exception of the HHM manager. Interviews for this position begin Friday, March 5 and the vacancy should be filled by mid-April. Temporary services have been used and positions have been re-defined. HHM has recently begun using a reserve deputy for help with pharmaceuticals. There were questions and discussion among attendees regarding who paid for the reserve deputy and how this might affect the deputization of our HHM staff. The deputy is paid for by the Solid Waste Department. He is "on call" and is

expected to work when we work in counties outside of La Crosse and when needed on-site. He will not be in uniform and will not carry a gun.

HHM Program – Koch reviewed the 2009 report of material handled through HHM. The program has been very successful. It is estimated that in the next five years the program could be reviewed and possibly removed from the tax levy.

Landfill – Highlights include:

- Fluff lift almost complete per plan.
- There is a decrease in leachate.
- New shop received final inspection and is being occupied.
- Old shop to be demolished this year.
- Need a new pad for our processing.
- Xcel – Operations are good.
- Monthly meetings continue to be held with Xcel.
- Special Waste – 30-40% of waste brought to the landfill is 'special'
- Diversion of material is down as there is competition for wood waste.
- Shingles volume is up.

Business Issues – Expect that there will be issues brought to the Policy Board in the future for help with direction on items such as contaminated soil, special wastes, foundry sand, demolition and the citizen's unloading area. There was discussion among members on some specific examples where it appeared our price seemed too high and too low and the challenges faced when special jobs arise.

Citizen's Unloading Area – Have added a metal container and expect more recycling containers in the future.

SUMMARY OF SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE

Nick Nichols reported on a conference recently attended. Sessions attended included How to Talk to Your Legislator, Bio-Gas to Vehicle Fuel Demonstrated, Product Stewardship, Wisconsin Recycling Law's 20th Anniversary, USDA Rule Development and SW Fund (grants and loans are available), Implication of Carbon Trading and Landfill Gas Energy. While there, Nichols met with an environmental consultant who came to La Crosse and toured the La Crosse Landfill as well as the Gundersen Brewery Project.

SOLID WASTE EVALUATION STATUS AND PROGRESS

Koch and Jason Gilman gave an update on the Solid Waste Evaluation. This was originally mentioned in the La Crosse County and City of La Crosse Sustainability Reports that were previously adopted. Both La Crosse and Onalaska along with the County Board Chairman asked that Koch, Gilman and Hexom put together a scope of work needed to evaluate Solid Waste in our area. This included strategies reviewing costs of garbage collection. It will provide information to the Cities to help them make decisions. It will provide pros and cons but will not provide a recommendation for action.

Scope of services has been delivered. Currently, the City of La Crosse is debating whether or not they want the study completed and, if so, how it would be funded. At a La Crosse City Public Works meeting already held, it is understood that La Crosse voted not to fund the study. Earlier discussion proposed that the County pay ½ of the \$50,000 project cost, the City of La Crosse and the City of Onalaska would pay the other ½, prorated based on tipping fee rebates. The Cities' portions would come from the rebates they received from Solid Waste for the next two years. Gilman noted that the City of Onalaska sees value in this evaluation and they are interested in how they can provide better service and learn from what others in our area and state are doing. There was discussion about how this evaluation might affect other activities such as plastic recycling.

STATUS OF GAS-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

Questions from members were brought up regarding the amount of gas we produce. The Landfill does produce a marginal volume, however, technology has changed and small projects can be viable.

Actions to date include:

Put out an RFI and received three responses from River States Truck and Trailer, Solution Dynamics and Gundersen Lutheran Health Systems. Gundersen Lutheran was selected.

February 8 – PW&I approved the landfill gas project and partnership with Gundersen

February 11 – Executive Committee passed the recommendation of Gundersen as the County's partner

February 18 – Presentation to County Board and resolution was approved unanimously. A Monthly update to the PW & I Committee is required.

Ad Hoc committee formed consisting of Hank Koch, Nick Nichols, and Dave Lange of La Crosse county and Jeff Rich, Corey Zarecki and Dave Adams of Gundersen. Committee has met four times. The following topics have been discussed at these meetings:

- Gundersen's motivation for being a partner in this project.
- The results of the two methane gas tests along with the quality and quantity of gas available.
- An outline of how the County and Gundersen would like the system to be set up.
- Preliminary review of Gundersen's Pro Formas and what might be the benefit to each organization.
- How to mesh public relation programs to give a consistent message to the public.
- The potential for creation of electricity and heat for Gundersen's Onalaska campus.
- The following monies have been committed to Foth for this project
 - Task 1 - \$4500 Negotiation assistance
 - Task 2 - \$5000 Preliminary assessment of pipeline permitting
 - Task 3 - \$1500 Preliminary assessment of air permit requirements

Three tests have been performed regarding quality of gas. Two were okay and one was not and suspected to be in error.

WASTE SECURITY

Koch reviewed the three large areas previously discussed:

- Rules/Ordinances/Flow control
- Incentives – large and small
- Value

Since the last Policy Board meeting, there has been a review of two transfer stations and Rebate Agreements have been reviewed. The transfer station records show that over 5000 tons of waste appear to have been diverted. Some of the items in place to control waste security include regulations regarding flow control, State laws, Ordinances and contracts with haulers and customers.

There was discussion among those attending regarding diversion of waste outside of La Crosse, contracts in place with different stipulations, reasons for diverting waste and specific examples of how dollars compare if waste is brought to the La Crosse landfill or elsewhere.

Discussion continued about agreements that stipulate specific requirements and whether those requirements are enforced.

Specific ideas pertaining to this subject included:

- Transfer station to bring waste in
- Small incentives
- Solid Waste Department – Not verifying government rebate
- Hauler rebate – commitment too long – is now 10 years
- Rebates are too complicated
- Enforcement of Xcel Contract – who?
- Rebates not fair to outlying stakeholders
- Shorten term of contract for hauler rebate

Assignments from this discussion included:

- Monthly Hauler meetings will continue to be held to get input
- Monthly meetings with continue with Hank Koch, Dave Lange and Steve O'Malley regarding contracts
- Send information to all showing all programs available regarding rebates, etc.
- List of Haulers invited to Hauler meetings
- Information on why tonnages don't agree.

There was also discussion on Xcel commitments and what might happen if we do not reach the tonnage requirements and the County is penalized by Xcel. Where would money come from? For the last two years, variances have been agreed to. Total amount promised to Xcel is 73,000 tons and in 2010 the variance is a minimum of 70,000.

MEETING DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 was selected as the date for this year's annual meeting. Suggestions for agenda items for this meeting should be e-mailed to Koch at Koch.henry@co.la-crosse.wi.us.

FUTURE MEETING DATES – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 2 at 9:00 a.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Approximately one-half of meeting will be for identifying specific waste security issues and one-half of the meeting on identifying solutions to those issues.

MOTION by Wood/Eddy to adjourn the meeting. **Motion Carried Unanimously;** (Freedland, Hexom absent). The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Approved, June 2, 2010, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder