

## SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

May 30, 2012  
Solid Waste Department  
9:00 AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Leon Pfaff, Teresa Walter, Steve Hogden, David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom, Jarrod Holter, Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County), Rick Frank (Houston County)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Debbie Henriksen, Orin Wiseman (Solid Waste Department), Michael Quirk (UW-La Crosse), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom, (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Gary Harter (arr 12:15), Bill Ties, (Harter's Quick Clean-Up), Brian Kent (SEH), Mark Paitl, Jim Kuhn (arr 9:30, exc 12:00, Xcel)

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Pfaff advised that Xcel was not able to attend in the afternoon and asked if the group would approve a change to the agenda. **MOTION** by Eddy/Walter to approve moving Xcel to item #8. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

- Approval of Minutes (February 1, 2012)
- Previous Meeting To Do List

**MOTION** by Eddy/Walter to approve the February 1, 2012 minutes as corrected. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Comments and questions were welcomed throughout the meeting.

#### REVIEW OF POLICY BOARD PURPOSE AND FOUNDING INFORMATION

The group discussed the handout regarding the Solid Waste Policy Board purpose and regulating information. There was some question about the wording in the document and it was requested that the document be reviewed for wording and compared to the actual ordinance.

#### ELECTIONS OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR, SECRETARY

Pfaff turned the meeting over to Koch for election of a committee Chair. Board members discussed that it was not a requirement for positions to be filled with La Crosse County Board members. **MOTION** by Freedland/Hexom to nominate Pfaff as Chair. **MOTION** by Hexom/Hogden to close nominations and to cast ballots to unanimously elect Pfaff. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Pfaff then resumed position as Chair for the remainder of the meeting. He opened nominations for position of Vice Chair. **MOTION** by Hogden/Wobbe to nominate Freedland for position of Vice Chair. **MOTION** by Hexom/Eddy to close nominations and cast ballots to unanimously elect Freedland. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Pfaff opened nominations for position of Secretary. **MOTION** by Hexom/Holter to hold nominations for this position until the next Solid Waste Policy Board meeting when the third La Crosse County Board Member has been appointed. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

## **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Freedland reported on a Western Wisconsin Technical College Sustainability Conference that she and other County members attended. The County was well represented and had several items included in the conference, including gas to energy and the HHM program. One take-away was that decisions had to be made at high levels to significantly move sustainability goals forward.

Koch reported on a National Waste to Energy Conference that he attended in Portland ME. This conference provided up to date information from the EPA and SWANA on technologies currently used as well as the challenges and benefits from each of them.

Koch also reported that he and Orin Wiseman recently toured the Elk River Resource Facility in Minnesota. They are larger than Xcel's French Island plant but have little to no residue due to the processes they use.

## **XCEL OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Koch provided information on where we are regarding the Xcel waste to energy contract which will expire in 2023. He discussed the importance of advanced planning and reviewed the WTE Planning and Implementation handout provided to the Committee. Wiseman reviewed financial information regarding reprocessing residue through the Xcel system. Koch further reviewed oversized and bulky wastes, legislation for WDNR fees on waste-to-energy residue, ash disposal and the contract extension. A presentation was made by Jim Kuhn, RDF Plants Director, and Mark Paitl, Plant Manager, from Xcel Energy. He discussed the evaluation process for extending plant operations at Xcel's renewable energy plants which includes French Island. One of the biggest issues for the French Island plant is the fee for disposal of ash at the landfill's ash monofill site. Discussion by the group included costs and alternatives associated with the ash monofill and the possible effects of a changing waste stream when the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska finalize their plans for recycling. A proposal was presented by Koch for consideration by the group stating that the Solid Waste Policy Board recommends that the Solid Waste Department and Xcel meet to develop a proposal to amend the existing contract addressing various technical issues including contract extension and to submit the proposal to the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors for approval no later than November 2013. This was discussed at length by the committee. **MOTION** by Walter/Holter to pass this recommendation. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Koch presented special situations that have come up regarding recycling opportunities, including paper and swine filters. He requested that the committee recommend the Solid Waste Department's ability to set special pricing for these new opportunities. The group discussed this issue and there was a **MOTION** by Freedland/Hexom stating that the Solid Waste Policy Board recommends the Solid Waste Department propose to the La Crosse County Board for approval of a market value pricing structure for new specialty waste from outside our existing service area delivered to Xcel that offset diverted wastes, or provides increased energy value or recovered resources, but does not interfere with existing municipal waste contracts. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

In preparation for the 2012 budget, Koch asked for a recommendation regarding oversized and bulky waste (OBW) received at Xcel. There was discussion and debate amongst the group regarding whether this was needed and the true costs associated with this material. **MOTION** by Freedland/Eddy that the Solid Waste Policy Board recommends that the Solid Waste Department review the OBW received at Xcel and suggest fee increases subject to La Crosse County Board approval in the 2013 budget process as necessary to minimize uncollected fees from OBW. **MOTION** passed on a vote of 8 ayes, 1 nay – Pfaff.

## **LUNCH**

## **UPDATES ON CRITICAL ISSUES**

**Annual Meeting** – Members discussed the recent Annual Meeting. Attendance was similar to past meetings despite additional advertising and personal invitations. The location of the event was good and the group felt that Xcel does a good job explaining complicated issues in a way everyone can understand. The timing of the meeting was debated and it was requested that we hold the meeting in May to allow more time for financial information to be prepared. The group determined that the next Annual Meeting would be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2012.

**HHM** - Koch reviewed the Notice of Violation received by the WDNR. Koch advised that he and Randy Nedrelo take full responsibility for the items in the notice and work is being done to make sure that we are compliant and will not have issues in the future. It was suggested that there be an outside person secured to inspect the facility more often than the WDNR to make sure that we continue to follow all required procedures.

**Green Tier** – The Solid Waste Department has asked for an extension from the WDNR from June to August. This will allow us to complete some action items required in a professional manner, rather than just completing quickly to meet a date. The Solid Waste Department still intends to seek Tier II status but will proceed slowly as it is a big commitment.

**SW Evaluation** – Nichols, Hexom and Holter provided an update regarding the Solid Waste Evaluation. These meetings are continuing and it is expected that at the June 12 meeting recommendations will be made to the Solid Waste Collection and Recycling Committee.

**Gas to Energy** – Koch advised that the gas to energy system is up and running. To date, two invoices have been sent to Gundersen. The first month, the system was operational 88% of the time and invoice amounted to \$17,000. The second month, it was operational 73% of the time for an invoice of \$15,000. The Solid Waste Department is pleased with the system and continues to work out issues as they arise.

**Landfill Contractor** – Koch discussed the rebidding process for the landfill operator. The Request for Interested Parties resulted in 14 responses. The Request for Qualifications will be opened June 8 and bids will be solicited in August/September. We expect a new contract in place by the end of the year. A member of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee will participate in this process and if any members of the Solid Waste Policy Board would like to be involved, they should contact Koch.

**Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)** – Koch advised the group that a review is being conducted on ADC coming in. We find that some of this cover is too dusty and cannot be used as ADC. This results in additional expenses for the landfill. As specific loads are identified that are unacceptable, the customer will be given alternatives to the normal \$15 to \$22/ton pricing. This may include securing the material in sacks and/or additional fees.

**Miscellaneous:** A shredder demonstration is scheduled for June 8. A controlled burn of a few acres was conducted and we expect to expand this next year. The walking trail project is moving ahead.

#### **AG BAG UPDATES**

Koch reviewed a document provided to him regarding Ag Bags. He also detailed some suggestions including: 1) Haulers working with their customers to allow them a specific day each month to place ag bags in their dumpsters. On those days, the dumpster can be brought to the landfill instead of Xcel; 2) Haulers and/or the County approaching municipalities to set up drop-off containers for ag bags and; 3) Create some type of economic incentive for users to separate ag bags from their other waste. There was discussion by the group about specific items and agreement that suggestions could be used concurrently. **MOTION** by Wobbe/Hogden to recommend the Solid Waste Department adopt a discounted pricing policy on agricultural crop bag waste for 2013 and 2014 to create an economic incentive promoting the collection and eventual recycling of such resources and to submit such pricing for approval in the La Crosse

County 2013 and 2014 budget process. After further discussion, the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**VARIANCE TO REBATE AGREEMENTS**

Koch reviewed a number of variances that he has recently provided to haulers. He shared a specific request from Harter's regarding shingles that he had presented to the Sustainability Committee and was intending to deny. Gary Harter was in attendance and advised that he had an idea for these items, but did not think it was going to be a big issue with him one way or another.

**INPUT ON PROPOSED FEES FOR 2013**

Koch advised that no fee increases to the five major categories of waste disposal are being planned for 2013.

**FUTURE MEETING DATE** – The group discussed scheduling the next meeting. **MOTION** by Wobbe/Walter to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Items suggested for next agenda include:

- Review waste security and rebate programs now available for users and their effectiveness. Can we eliminate some or simplify?
- Updates
- Solid Waste Plan
- Anaerobic digester for food waste
- Solid Waste Evaluation Update

**MOTION** by Freedland/Eddy to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

**Approved, September 19, 2012,** Debbie Henriksen, Recorder.