

SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

August 24, 2011
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Eddy, Maureen Freedland, Dale Hexom, Steve Hogden, Jarrod Holter, Floyd Riester, Therese Walter, Margaret Wood

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Leon Pfaff

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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), Brian Kent (SEH, Inc.); Rick Frank (Houston County), John Staats (STCSWC); Brandon Shea (City of La Crosse)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Maureen Freedland, Committee Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

INTRODUCTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Minutes (April 27, 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.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

Discussion was held regarding annual elections. Last year elections were held at the July meeting. The consensus reached was to hold elections each year at the first Solid Waste Policy Board meeting following the county's spring elections.

ANNUAL MEETING

The group discussed the annual meeting with regard to charging for attendance, the meeting format and meeting location. Pros and cons for charging a fee and for changing the meeting location were discussed. It was agreed that as long as there was not a meal, there would be no charge for the meeting in an attempt to increase attendance. If a meal is served, a fee should be charged. Some felt the location was fine and others that it should be more centrally located. The topics covered were considered key and will be discussed at a later meeting. There was a lot of discussion about how to increase attendance by possibly holding on a specific date each year (such as 3rd Wednesday in April) and by Solid Waste Policy Board members personally extending an invitation to parties that could benefit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hank Koch asked whether members wanted to receive his monthly Director's Report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to specify that they wanted to receive this report and whether they wanted via e-mail or regular mail.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Land Use Plan - The previous plan was revised with regarding to the property adjacent to the landfill. The current plan is to investigate the purchase of the property rather than a statement to purchase it.

Entrance Area – Koch updated members on the current status regarding the Schroeder property. To resolve safety issues, it is anticipated that an additional scale will be placed inside the landfill to accommodate more routine transactions with repetitive haulers. The current scale will stay in place to accommodate citizens and loads requiring assistance. The new scale would be movable in case changes are made in the future.

Burn Barrels – A report from Brenda Hanson in the Health Department was discussed. Burn barrels are still in use. Education regarding burn barrels was discussed. In addition, the importance of acceptable alternatives was discussed as well as legislative efforts to curb burning. Although some municipalities and states have laws banning burn barrels, these laws are not actively enforced. **MOTION** by Hexom, Wood that the Solid Waste Policy Board provide an advisory recommendation to the Health and Human Services Department that La Crosse County develop a county wide ordinance banning the use of burn barrels. After discussion, the **MOTION** passed unanimously.

Xcel Response to 2023 Contract Update – Koch discussed a letter received from Xcel that discusses their intentions regarding future contract updates.

Solid Waste Assessment Status – Dale Hexom and Jarrod Holter provided an update on the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Solid Waste Assessment Committee. Issues were discussed and the committee members were given information to help get them up to speed on services provided. The Committee plans to meet at least monthly through 2012. All meetings are open to the public and will be posted on the City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska's web sites. The next meeting will be September 27, 11:30, at the La Crosse County Landfill.

Mediation with St. Joseph Construction Company – Koch explained that mediation continues and, to date, he is disappointed with the progress being made.

Ag Bag Waste – There was no new information regarding ag bag waste, although committee members are very interested in finding acceptable ways to handle this waste. Xcel cannot shred these bags in their processing so they must come to the landfill. Hogden suggested that perhaps ag bags could be shredded along with wood waste. Koch advised that he would attempt to find a way to test this.

HAULER REBATE AGREEMENT – Koch updated the committee on updates to the hauler rebate. Issues in question were:

Extended landfill hours – Koch is recommending that the landfill extend their hours one hour each day (½ hour in the morning and ½ hour at night).

Guaranteed rates – No promise can be made regarding landfill rates in the future. Rate discussions will be held with haulers, the Solid Waste Policy Board and the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. Public input is welcomed at any of these meeting and any changes will be shared as they occur.

Recycling/diversion of waste – Rebate Agreement has been revised to include an option for a hauler to request permission to divert specific items rather than dispose of them in the landfill. Intent is to approve requests that are justified. If not approved by the Director, the hauler can appeal to the County Administrator.

Reciprocity – It was agreed that at times it may be appropriate for a hauler to take waste elsewhere, and then provide a like tonnage to La Crosse from another area. Due to perceived difficulties in administering this, haulers will be trusted to bring their waste to La Crosse or to provide reciprocity.

The consensus of the group was that they were acceptable to the action being taken.

FUTURE PRICE INCREASES – Koch requested discussion regarding future price increases and what the philosophy should be. Discussion centered around what has worked in the past and whether it was okay. Most agreed that it was better to take action when needed rather than imposing relatively small increases more frequently. Discussion will continue next meeting.

NEW ENTITY TERMS AND CONDITIONS – Koch asked the committee to consider what the terms and conditions would be for an entity that wanted to join the La Crosse Disposal System. Items to consider include: Do we want more entities using the landfill or do we want to conserve space for existing entities? As more items are diverted, might we need more tonnage to meet Xcel requirements? Would a new entity need to participate in payments regarding the Xcel retrofit? Would a new entity pay the same price as existing entities? Would all benefits, such as container leases, rentals and rebates be available to new entities? Everyone was asked to think about these issues and discussion will continue at the next meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Items suggested for next agenda include:
Increased HHM hours for citizens?
Continued discussion on rate increases
Continued discussion on acceptance of new stakeholders.

FUTURE MEETING DATE – The next meeting will be held Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Floyd Riester advised that this would be his last Solid Waste Policy Board meeting as he will be retiring. Wabasha County intends to assign a commissioner to replace Riester.

MOTION by Wood, Eddy to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Approved, November 16, 2011, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder.