

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

July 28, 2010
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leon Pfaff, David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom, Steve Hogden (exc 12:05), Jarrod Holter, Margaret Wood

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Dave Corcoran, Pete Riester**

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Orin Wiseman, Debbie Henriksen (Solid Waste Department), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom and Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Warren Shuros (Foth), Greg Skauge (Richard's Sanitation), Gary Meinking (Waste Management), Gary Harter (Harter's Quick Clean-Up), John Staats (STCSWC), Floyd Riester (Wabasha County), Mark Broses, Brian Kent (SEH, Inc.)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Leon Pfaff, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

INTRODUCTIONS

REVIEW ENABLING LEGISLATION/ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING POLICY BOARD -

Discussion was held regarding the importance of the La Crosse Solid Waste System to outlying areas, representation of all areas, the policy board's powers and limitations.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dale Hexom opened nominations for Chairman of the Solid Waste Policy Board for the current term. Freedland/Hogden nominated Leon Pfaff. **MOTION** by Hogden/Eddy to close nominations. Pfaff was elected to the position of Chairman on a unanimous voice vote with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

Pfaff then took the Chair and opened nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Solid Waste Policy Board for the current term. Hogden/Eddy nominated Maureen Freedland. **MOTION** by Hexom/Eddy to close nominations. Freedland was elected to the position of Vice-Chairman on a unanimous voice vote with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

Pfaff opened nominations for Secretary of the Solid Waste Policy Board for the current term. Freedland/Hexom nominated Margaret Wood. **MOTION** by Eddy/Hogden to close nominations. Wood was elected to the position of Secretary on a unanimous voice vote with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (June 2, 2010)
- Follow-Up Items from June 2 meeting were reviewed

MOTION by Hexom/Hogden to approve the June 2, 2010 Committee Minutes. Motion carried unanimously with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister. **MOTION** by Eddy/Wood to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments and questions were welcomed throughout the meeting.

REVISIONS TO REBATE PROGRAM

Issues with the current program include the length of commitment (too long), the payment schedule is complicated and the amount of the rebate is not enough. There are three different rebates for Municipalities, Businesses and Haulers. Alternatives were discussed as well as the financial impact. It was agreed that the Hauler rebate should be the focus for now. Changes include: a shorter term, cash rebate, tiered system, increased percentage, must be a demonstrated hauler to take advantage, will include "any and all waste" in terms, extended payment period, quarterly payment and possible auto-renewal. **MOTION** by Wood/Freedland to recommend changes to the current rebate program for consideration by Public Works and Infrastructure for approval. Motion carried unanimously with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

FUTURE OF WASTE TO ENERGY

The future of waste-to-energy was discussed including the possibilities as we go forward between Xcel Energy's plant, the volume and quality of waste in the future and the timetable for decisions to be made. Policy Board requested Koch to bring ideas to future meeting.

AG BAG PLASTIC DISPOSAL

Currently, there is no clear best option for disposal of ag bag plastics. Therefore, much of this waste is thought to be burned, which is environmentally unacceptable. A vendor thought to be an alternative has gone out of business. Policy Board requested Nichols to review this situation and report back at next meeting.

EMERALD ASH BORER IMPACT

Discussion was held regarding the possible impact of the emerald ash borer should it reach our area, which is likely. **MOTION** by Freedland/Hexom to develop a policy on a regional basis to make plans to handle wood waste considering the air space and future needs of the landfill. Motion carried unanimously with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

GREEN TIER CERTIFICATION

Nedrelo explained the Green Tier program available through the WDNR. This program allows a company to obtain incentives for voluntary environmental performance that exceeds minimum standards. There are three levels of participation in this program. **MOTION** by Freedland/Eddy to move forward with Green Tier and investigate the highest level that might be attainable. Motion carried unanimously with 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister.

UPDATES

Pharmaceuticals

Nedrelo gave an update on the collection of pharmaceuticals. He reported that about 10% of the medication collected is considered "controlled". The HHM facility will no longer be able to collect controlled medications. It is anticipated that up to four collection events per year will be arranged in cooperation with the Sheriff's Department to collect these medications in the future.

Solid Waste Evaluation

Warren Shuros gave an update on the Solid Waste Evaluation. The project is on budget and on schedule for a September publication. There are working drafts of some sections which are available to those interested. Solid Waste Policy Board members will be invited to attend the roll-out of the report.

Gas to Energy

Nichols reported that the gas-to-energy project is going well. It is expected that a resolution will be brought to the County Board in August. After approval, construction would be expected to begin in the spring.

Citizen's Drop-off Area

Koch reported that the Citizen's Drop-off area has been open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month and has been off to a slow start. An ad will be placed in the paper before August 7. Radio ads will be placed in September. At this time, Saturday openings are scheduled to run through

October. Tonnage received and operating costs will be reviewed in October and decision will be made whether to continue the program, begin again in the spring or discontinue.

Land Use Plan

A Public Informational meeting was held on Saturday, July 17 at the Landfill and no one attended. While disappointing, it tells us that there are few issues of concern. Maureen Freedland requested that we add environmental groups to our mailing list.

Annual Meeting Attendance Survey

Results regarding attendance at the annual meeting was reviewed. Ways to increase attendance were discussed. It was suggested that the Annual Meeting might be held on the same day as a standard Solid Waste Policy Board meeting, so people could easily attend both.

2011 FEE INCREASES

Koch discussed changes to fees for 2011. Increases are not expected, but a change is being considered. Currently we charge \$68 for municipal solid waste and \$48 for demolition. Two separate fees resulted from prior years when we had two separate landfills and two separate profit centers. Many landfills have one fee for municipal solid waste and demolition. An analysis shows that if we had one rate of approximately \$59 and our tonnage remained the same, there would be no financial impact. Issue would be with people that mainly haul demolition and the price increase they would receive. Also, Xcel's rate is \$61 and this would mean the landfill rate would be less than their rate. Discussion was held regarding pro's and con's for rate change.

MOTION by Hexom/Holter to support a blended rate of \$59 for both municipal solid waste and demolition. Motion passed on a vote of 4 ayes, 2 nays – Eddy, Freedland, 1 excused – Hogden and 2 absent – Corcoran, Reister.

MEETING DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING – A consensus was reached to hold the next annual meeting in the morning on Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

FUTURE MEETING DATES – There was discussion regarding scheduling the next meeting. Freedland wanted the next meeting to be held sooner, but the consensus was to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

It was brought to the attention of the group that Tom Mosher of Wabasha County is retiring at the end of this month. **MOTION** by Holter/Eddy to officially recognize and thank Tom for his service to the Solid Waste Policy Board and the Solid Waste Department. Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Hogden and 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – No future agenda items were set.

MOTION by Eddy/Holter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Hogden and 2 absent – Corcoran and Reister. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Approved, December 8, 2010, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder