

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

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

Via Teams: Shannon Thompson, Michael Earl (MGE), Jen Pickett, Julie Kennedy

Members Absent: Wayne Lepper

Others Present: Corey Bang, Brett Rice, Paul Fiechtner, Justin Sorum, Ashley Magelky, Neesha Moore

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

Joe Pederson requested to add a discussion on plastic bags to the agenda.

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

On motion by Joseph Pederson, seconded by Everett Nelson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from November 30, 2023.

Compactor Discussion (RMS: Bomag; and Butler: Cat)– Brett Rice

Brett opened up the floor for questions from members on the presentations given at the November meeting.

Roger Richman asked about the rakers on the compactor, mentioned they are expensive and difficult to put on as well as a safety issue. Brett responded that we have rakers on our Bomag currently and have not had issues due to our operator being skilled at his job.

Kevin Campbell asked if the people that would be using the machine have expressed a preference for which machine. Corey responded that we had Wayne (operator) test each machine, and he prefers the Cat.

Brett also recommends the Cat, in big part due to servicing (distance, plus Cat runs a night and weekend crew so could be serviced after hours). Also, the 21 yd blade would be helpful (vs 18 yd with Bomag).

Joe Pederson stated that the rebuild program with the Cat is a plus in his eyes. Heather Nesemeier added that she likes the available training and how close the trainers are if we need them. Chuck Hendrickson has done technical writing for Butler and attests to their training being excellent. He also recommends going with Butler.

Justin Sorum (County Engineer) stated that we have many Cats with Butler in the HW department and the service has always been good, and if there ever was an issue, Butler made sure to make it right.

Kevin Campbell asked about cons that Brett listed on the comparison sheet, mainly the Cat's hydraulics are not heated. Brett stated that the current Bomag compactor's hydraulics are also not heated, so it should not be an issue. Brett also mentioned that the current Bomag has an automatic greaser but the Cat would need to be manually greased at the start of each day. Jenny Mongeau added that it is important for an operator to visually inspect the machinery every day and manually greasing would make sure this isn't overlooked.

Brett mentioned the cons on the Bomag, mainly that parts are out of Germany and can take extra time, as well as servicing out of Savage MN. The smaller size of the blade is also a con on the Bomag.

Joe Pederson asked about machinery being kept inside overnight, Brett responded that we currently have heaters in the equipment on a timer so they start around 6am and are ready when landfill staff arrive.

Corey mentioned that the current compactor only has a trade in value of around \$31k. There were thoughts of keeping it, but repairs easily run \$50k, then we would be stuck trying to sell it ourselves. Corey recommends we trade it in to Butler instead of risking not being able to sell it ourselves.

Joe Pederson motioned to recommend to the county board that the Cat compactor is purchased through Butler, and to trade in the Bomag compactor. Cliff Bang seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

Landfill Activities – Brett Rice

Payloader is scheduled for delivery next Wednesday from General Equipment.

Panels ordered for the NE and NW side slope riser panels to pump leachate, as these need to be replaced soon.

Solid Waste Updates – Corey Bang

Neesha Moore has been hired as our new scale house attendant.

MOU has been signed with Becker County and load sharing is started. They had two trailers but now have four, we have three but will have a fourth purchased from BMT shortly. Logistics of loads has been an issue but should get smoother as we work out the bugs.

Clay County has signed a one-year agreement with Pelican for leachate, which will be revisited yearly.

We received board approval to purchase a used trailer from BMT.

A broom was purchased for the RRC skid, the cost was split between the RRC, DMV, and withdrawal management and this will be used to remove snow.

Take Jack Back pumpkin composting program for 2023 was up about 15% in tons collected. This diverted about two semi loads from going into our landfill.

This is the first year we were able to give all staff the Friday after Thanksgiving off, as we usually open the landfill for Fuchs to dump. Corey worked it out with Fuchs, and they delivered all their loads to the RRC with Corey working the scale from 9 to noon.

For Christmas, the county has a half day on Friday. We plan to have all garbage out by Thursday evening, as City of Moorhead is not collecting Friday. Also Closed all day Monday.

An invoice from 2020 for Moorhead Public Service was discovered for \$21,400. This was for power and fiber optics for the RRC. Corey took this to the board to be paid from our general budget, as this was missed in the financials for the RRC.

Second round of PFAS sampling was completed. Levels stayed steady. We will have Stantec come to next month's SWAC meeting to discuss.

Roger Richman brought up his concern about PFAS in sewage disposal systems, and if this will cause Pelican to have issues handling our leachate in the future. Corey responded that we still have our contract with City of Fargo as a backup, and Roger responded that this alleviates his concerns with the one-year Pelican contract.

The MPCA also did PFAS testing on our landfill wells, we do not have the results of those tests yet. We should have the results by next month's meeting.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

Monthly revenues and expenditures are doing well. We did make the extra payments so they would fall in 2023, so the cash looks low right now but it should be in line with prior years.

The plant should be at 54,600 tons by end of December, which is close to the goal of 55,000 tons. As of November 30, Clay County is down to -326. All member counties are within the +/- 500 tons.

The plant has significant work needing to be done, this is in the 5-year plan. Even with the Internal Service Fund, if all items in the 5-year plan are completed we are 1.5-2 million short. The grates are a big issue, cost is about \$525,000. The 2024 budget only has \$50k allotted, but there is a \$350k Contract for Services fund as well. The grates need to be replaced every 15 years. The board approved the grate repair, using the \$50k from the budget, \$350k from Contract for Services fund, with the rest from the Internal Services Fund. We are hoping for March for the repair.

Regarding grinders on some garbage collection trucks, we have learned that the grind size can be adjusted, as when it is too small it causes issues at the plant. Brian (plant manager) has been given authority to reject loads if he believes they will cause issues.

The Ottertail landfill used for ash has an about 6-7 year life left. There is an option to expand that current landfill and give another 10 years of life. Kevin Campbell is worried about the timeline for testing ash being used in roads, so suggested working with OTC to see about the timeline for permitting

an expansion of their landfill. MPCA stated it would take 2 years for the permit. The cost to PLMSW to dispose of our ash will also likely go up to \$400k per year. The current budget is \$350k.

Boot allowance for employees is raised from \$100 per year to \$200 per year.

Paper bags – Joe Pederson

Joe is wondering how we can encourage people to reduce usage of plastic bags and switch to paper or reusable bags. Roger mentioned the City of Moorhead switching to paper or compostable bags for yard waste last fall.

Heather Nesemeier responded that you cannot ban plastic bags in the state of MN. Cities and counties can choose to put a fee on plastic bags though. A few years ago there was a group working on plastic bags. Some vendors in the area don't offer plastic bags or reward those who bring their own bags. Heather thinks maybe this is a good time to bring this group back together.

Shannon Thompson mentioned that a Concordia group recently reached out to her. There is a group of students looking for a capstone project. Shannon thought of the Plastic Bag Taskforce that was started by former intern Laura Westberg. This group included contacts at schools, grocery stores, Home Builders Association, etc. It is discouraging in the national press as it is often reported that plastic bags do not get recycled, but locally our bags are recycled. We work with Trex that turns the bags into composite wood.

Kevin Campbell brought up tapping into SCORE funding to help with education.

Everett brought up the issue of shrink wrap as well, and how he personally cleans shrink wrap and bags from his fence along Highway 10. It poses a threat when his livestock eats it.

Jenny Mongeau brought up single use items for food and work was being done on this prior to COVID by the Cass Clay Food Partners, but single use items were of course needed at that time.

Meeting adjourned.