

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON ONLY**

Members Present: Jenny Mongeau, Kevin Campbell, Cliff Bang, Joe Pederson, Wayne Lepper, Roger Richman, Russell McDougall, Everett Nelson, Heather Nesemeier, Russ Colson, Chuck Hendrickson

Members Absent:

Others Present: Corey Bang, Julie Kennedy, Shannon Thompson, Steve Iverson, Todd Bratlien, Dave Olek, Kathy Ihle

Commissioner Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and initiated introductions.

On motion by Russell McDougall, seconded by Roger Richman, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.

On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by Joe Pederson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from February 16, 2023.

Kevin Campbell said a discussion regarding glass will be added to today's agenda.

Landfill Activities – Brett Rice

Brett Rice was not available to give the landfill activities report. Corey Bang said all is going well at the landfill. Leachate hauling to Pelican will begin April 1, 2023.

5:07 PFAS Discussion – Corey Bang

Corey Bang said PFAS will be a big issue. The MPCA sent a letter and will demand testing be done eventually. They want 15 wells tested. We counteroffered with 5, did not agree to anything. The landfill coalition has been discussing what to do about the PFAS. The coalition tentatively came up with 51 landfills testing on their own. Our cost will be \$4,200 max (which could go down the more landfills that test), we will choose the wells to be tested. We are thinking 2 wells that are upgradient (to show what PFAS are coming into the landfill) and 3 that are downgradient (to show what is leaving the landfill). Stantec will do the testing. The tests will be double blind and no one will know who they are. \$4000 spent in taxpayers' money, so the results will be public. If the MPCA tests the wells that are only on the downgrade, we can counter with our tests from the upgrade that show what PFAS are coming into the landfill.

Roger Richman made the recommendation to spend the \$4200 on testing. Heather Nesemeier seconded the recommendation.

Everett Nelson said we don't know what is in the well. He contacts people to set up testing for the site every year. Citizens have the right to know what is in the wells. Only one citizen won't let Clay County test. All the wells (11 total) are tested every year but not for PFAS. Everett asked is it in the water we have been drinking? Everett suggests a one time test to see if there is anything there, specifically on the NW side of the landfill.

Roger Richman would like to test 5 wells and see what the results are.

Kevin Campbell mentioned that if we test our wells on the NW side and they show no PFAS, and resident wells further out on the NW side show PFAS, that will show that the cause is from another source.

Campbell offered if PFAS are found in landfill wells, to do a first-time PFAS test for nearby homeowners.

Campbell thanked Corey Bang for hosting the township meeting. Perhaps in the future the meeting will be held in Dilworth because the facility was packed.

Solid Waste Updates – Corey Bang

Leachate to Pelican will start April 1 on a 6-month trial contract. Pelican leachate contract is 4.95 cents per gallon, saves us 2 cents per gallon and if testing goes well we will sign a long-term contract.

Fire masks were purchased at Menard's. One for each landfill employee, will be kept in the employee lockers. Good for chemicals, aerosols, etc.

Sterling truck purchased and hauling leachate. Also received approval for garbage trailer, picked up Thursday. New skid steer ordered, should arrive this summer. Borrowing from City for now.

New business: April 3rd, meeting with Becker Co, City of Moorhead, and City of Fargo to discuss potential load sharing of garbage. This could eliminate one if not both of our loads to Perham on some days. Becker County would haul their garbage to Perham, Clay County would haul dirty garbage to Fargo. This would eliminate dead-heading for both counties (driving empty trucks back) and save mileage. Biggest issue is Fargo has a contract with Becker County to only take garbage from Becker County.

Campbell asked if we had to modify our waste designation plan, as it states all of our waste must go to the Clay County Landfill?

Bang said technically it would be a waste swap of equal tonnage, so not considered our waste going to Fargo. The other option would be we haul to Perham, turn around and load our truck in Becker County and haul to Fargo for them. Campbell said Brian at Perham would need to be involved to make sure we receive credit for those loads. Corey stated that he has been in contact. If this arrangement works, we may also use it for recycling. There are also talks of mattress recycling in the future.

Glass Recycling - Shannon Thompson

Roger Richman wanted to have a discussion regarding changes with glass. Richman asked what happens to liquor bottles at the bars, as well as the colleges and hospitals. Thompson said it

depends on what company collects the recycling for those businesses. Iverson said City of Moorhead only collects comingled and not any commercial sites. Thompson stated that Minnkota services commercial locations, and it would be a question for Minnkota whether they only collect comingled or if they collect any separated materials.

Richman mentioned how inconvenient it is for residents to figure out what to do with glass and how environmentally wasteful it is for them to haul to a drop site. Also, where is the glass going? If its in a mixed garbage load that goes to Perham then back to the landfill, that doesn't make sense. He mentioned contracting someone to sort the glass out of comingled, but Thompson stated that this was very unlikely, and in previous months the glass was just bailed with other recyclables and sent to Minneapolis. Corey Bang mentioned that the problem with this is the glass is contaminating the comingled bales, and ruining the price we can get for the rest of the materials. Thompson stated that glass dropped off at county/city drop sites is sold as only glass, so there is a market for that.

Richman stated that if individual homeowners bring glass to RRC, what kind of line up and delays will we get at the RRC. Thompson stated this has not been an issue. Richman said glass is an expensive product. We haul it everywhere. It's not an environmental solution.

We don't want it in the landfill, we don't want to haul it to Perham. It makes no sense for homeowners to drive to drop off 3 pieces of glass. We need to pay someone to get the glass out of our landfill. There is not a simple solution.

Mongeau said there is a public education component. How to educate the public on what to do? The problem is the discussion is inconvenient. If it's important we need to be sure that drop sites are kept clean.

Richman stated we need a discussion about what is going on, and not accept the decision.

Thompson said the problem with comingled is that it contaminates the whole load and isn't worth as much when we sell it. Shards of glass get stuck in the paper, etc. Glass also damages the machinery. Every comingled load has broken glass in it. Hoping to keep the small city sites separated so that the material can cover processing costs.

Campbell asked what happens in Perham with the glass, Thompson and Bang stated that the glass pieces come back to our landfill as fines.

Eureka is a materials recovery facility in the Cities they take glass out and use it. This is mainly for research purposes and is very labor intensive.

Todd said he spoke with the MPCA regarding where the glass is going. MN state law is that if you are collecting something to be recycled, it has to be recycled.

Thompson stated that consumer recycling is not going to get us out of our environmental issues. We need to focus on Reduce and Reuse first. Richman asked why we don't have residents just put glass in their garbage, and Campbell added that we are providing options for the people that really want to recycle their glass.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

Kevin Campbell said MPCA will come out and test the snow on the roof of the facility for PFAS.

The financials are doing well. Internal Service Fund is at \$1,040,00 in the bank. 2023 operations through February has \$1,731,00. To compare, last year we had \$1,256,000 at this time, roughly \$500,000 more in the bank than last year. Paid back Ottertail an extra \$220,000.

There will be a complete plant shutdown first week of April. Brian will try to let Clay County still bring in deliveries at that time.

We have built into our budget to pay them back \$160,000.

Regarding performance, we are on schedule to meet 55,000 tons to be processed through Perham.

Deliveries are up to 1600 tons, as of yesterday down to 1196. It's going in the right direction. \$187,000 to the facility that we did not deliver. We want to get it back down to 0.

Campbell stated there was a significant discussion about glass. One fifth of the weight that is processed ends up back in ash. OTC has a separate facility that it goes to but the facility only have an 8-10 year lifespan left to take ash. What is the alternative to dispose of ash? Prairie Lakes Board will tour a facility that uses ash for roads, will also include County Engineers in the discussion. At some point there will need to be an investment in terms of where do we put it, storage, processing, etc. It will need a lined area. Also discussion of best cost and also who would benefit from the investments, use the ash for OTC roads or haul to Clay County? The discussion is complex.

Sending a letter regarding wet waste, since when you burn something wet you don't get the fuel. The letter will go to everybody including private haulers. The goal is to keep waste drier.

Letter regarding SCORE on behalf of 5 counties was sent in support of the current 2 House and Senate files. Letter also went to the Senate Chair and the House Chair. Campbell suggested Paul Marquardt as well, as he is the Tax Commissioner.

Mongeau asked about dates for volunteer cleanup at the landfill. Corey Bang stated we have tentative dates set and will connect with Mongeau on this. Thompson stated that volunteers are found via social media, press release, and word of mouth.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56