

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Cliff Bang, Wayne Lepper, Roger Richman, Russell McDougall, Everett Nelson, Joseph Pederson, Heather Nesemeier, Jenny Mongeau

Via Teams: Chuck Hendrickson, Jen Pickett, Kathy Ihle

Members Absent: Russ Colson

Others Present: Todd Bratlien, Corey Bang, Dave Olek, Paul Fiechtner, Ashley Magelky, Julie Kennedy, Steve Larson, Shannon Thompson, Michael Earl (MGE)

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

Corey Bang stated that Shannon Thompson would like to be added to the end of the agenda to discuss the upcoming waste sort at the RRC.

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded Joseph Pederson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the amended meeting agenda.

On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by Russ McDougall and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from August 24, 2023.

Landfill Activities – Corey Bang

The loader blew a hose, and the replacement took a few days to get here. The compactor was also down for two days waiting for parts. The rain Monday was awful and we are behind on loads to the landfill. Should be caught up by the end of the week.

Solid Waste Update – Corey Bang

To date we have removed 140 units of freon, savings of \$4900. We paid \$3500 for equipment. This does not include the metal that we now are recycling, so this has been a good plan.

Tipping floor has been resurfaced and is less slippery. Corey is also ordering rubber matting to go under the dumpsters to protect the floor when we crush the contents.

SWAA conference last week: Corey, Shannon, and Julie (1 day) attended last week. There was a tour of the ash plant in Hoffman. MPCA policy updates were also presented. There was a plan presented regarding demo landfills (and if they start closing), including 9 counties with 12 transfer stations and 2 hubs, at a cost of \$84million. Shannon presented on our waste sort. Legislative recap – we got a 3% SCORE funding increase, they are going to start going for more.

Budget update – presented to the board on 9/5, no tipping or parcel increases at this time. Did include a new FT position for 2024. Corey is asking for an increase in tire and demo rates in the next couple weeks as we are losing money on these items.

Leachate – 105 loads to Pelican Rapids as of September 8, equaling 661,500 gallons. This has been a slow leachate year due to less rain, which has saved us \$13,560. We've extended the short-term contract to the end of the year and are working on a long-term contract.

On 9/13 there was a thermal event, aka fire in one of our semis at the RRC. Fire Dept was called and it was easily contained.

There was an issue with the auditors, we were missing a second bid for our transfer trailers. With the help of IT we were able to find this bid in old emails to avoid a ding by the auditors. Unfortunately, the second bid was not included in the county board packet.

Heather Nesemeier asked for more information on the new position at the RRC Corey mentioned. He plans to move Ashley from the scale house inside the RRC as an office manager of sorts. This is in big part to take care of filing and record keeping, as well as covering when Corey is out of the office. A scale attendant would be hired and Ashley and the new hire would act as back-ups for each other. This position was originally planned for but Corey wanted to take a year with the new facility to assess staffing needs.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

Financial reports are going well, cash balance is consistent with last year. The plant is projected to meet the full 55,000 tons this year. This is the first time the plant is hitting this target.

As of the end of August, Clay County is short only 419 tons. With getting caught up, the plant needs to cut us back on loads. Per Corey, we are being cut from 10 to 8 loads per week, but with our larger trailers this is comparable to what we were hauling before.

Recap of 2024 budget: with increased tipping fee at Perham, this equates to \$13,683 increase for Clay County.

Ash and Perham: Corey took a tour of the Hoffman ash plant during the SWAA conference. It seems like a nice system and an option we may need to pursue as the Ottertail landfill (which is where our ash goes) only has 6-8 years left of life. In Hoffman, they are mining their old ash piles for metal, selling the metal and decreasing material in the landfill. Per Kevin Campbell, there is no room for expanding the OTC landfill. Shannon added that an issue at Hoffman is storage of the metal. You want to have enough space to store the metal and be able to play the market. Campbell mentioned that we are looking at using clean ash in hard surface roads only. We are looking at taking 50 truckloads of ash to the Hoffman plant and Becker County would do a test site of the road build with ash. Campbell's concern is that you would not know how the ash performs in a road in one year, he would want 5 years at least to see the longevity. He also noted that different materials can perform differently in Becker County vs Clay County (for example) as the soil composition differs. Testing using our ash in a road won't be cheap, as we need to haul it to Hoffman then haul the clean ash to Becker County, but sometimes with tests you need

to do this. Hoffman would keep the metal they extract in exchange for using their facility. Heather Nesemeier mentioned this would be a good test of how much metal is in the ash from the Perham plant. Campbell brought up the logistics of our ash being processed, including that the ash goes to OTC landfill, so would the change be done by OTC, or our five counties? Also, cost vs life expectancy of the Perham plant?

The plant is running smoothly. Every county is within the +/-500 tons deliverable target.

For our records, a document that PLMSWA shares shows that Clay County is responsible for 9400 tons annually. This tonnage is based on the facility originally believing they could handle 62,500 tons annually. ($15\% * 62,500 = 9400$). But the facility is only handling 55,000 tons, so our portion is 8250 tons. The concern is that in the future, we will be billed for 9400 tons.

The board decided to use the average of the 5 member counties when determining the COLA each year and will use this formula annually going forward.

Joe Pederson mentioned that Clay County is growing faster than the other member counties, and if we could ever send more tons to Perham. Kevin Campbell responded that we are limited to 15% of the plant capacity. The only way we could increase our percentage would be buying out a smaller county's percentage. Kevin thinks this is unlikely as even the small counties are only delivering a fraction of their total waste to Perham.

The annual audit was completed and the facility got a clean audit.

Waste Sort - Shannon Thompson

Shannon wanted to mention that the meeting room at the RRC has been getting good usage.

Thursday, Oct. 19 from 1pm-4pm is our annual waste sort (with a few years missed with COVID and lack of volunteers). We are looking to recruit groups/clubs and offer fundraising money.

Even though the waste sort is not an ideal sample size (only 100 houses), it gives us a starting point to talk about what is going into our waste stream.

See attached flyer from Shannon regarding the waste sort.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

PSA for Immediate Release

Volunteers are needed Thursday, October 19th from 1:00pm- 4:00pm for a waste sort at the Clay County Resource Recovery Center, 2233 15th Ave N, Moorhead MN.

You are invited to participate in a waste sort of residential trash from 100 homes in Moorhead with curbside no-sort recycling service. We will sort through the trash, learn about the waste stream, record data, and witness the amount of recyclables and organics in the trash. We will gain valuable information about the amount of recyclables and organics being sent to the landfill. This sort will assist in measuring the effectiveness of the recycling program.

Volunteers are needed for the sort. Volunteers need to wear old clothes and closed-toed shoes. The County will provide personal protective gear. Training will begin at 12:45pm and sorting will start by 1:00 pm. We will be finished sorting at by 4:00pm. Volunteer are welcome to join us for any amount of time during the sort.

Please contact Shannon at 218-299-7329 or shannon.thompson@claycountymn.gov on or before October 17th to volunteer!

Please pass this invitation to the others who may be interested! We appreciate your support of our efforts to make our metro area as sustainable as possible.

Clay County has held this sort of the trash from the same 100 houses annually beginning in 2017. Recyclables, plastic bags, food waste, and trash are separated and weighed to record the makeup of the trash. We compare the numbers from the sorts. We use the data to help assess successes and work areas in the diversion and recycling programs. Plastic bags numbers are also tracked separately to further the discussion regarding their use in our area. This important study will give us real numbers to report when discussing waste diversion, recycling, and disposal in the metro area.

If your nonprofit group would like to volunteer at the sort as a fundraiser, please call Shannon at 218 299-7329 for more information.

Contact: Shannon Thompson, Clay County MN Solid Waste, 218 299-7329,
shannon.thompson@claycountymn.gov

