

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

January 26, 2011
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

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

INTRODUCTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (December 8, 2010)
- 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.

Agenda items 6 – 8 and 10 are related to issues or questions that have arisen due to the new Hauler Rebate program. Koch explained each issue and how they relate to one another.

LANDFILL HOURS

There was much discussion regarding landfill hours, including start times, end times and Saturday hours. There was general agreement that:

- longer operating hours would be nice and appreciated by all,
- extending hours would not increase the tonnage of material being received at the landfill,
- extending hours would provide a valuable service to both haulers and citizens,
- what are now called 'summer hours' should be extended to cover 9 months (rather than 7),
- during winter the shorter hours are okay,
- being open on Saturdays would be a service to haulers if it was every Saturday during the summer months

It was suggested that Koch review information he has to determine what extending hours would mean from a budget and personnel standpoint. It was also suggested that we consider a test time period to verify the expense of providing this service. Koch will report back at the next meeting.

GUARANTEED RATES

Questions have arisen regarding an option for haulers to exit their rebate agreement if landfill rates should rise above a certain percentage. Houston County includes such a clause in their contracts with haulers. It was suggested that 5% or less would be an acceptable increase and environmental fees imposed would be excluded from the percentage. Koch will research other landfill's contracts, discuss with Corporation Counsel and report back at the next meeting.

RECYCLING BY HAULERS

The hauler rebate now specifies that haulers must bring all waste to the La Crosse County landfill including items such as pallets, crates and clean wood, yard waste, tires and impacted soils. Some haulers are currently or have plans to recycle these items and would like to exclude them from the agreement. While everyone agreed that recycling these materials is best, there was debate among the group as to whether this was best accomplished at the landfill or by the hauler. Staats, Riestler and Eddy were of the opinion that the closer the item was to its source, recycling efforts were more effective. The private hauler, being closest and in a better position to do necessary sorting would do the best job. Others believed that since the Landfill is set up to handle recycling for specific items such as wood waste and shingles, the hauler should be required to bring these items to us and should not be allowed to exclude these items for their own recycling purposes if they wanted to participate in the hauler rebate program. Koch will analyze the volume and dollar impact associated with various recyclable items when they are recycled at the landfill or the hauler and report at next meeting.

RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR HAULERS

Koch reviewed issues with haulers who have a route that takes them outside the County. At times it is more economical and practical to use another landfill when there is an opportunity for the hauler to bring an equivalent tonnage of waste to the La Crosse landfill that they have picked up in a different county. This would not include waste that is required to go to Xcel Energy or is covered by a specific agreement that specifies the waste must come to La Crosse County. Issues raised included the liability of the La Crosse landfill, other landfills involved, the hauler and the customers generating the waste, how to measure and enforce this type of activity and how this might give a mixed message concerning the value of the La Crosse landfill. Koch will review other counties policies and the significance of the tonnages involved versus the time and effort required to administer this activity. Gary Harter was also asked to provide information as to how his company would be able to track this information and insure that he was complying with any reciprocity agreement that might be in place.

FINANCE CHARGES

As some haulers are taking on the task of having the landfill invoice issued to them instead of a municipality or business, the subject of cash flow has been raised. Discussion among the committee and haulers present was that the hauler should be responsible for this business issue. **MOTION** by Frank, Eddy to recommend that no change be considered regarding finance charges and terms for landfill invoices. After discussion, the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

LEASE PROGRAM

The current container lease program was explained to those in attendance. In 2011 there was initially \$75,000 budgeted for this program. The first request in 2011 was from one hauler requesting \$80,000. It was recommended by haulers that more money should be budgeted and that there should be a \$50,000 cap on any one particular hauler so that everyone could take advantage of the program. If there is still money available in the 4th quarter of the year, it would be available to any hauler, regardless of their previous purchases. **MOTION** by Hogden, Freedland to recommend that money be transferred from the Solid Waste reserve account to the container program account for 2011. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

LAND USE PLAN

Koch reviewed information regarding the landfill entrance and safety issues that have been noted by past safety inspections. In 2009 options to resolve issues were reviewed by our consultant, Foth, and two ideas for re-routing the entrance were developed. These items were put aside because while they could work, neither was outstanding. Recently, the adjoining property went up for sale and this opened up ideas for other ways to adjust the entrance. Incorporating this possibility was included in the Land Use Plan. Concerns have arisen with the County Board because there are some other activities in process that involve property along Highway 16 and it has been thought that we were trying to push that agenda. The committee discussed review of the options presented to try to clarify which option was best for the long run. Also discussed was the possibility of the land being sold to someone else before the County could determine whether

it was even interested in the property or not. Specifically, an appraisal of the property that is for sale and obtaining a right of first refusal were options discussed. **MOTION** by Freedland, Pfaff to have SEH conduct a peer review of the three alternatives presented (including the adjoining property) by Foth and provide their recommendation to increase the safety of the landfill entrance. **MOTION** passed unanimously. **MOTION** by Hogden, Freedland to secure a right of first refusal for the adjoining property. **MOTION** passed unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Items suggested for next agenda included: Xcel contract extension, Xcel issue with ash rate, appointment of Teresa Walter to replace Dave Corcoran, updates on gas to energy and the solid waste assessment.

FUTURE MEETING DATE – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. It was also confirmed that the Annual Meeting will be held May 4, 2011 at 9:00. These will not be joint meetings as previously considered.

MOTION by Wood, Frank to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Approved, April 27, 2011, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder.