

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

November 16, 2011
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom (excused 11:35 a.m.), Steve Hogden, Jarrod Holter, Leon Pfaff, Teresa Walter, Margaret Wood

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT: Floyd Reister (retired)

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Debbie Henriksen (Solid Waste Department), Larry Hougom, Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Gary Harter and Justin Grandin (Harter's Quick Clean-Up), Rick Frank (Houston County), John Staats (STCSWC)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (August 24, 2011)
- Previous Meeting To Do List

MOTION by Freedland/Eddy to approve the Consent Agenda. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments and questions were welcomed throughout the meeting.

UPDATES ON CRITICAL ISSUES

Shingle Site – Hank Koch gave the group an update on the shingle recycling program. During October he attended a Shingle Recycling conference in Texas which provided important information with regard to the processing as well as marketing of recycled shingles. This year we have received about 14,000 tons of shingles. Most of this increase is attributed to the hail storm and tornados in south La Crosse. In the 2012 budget, the price to bring in shingles to the shingle site will raise to \$30/ton (currently \$25/ton). This will insure that we do not lose money in the process of getting shingles recycled and sold. For the program to continue being successful, there needs to be a demand for recycled shingles mixed in asphalt.

Ag Bags – Koch has been working with Xcel and they are investigating the ability to test some ideas.

Landfill Entrance Property – Pfaff updated the committee on the activity during the last County Board meeting. A Right of First Refusal was proposed to purchase this property for \$700,000. This required a \$10,000 payment. There was debate about the need for the property, the appraisal/purchase amounts, etc. After much discussion, there was a motion to delay voting on this issued for 60 days.

Gas to Energy – Koch provided an update. Currently the County is 45 days behind schedule and Gundersen Lutheran is 90 days behind schedule. There have been some issues which have been worked through and startup is expected after the first of the year.

Solid Waste Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee – Hexom and Holter provided an update on the activity of this committee. There have been a few meetings. Getting everyone educated to the same point has been required. They are now documenting their priorities, objectives and

determining services to be provided. The current contract ends December 2013. The next committee meeting is December 6 and members were encouraged to attend.

Landfill Contractor – Koch provided an update on St. Joseph Construction Company. Issues include compliance to the contract and restoration of area where sand has been removed. For some time he has been working with them and others to mediate these issues. A meeting is scheduled for 11/17/11 to discuss options for resolving issues which include: 1) rebid contract, 2) do nothing and 3) internalize services. There was much discussion about the frac sand being sold which is the property of St. Joseph Construction Company and was being stored at the County Landfill.

Walz and Sjolander Wells – An attorney has contacted the County requesting that these neighbors receive public water to replace their private wells. Koch explained that these wells have been routinely tested and the WDNR says that the water is safe. To be good neighbors, we have provided drinking water to these neighbors for some time. Any issues are associated with the old, closed landfill and are not associated with the current landfill. The matter has been turned over to David Lange at Corporation Counsel.

FUTURE RATE INCREASES

There was a lot of discussion about how price increases should be handled. Koch had a specific example of a current issue regarding unacceptable material received at Xcel. After discussion, the consensus was that the Solid Waste Department Director was expected to handle cost and price issues through the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and the County budget process.

NEW STAKEHOLDERS

Discussion was continued regarding the admission of new stakeholders into our system. Debate centered on whether there would be an 'entry fee' (current stakeholders are paying for the waste to energy Xcel retrofit), whether the tipping fee would be the same, higher or lower than other users and whether new users should get all the same incentives (such as the rebate program). The majority of committee members felt that some 'entry fee' should be required and the tipping fee should be the same as others, although if we were in the position of needing tonnage to reach the 73,000 tons required yearly, they would be open to other options.

TOPICS FOR 2012

Koch provided a list of projects that the Solid Waste Department has. He asked member to rate projects by importance and then by urgency and return their comments to him.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Items suggested for next agenda include:

- Solid Waste Evaluation Update
- Ag Bag Update
- Follow up on burn barrel work by Health and Human Services.
- Planning for Annual Meeting

FUTURE MEETING DATE – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 1, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION by Wood, Freedland to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approved, February 1, 2012, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder.