

COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON ONLY

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

Members Absent: Jenny Mongeau

Others Present: Mary Aldrich (Minnkota), Wayne Gjerde (MPCA, via Teams Meeting), Corey Bang, Julie Kennedy, Steve Iverson, Crystal Rayamajhi, Todd Bratlien

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

Campbell announced that Brett will not be here for a landfill update, so Steve Iverson will replace Brett on the agenda.

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

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Wayne Lepper, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from March 23, 2023.

Glass Discussion – Wayne Gjerde (MPCA) and Mary Aldrich (Minnkota)

Wayne Gjerde – MN has had a glass plant since 1961, Anchor Glass in Shakopee. Glass collected in MN for recycling goes through Strategic Materials in the cities, then to Anchor Glass. There is also a sandblasting firm in Bloomington, the rest goes to a glass plant in WI or made into fiberglass.

Gjerde - Under statute 115A, glass collected for recycling cannot be delivered to a landfill and/or a waste energy facility.

Gjerde - Jeff from Strategic Materials has offered to take glass from Clay County and Moorhead for no cost and take to the markets described above. MPCA understands transportation is always an issue once you get out of the metro area.

Aldrich – Minnkota has been discussing glass with Strat. Mat.. Glass is currently handled locally and supplied to an inert landfill in Fargo to be used as a liner. Minnkota is seeing less glass in the single stream, residents are responding well to the change, seeing increases at the sorted drop sites. There are large customers in Clay County that collect sorted glass as well, so Minnkota is not seeing a decline in collected materials.

Gjerde – Stressed the fact that Strat. Mat. is ready to go when Minnkota is. “As far as putting glass in the landfill, yes, under state law if you cross the border you can do whatever you want with it” but brought up the issue of Clay County residents collecting glass with the intention of it being recycled and it not being recycled. Once materials go in the landfill, it stays there. We are not mining landfills in MN at this time, and likely won’t in the future.

Aldrich stated the glass is not going into an MSW landfill, but Gjerde stated it is still in the ground. Gjerde stressed that Strat. Mat. is ready to go when Minnkota is.

Campbell brought up Clay County collection system, especially now that glass is not in the single stream. Richman is worried about the collection being environmentally sound, and not asking people to drive from South Moorhead to North Moorhead to drop off their glass. Gjerde stated that glass can be transported up to 900 miles and still be carbon neutral.

Gjerde – Dem-Con (buyer of recyclable materials) still accepts glass in their single stream. They separate the materials then the glass goes to Strategic Materials then their other markets. There is still a market at Dem-Con for single stream that includes glass.

Richman stated that the issue with glass in single stream is that it contaminates the other materials and lowers the value of the materials. Gjerde responded that that is only a problem if materials are baled. Dem-Con does not accept baled materials anymore, only loose.

Aldrich – Minnkota sells materials to Dem-Con, Republic Services, and Millennium in Sioux Falls. In November 2022, Dem-Con and Republic told Minnkota they can no longer take baled materials, so Minnkota’s processes needed to change to loose materials. This causes more glass debris on the working floor. 70% of Minnkota's volume is source separated, and 30% is single stream. Glass is a good recyclable material but it is a small amount of what Minnkota does. Increase in corrugated, to about 50% of the single stream. Glass shards cause problems for machinery and the facilities.

Richman asks why we can’t have more drop sites in town. Joe Pederson stated that he makes a plan to bring his recyclables to the center in Barnesville on the days they are open, and the materials stay fairly clean in sorted rollofs. They are then hauled to Minnkota by Fuchs.

Todd Bratlien (CofM) – Number of Moorhead sites have gone down due to contamination. The one on 40th S. was bad, with cabinets, plastics etc placed with recyclables. About 90% of these loads were sent to landfill due to this. Kovash Marine was a temp site but they didn’t like the mess. Big part of why private sites don’t want recycling on their property.

Richman asked about sorted glass at liquor establishments. This is not picked up through C of M, but can be through Minnkota per Bratlien. This should be cleaner than public drop sites. Richman asked what other sites we could have while making sure they stay clean?

Gjerde – re: contamination, rural sites across the state put up signs stating the site is under surveillance and it has been effective, even without cameras. Also signs educating about

contamination. Bratlien stated that rural sites are likely the cleanest, and even with cameras in city limits, there is contamination and it is hard to actually prosecute offenders.

Everett Nelson believes that glass collection in Moorhead is a City of Moorhead issue and should be brought to the City Council. Richman believes it is a county issue still, as the glass will end up in the Clay County landfill if not recycled. Campbell agrees that both Nelson and Richman are correct.

Campbell brought up with liquor establishments and apartments, that they may not be designed to have space for recycling receptacles. Space has to be reserved for recycling to be successful.

Chuck Hendrickson asked if Strat. Mat. would need a separate place to collect the glass in Moorhead. Gjerde will have Jeff reach out to Shannon Thompson with details

Solid Waste Update – Corey Bang

April 1st we started delivering leachate to Pelican, has been going well. We've already saved \$2000 in the first half of April.

Our operator at the landfill, Wayne, is taking classes to remove freon from appliances. This way we can remove it ourselves then recycle the appliances instead of sending to a third party that charges \$30-\$40 per unit. We will save money by removing freon in house.

Skid steer is ordered, unfortunately it won't be in production for a while, so Corey went to the board to approve a larger machine (\$4000 more) with a backup camera and LED lights. This is a safer machine and is in production, no firm date we will receive it though.

Corey, Steve from Becker County, and Scott from City of Fargo met regarding load sharing. Details are still being worked out but ideally we would have zero or close to zero back hauling. Clay County may have to adjust its Waste Designation document for this situation. We've signed the contract for the PFAS study, samples will be taken with our regular testing to eliminate some costs. Final price should be under the original \$4200 Corey expected.

All permits are in for the year.

Perham shortage at end of 2022 was 1600 tons, through March we have gained 750 back, expect another 250 tons in April. Should have this taken care of by end of year.

Drive thru floor for RRC – spoke with Aric from Const. Eng., the floor sealant they originally thought would work will not, other options they have are not cheap. (1) grind the floor and have a rougher finish, \$70-\$100k, (2) heat the drive thru portion of the building, also \$70-\$100k. Still exploring our options, it is better now that the weather is warmer but will need something for next winter.

GPS on compactor at Landfill – we have 3 quotes (1) Geologic for \$30,756 (new), (2) RDO for \$30,900 (new), (3) or used through RDO for \$17,059 (this will have the same warranty as new). Would keep old monitor. The GPS will save time for Wayne, also reduces number of times we

need to compact as GPS tells us when we have reached max compactions. A new monitor would cost \$10,995. GPS will move to new compactor when we get it. Will keep old compactor as well, as trade in value is poor.

Roger Richman motioned to advise board to purchase \$17k used GPS, seconded by Cliff Bang. Motion unanimously passed.

Tires are worn out on payloader, we plan to replace the machine in January once the budget comes out, but right now the loader is sliding. Corey has quotes for new tires ranging \$8k-\$34k for the set of 4. Corey recommends we buy the cheaper tires to get us through until we purchase a new loader. But even if we purchase new loader in January 2024, we may not receive it right away. Joe Pederson suggested adding chains to the tires, but Corey is worried about the chains picking up garbage and tearing up the roads. We considered regrooving the tires ourselves but don't want to go down that road.

Since the purchase of a payloader is within a normal line item of the budget, this item doesn't need to be brought to the board, but Corey is keeping SWAC members updated.

Roger Richman motioned to purchase the \$8k tires, seconded by Everett Nelson. Motion unanimously passed.

Loader and compactor both need replaced, one is on 8 year cycle and one is on 6 year cycle. Unfortunately, they both landed on the same year, Corey doesn't want to replace both in the same year, he's thinking loader early 2024, compactor later in the year. Trade-in value of compactor is around \$30k which we could get in scrap, new it is about \$800k, no plan to trade in.

Waste Today is doing an article on the new facility, Shannon and Corey did interviews. KFGO is doing radio interviews on May 1st regarding Cleanup Week.

Prairie Pollinator Plantings at RRC Update – Steve Iverson

As soon as it's dry enough, they will till and apply weed control, seed by end of June. Should see growth by mid July.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

Revenues are over expenditures. Looking at purchasing a new payloader. Internal Service Fund is at \$1,050,000, which payloader will be purchased with without having to increase tipping fees etc to cover the cost of the machinery.

Shortage is at 1121 tons, working with Corey and Todd to catch up.

Biggest issue now is what to do with the ash in the future. OTC has a landfill that is taking the ash but only have 6-7 years left in the lifespan of that landfill. Prairie Lakes board will take a trip in June to Huffman to tour their plant that turns ash into product for roads (process approved by MPCA). Transportation of the ash is the financial concern. If you transport even to Clay County, you lose the financial advantage. OTC may be able to use 7500 tons per year, but that's not all that would be produced.

Joe Pederson asked if there is still issues with wet garbage loads. A letter was sent to all haulers in all counties to keep loads as dry as possible. Burning wet loads reduces the efficiency. Plant manager can turn people away.

Pederson asked about mattresses from the colleges. Corey stated that we encourage colleges to go direct through a mattress recycler. Becker County is looking at doing mattress deconstruction, we may haul to them. Clay County puts them in regular garbage at this time.

Roger Richman asked about the battery situation. Corey said that education for the public is key, letting them know to recycle and that not doing so causes a hazard. Corey plans to purchase a heat reader gun for \$60-\$80, it takes reading on the transfer station pile to find problems. The issues with batteries is when they are run over, they can spark.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00