

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2012
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom, Steve Hogden, Jarrod Holter, Leon Pfaff, Margaret Wood,

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Teresa Walter

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Debbie Henriksen, Orin Wiseman (Solid Waste Department), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom, Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Gary Harter, Justin Grandin (Harter's Quick Clean-Up), Rick Frank (Houston County), Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County); Brian Kent (SEH); Brenda Hanson (HHS – excused at 9:35)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (November 16, 2011)
- Previous Meeting To Do List

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments and questions were welcomed throughout the meeting.

BURN BARREL UPDATE

Nick Nichols introduced Brenda Hanson, Health Educator at HHS. Hanson provided information to the committee on an assessment she performed. She was charged with working with municipalities to review what was currently occurring with burn barrels, risks of current practices and economics associated with current actions and risks. Hanson had various handouts as well as her final report available. Education was discussed as a key factor. All communities handle burn barrels (as well as waste disposal) differently. Particularly as people move from one municipality to another, they are often not familiar with their community's rules. One model that has worked well is to have the municipality have the fire department oversee burn barrels. This allows them to write ordinances and enforce them. In particular, the town of Holland and the Town of Onalaska have ordinances considered 'model ordinances' that could be considered by others. HHS's intention is not to demand that any municipality be told how to handle this topic, but that through education they understand the health risks associated with open burning.

Nichols reviewed some of the educational efforts that have been made including township meetings, meetings with fire marshalls, newspaper inserts, a booth at the Living Green Expo and other sites and several handouts. Educational efforts will continue in 2012.

SOLID WASTE EVALUATION UPDATE

Nichols updated the committee on the Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Evaluation Committee meetings. The team is making progress. They are working to arrive at recommendations for handling solid waste in the future with a focus on funding and cleaning up neighborhoods. The next meeting on February 14 will include presentations from the City of La Crosse and Onalaska. The March 13 meeting will include presentations by haulers.

PLANNING FOR ANNUAL MEETING

The topic that seems most appropriate for the annual meeting is an update on the Solid Waste Evaluation. There was discussion about presenting an update, along with an opportunity to bring in equipment (such as containers/carts/trucks) for review. Many municipalities are invited to this meeting and may have experience with some of the options being considered. Decisions made by La Crosse and Onalaska also have the potential to impact other communities and affect waste security in the region.

The committee discussed whether a fee should be charged for the annual meeting and specifically who should be invited. After discussion, Koch recommended that we waive the fee for one year and that in addition to invitations to specific people, we place a small ad in the local newspaper to invite interested people. After the meeting, we can determine what impact this had on the event and how we should proceed. If there is enough interest by the public, a separate meeting could be held. The consensus was that this would be okay and that the event should again be at Fox Hollow, with a continental type breakfast.

MOTION by Freedland, Eddy to hold this year's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

AG BAG UPDATE

Koch reported on his investigation regarding idea to shred ag bags along with wood and burn at Xcel. There are different types of shredding machines. St. Joseph Construction Company, the Landfill contractor, does not have the type of machine that will process ag bags. Their past experience tells them that their machine will take in the plastic at once and it will get wrapped up in the machine. Koch/Nichols are investigating other sources for a shredding machine that could handle this material. Xcel has been contacted and they are open to test the burning of this material if it can be prepared properly. This plastic material has high energy and it may, in fact, burn too hot to work at Xcel. Discussion by the group confirmed that the use of ag bags is growing and disposal issues will continue to be a problem.

XCEL – OVERSIZED BULKY WASTE

Orin Wiseman provided information on an issue regarding large and other unacceptable items that are hauled to Xcel and cannot be processed at their facility. These items are sorted out and information is documented by material and hauler. This documentation and the material is sent to the landfill. Last year, Xcel fees to the landfill for this unacceptable waste was \$95,427. Charges from the landfill to the appropriate hauler amounted to \$48,162. Everyone agreed that this happens without the knowledge of the hauler. Typically, this material is brought in from containers that are rented by a business or individual and the material could have been placed there by any person passing by. Xcel and the Solid Waste Department have worked together and identified some specific trucks which account for a majority of this waste. This will also be discussed at the next hauler's meeting as we work to resolve this issue.

NEW MEMBERS AFTER ELECTIONS

Mike Wobbe, Wabasha County, updated the group on his background. It was also noted that this was Margaret Wood's last meeting as she is not running for re-election.

FUTURE MEETING DATE – The group discussed scheduling the next meeting after the annual meeting. **MOTION** by Hodgen, Eddy to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Items suggested for next agenda include:

- Solid Waste Department goals for 2012 and 2013
- Xcel – presentation from them on future alternatives
- Solid Waste Evaluation update
- Ag Bag Update

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

Approved, May 30, 2012, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder.