

## **SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING**

June 2, 2010  
Solid Waste Department  
9:00 AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Leon Pfaff, Dave Corcoran, David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom, Steve Hogden, Jarrod Holter, Leon Pfaff, Pete Riester, Margaret Wood

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Orin Wiseman (Solid Waste Department), Tom Mosher (Wabasha County), Rick Frank (Houston County), Larry Hougom, Larry Hougom and Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Warren Shuros (Foth), Brandon Shea (City of La Crosse), Cathy Brott (Town of Shelby)

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

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

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Approval of Minutes (March 3, 2010)

**MOTION** by Eddy/Hexom to approve the March 3, 2010 Committee Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Comments and questions were welcomed and open throughout the meeting.

### **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR AND SECRETARY**

Leon Pfaff, as Chair, appointed Maureen Freedland as Vice Chair and Margaret Wood as Secretary. Leon had a discussion with Steve Doyle prior to this meeting regarding these open positions. Leon was advised that he should appoint the positions and if anyone wanted to, they should request that this be on the agenda for a future meeting. There was some debate as to whether these positions should be appointed or elected and how this was handled in the past. After agreement that Leon would get clarification on these positions, **MOTION** by Riester/Hogden to accept the appointments of Freedland and Wood at this time. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

Hank Koch reviewed items that were to be accomplished based on the last meeting and provided a handout. Completed items that were discussed included:

- Questionnaire regarding reuse of construction materials
- Monthly hauler meeting and information on haulers invited
- Internal meetings regarding waste security and rebates
- Discussions regarding waste security and rebates
- Investigating why tonnages do not agree between Landfill/Out of county haulers and Xcel
- Information on programs and rebates will be discussed today
- Annual Meeting held April 21, 2010 was discussed and a survey was sent out to all invited to this meeting and did not attend. The results will be shared with the group at the next Policy Board meeting.

## **WASTE SECURITY**

**Transfer Station Records** - Koch reviewed transfer station records for Harters and Waste Management for 2010. There was discussion about waste that appears to be diverted from La Crosse, the reasons it might be diverted and whether or not there was obviously anything being done that was improper. Request was made to have the information broken down by individual municipalities rather than by county. Koch and Brandon Shea from the City of La Crosse will review and provide this information, if possible.

**Rebates and Incentives** – Koch summarized the various rebate and incentive programs along with the requirements for each of those programs. He also provided information regarding who was participating in each program and the monies that have been paid under each program. There was discussion among the group regarding the complexity of the agreements, the history behind the requirements and the rebate amount for each different sector. There were wording changes in the rebate agreements that have led to different interpretations of the agreement.

### **Suggestions for changes to incentives include:**

- One rebate percentage instead of 3 different rebates
- Discontinuing the rebates and lowering the landfill tipping fees
- Reminding others about the value of the landfill so they will want to come to La Crosse County landfill
- Lower rates for specific types of waste that are diverted (some of this is done now).

## **FIVE YEAR COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

Koch presented ideas he, Nick Nichols and Pam Pirman have regarding how to educate and communicate solid waste issues. There was discussion that a five year plan may be too long considering current events and future goals of the department. The idea of a sub-committee was discussed and the difference between our short term and long term goals and communication needed for those goals. Other methods of communication were also discussed. The audience for educational issues was thought to be the end-user, not haulers. Our goal should be to have individuals and businesses insisting that their hauler deliver their waste to the La Crosse County Landfill. Koch asked to be given time to look at a 3 year plan and to come up with a plan of how to incorporate more people's ideas into the plan and to review information from the past that has already been done. This would be done at the next Solid Waste Policy Board. He asked that everyone review the information already provided and send comments to him.

## **NON FERROUS RECOVERY AT XCEL**

Koch reviewed information from packet which explained non ferrous recovery at XCEL. He asked that this board recommend to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee that discussions and negotiations continue with XCEL. **MOTION** by Riester/Corcoran to make this recommendation to PW & I. **Motion carried unanimously.**

There was some discussion about new rules affecting air regulations. Koch reported that the XCEL plant on French Island is already in compliance with these new MACT rules.

## **UPDATES**

### **Gas to Energy**

Nichols gave an update on the gas-to-energy project in process with Gundersen Lutheran. He reported that the project is going very well. Meetings continue to occur each week. Gundersen will be approaching their Board in late June and they have issued a Request for Proposal for vendors. The methane gas from the landfill has been consistent and of good quality.

### **Solid Waste Evaluation**

Warren Shuros reported on the Solid Waste Evaluation which began in early May. The final report will have 7-8 sections. The working draft of the Funding section, which is particularly important to many, was provided to all participants. This includes pros and cons of various funding methods, such as being included on the tax levy or by usage. Other sections include trends, collection options, benchmarking and comparisons to other communities. It is anticipated that

working drafts of other sections will be available in July and all should be complete around September. Koch stated that Nick Nichols will be providing a monthly report to La Crosse County municipalities.

### **Citizen's Drop-off Area**

Nichols explained the work done at the landfill Citizen's Drop-Off area to make it more efficient and easier for citizen's use. The landfill is now open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., which is the same as the Household Hazardous Facility. We are also recycling metal. He reported on work done with students at Western Technical College for marketing ideas and explained some of those ideas. One involved the landfill working with the Habitat Restore and trying to raise awareness of that facility.

### **Pharmaceutical Program**

Randy Nedrelo provided information on the collection of medications at HHM. The DEA has published information which is in conflict with current state regulations we are operating under. The DEA does prevail over the state. After August 9, it is doubtful that we will be able to collect controlled substances under the current program. More should be known in the next month or so. Information has been sent to businesses and other users of the system explaining the issue and announcing a reduction in HHM hours. There was discussion among the group about how important this issue was to the public and whether there was something that we could do to get the support of other groups. Nedrelo reported that agencies such as the DNR are in full support, but the issue is the responsibility of the DEA.

### **Tonnage Reports and Quantities to date**

Orin Wiseman reviewed information provided in the member's packet. We are on track to provide the required XCEL tonnages and he will continue to monitor this each month. For the landfill, we are currently down about 13% - 14% compared to last year.

**FUTURE MEETING DATES** – Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 28, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** - Items to be included on next month's agenda were discussed and noted as:

- Emerald ash borer
- Waste security
- Future of waste-to-energy
- Updates on the solid waste evaluation, gas-to-energy, the citizen's drop-off and the pharmaceutical program
- Green Tier
- Ag bag plastic
- Flow control update from Corporate Counsel
- Enabling legislation for policy board
- Results of Annual Meeting survey and
- Communication and clarification on how vice-chair and secretary are to be determined.

**MOTION by Holter/Eddy to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously;** The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

**Approved, July 28, 2010,** Debbie Henriksen, Recorder