

## SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

September 19, 2012  
Solid Waste Department  
9:00 AM

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jarrod Holter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Debbie Henriksen (Solid Waste Department), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom, Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Gary Harter, (Harter's Quick Clean-Up), Brian Kent (SEH), Greg Skaug (Richard's Sanitation), Gale Frie (Monroe County), John Dietrich (Brice Prairie), Marilyn Pedretti (La Crosse County Board)

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (May 30, 2012)
- 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.

#### ELECTION OF SECRETARY

Pfaff opened nominations for the position of Secretary. **MOTION** by Freedland/Pfaff to nominate Spiker for the position of Secretary. **MOTION** by Hogden/Eddy to close nominations and to cast ballots to unanimously elect Spiker. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

#### COLLECTION AND RECYCLING IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE

Hexom provided an update on the progress of the Solid Waste Evaluation Committee. The next step will be to take information to the La Crosse City Council and ask for approval of a resolution for the Request for Proposal. This will allow the Solid Waste Evaluation Committee to obtain quotes from vendors. Once the quotes are received, the City Council will review responses and at that time it may result in changes to the proposed contract. At this time appears that the Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska may collaborate on recycling, but probably not on other solid waste matters. For La Crosse, they are now enforcing the requirement that all garbage is placed in a container and all containers have lids. One major change in La Crosse services will be how yard waste is handled. If a customer would like to have yard waste collected, they will contact the hauler directly to have them provide a container and terms of pickup. Otherwise, they anticipate a City site available where a person would purchase a pass to use that service. For Onalaska, it appears there are no major changes.

There was discussion about how the public has been kept informed. This has been done as opportunities have arisen with various meetings, such as Neighborhood Revitalization, and there have been several articles in the La Crosse Tribune. A tour of Madison's system is scheduled for 9/26/12. They implemented carts about two years ago and will share their experiences.

### **2013 BUDGET UPDATE**

Koch advised that there are no fee increases in the proposed budget for 2013. He suspects that there may be changes needed in 2014 and would need to have this determined by around May 2013. He will bring to this board before that time.

### **PRESENTATION ON ANAEROBIC DIGESTION**

Gail Frie from Monroe County shared a presentation regarding Waste Mitigation Using Sustainable Waste Disposal Technologies. Unique opportunity to combine an anaerobic digester with a gasification system that would divide the solid waste stream into wet and dry materials. Material bypasses the landfill, is processed and generates a green diesel fuel that can be sold. This system is used in Europe, but not yet in the United States. There was discussion about this technology and the opportunities it presents. The group was interested and also hesitant to get involved with a process that was not currently in use in the United States.

### **SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Nedrelo presented information regarding the Solid Waste Department's Environmental Management System (EMS). EMS is required as part of our Green Tier program. It helps to maintain compliance and provides other benefits. Key points of the policy are that we will: 1) Be the "Responsible Resource"; 2) Meet or exceed legal requirements; 3) Embrace the waste hierarchy and 4) Continually improve environmental performance. He shared how the environmental aspects were rated to determine the top environmental impacts. Impacts were grouped and objectives and targets established for these impacts. Nedrelo will be reviewing our progress in these areas and also plans an outside audit to review the processes.

**FUTURE DIRECTION OF SWPB** – Pfaff asked members of the board to advise what they felt were the most critical issues for this board. Responses included: disposal costs (3), considering future technologies (2), increasing recycling throughout the disposal system, continue to be the eyes and ears of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, use talent on the Solid Waste Policy Board to look forward, get outside counties (Buffalo in particular) more involved. Pfaff also questioned how others viewed the Solid Waste Policy Board and whether or not the people they represented were supportive or not. Discussion ensued. Generally, the La Crosse Disposal System is considered in a positive way. Green Tier is considered important and the confidence in the system is high. There seems to be a disconnect in some counties where the personnel of the County Boards has changed. In some cases, there is not any one around that recalls the reason for the 20 year agreement with Xcel and the risks and responsibilities associated with proper waste disposal.

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

- Xcel contract amendment/extension
- Waste Security
- Eliminate unnecessary or ineffectual rebates
- Ordinance to ban shingle disposal in landfill
- Revise and update Solid Waste ordinance
- Future of HHM funding alternatives
- Future of Sustainability Program
- Ash losses

**FUTURE MEETING DATE** – The group discussed scheduling the next meeting. The consensus of the group was to have the next meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

**MOTION** by Freedland/Eddy to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

**Approved**, January 16, 2013, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder