

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024
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, Russ McDougall, Wayne Lepper

Via Teams: Heather Nesemeier, Chuck Hendrickson

Members Absent: Russ Colson

Others via Teams: Michael Earl (MGE), Julie Kennedy

Others Present: Corey Bang, Brett Rice, Shannon Thompson, Justin Sorum, Alex Soyring, Ashley Magelky, Steve Larson, Todd Bratlien, Andrew Feia (Stantec)

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

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

December 21, 2023 minutes amendments: 1) updated the 2nd on the compactor motion; 2) per Heather Nesemeier, update the last line in the paper bags section to include “by the Cass Clay Food Partners” so it would read: “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.”

On motion by Joseph Pederson, seconded by Everett Nelson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the amended minutes from December 21, 2023.

PFAS Testing Update – Andrew Feia (Stantec)

We will be going over the spring and fall testing, as well as the MPCA testing.

The same wells were sampled in the spring and fall of 2023 (2 upgradient and 5 downgradient).

Spring results (updated slightly due to updated lab report):

- No detections in the upgradient wells (W-13 & W-12)
- No detections in downgradient well C-1 or Field/Equipment Blanks
- 5 detections in downgradient well W-11
- 1 detection in downgradient well W-17
- 2 detections in downgradient well TW-1

- 1 detection in downgradient well TW-2

Spring detections:

- 2 HBV (Health Based Values) Exceedances for PFOA, some detections in other wells
 - HBV criteria lowered in Jan 2024
 - Lab revised spring results for W-17 (1-23-24; removed many prior reported HBV exceedances)

Fall results:

- No detections in the upgradient wells (W-13 & W-12)
- No detections in downgradient well C-1 or Field/Equipment Blanks
- 5 detections in downgradient well W-11
- 1 detection in downgradient well W-17
- 2 detections in downgradient well TW-1
- 1 detection in downgradient well TW-2

Fall detections:

- 3 HBV Exceedances for PFOA, more detections in other wells

2023 Overview:

- 9 total detections in spring, 22 in the fall
- HBV exceedance present for PFOA during both events (considering old HBV was .35 µg/L)
- MPCA May 2023 testing results showed similar results

2024 General Items:

- BARR to prepare MN LF Coalition - Final PFAS Report by ~August 2024
- MPCA/USEPA ever developing research on PFAS
 - Websites to look into PFAS information
 - MN PFAS Blueprint
 - USEPA Key EPA Actions to Address PFAS
- Still unknown timelines for Federal/State implementations at Landfills. Monitoring is not currently a permit-required activity

Roger Richman asked if we know the PFAS levels in the leachate hauled to Pelican Rapids for treatment. Corey Bang responded that part of the agreement with Pelican Rapids includes Clay County testing our leachate twice a year and Pelican Rapids testing their water discharge to see if the leachate is affecting PFAS levels in the treated water.

Everett Nelson asked if we know if the PFAS is migrating off-site of the landfill, as he is concerned about his residents and their wells, especially to the NW. Andrew Feia responded that we have not tested wells down gradient of the detection wells yet. Everett asked if when we do our regular testing of wells, we could include these residents that are NW (down gradient) of the landfill.

Kevin Campbell mentioned that Clay County is working with two other counties to establish a Regional Rural Water District. The issue is that PFAS is everywhere, and found in water sources not related to

landfills. He stated that tests are important to compare to tests in water that is not near landfills and determine how much PFAS is caused by landfills.

Andrew stated that extra testing for residents on the NW side of the landfill does not add much extra work, as they test outside spigots instead of making the residents flush their lines.

Landfill Activities – Brett Rice

New loader was delivered, has been working well and employees are getting used to it.

Working with Stantec to compile data for annual reporting

A track Bobcat with a bucket was rented to clear dogwoods so Stantec can more easily access wells for testing. The bucket was used to shave the dogwoods off then let it freeze overnight, cleaning it up the next day.

Solid Waste Updates – Corey Bang

We have picked up the semi-trailer from BMT, which has helped drivers not waiting for an empty trailer.

Compactor purchase was approved by the board.

Corey, Shannon, and Ashley attended a virtual MPCA haulers' reporting seminar. This was regarding how all haulers in the county are supposed to be reporting what they deliver and where. Some haulers are not reporting accurately or reporting at all. The state requires this reporting from the haulers, but the haulers may not understand how and what to report.

Load sharing with Becker County is working but there are some struggles with scheduling. Becker County does not have a consistent flow of garbage, but will increase when summer arrives.

January has been a struggle for Solid Waste, with frozen loads, trucks breaking down (three of our four trucks have broken down, two at the same time), a truck driver out for a week, an ice dam at the back ramp at the RRC. Corey wants to point out that staff have pulled together during January. Once both truck drivers were back, we were caught up on loads within three days.

January 7 a fire alarm went off at the RRC. It was a false alarm, but showed us some areas we needed to improve. We have added keys for the fire department on the gate.

According to our contract with the City of Moorhead, we need to have an advisory meeting with Paul Fiechtner (City), Corey, two commissioners from Clay County and the two City of Moorhead board members. Corey will reach out to schedule.

Kevin Campbell asked for more information on the ice dam at the RRC. Corey stated that a couple weeks ago, we had 6-8 inches of ice freezing the door down on the south ramp when it was dry the night prior. This was a few weeks after the ice storm, so we thought possibly groundwater seepage. Truck drivers had to chip away the ice, but the dam continued to get worse. Yesterday Corey shut the back sump pump off. It appears the water comes in quickly and has cut through the old ice dam. Corey

worked with Sean (transfer station operator) to watch the flow of water when the sump pump was turned back on. We can track the flow through the manhole covers, and the water also seems to be coming in from the back manholes. As they watched they could see the water trickling in. Corey has spoken to Construction Engineers on how to locate and fix the issue. Kevin Campbell asked if the water goes to the holding pond and if that may be blocked, Corey stated we haven't gotten that far yet.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

The year end report shows a loss of \$166,000, but this is due to the 2022 payment to Ottertail not showing up until 2023, and the 2023 payment being made in December of 2023. Technically, we are about \$50,000 in revenue over expenditures for the year.

Cash balance at end of 2022 was \$1,237,000 (because at the end of 2022 that payment to Ottertail had not been made). Cash balance at end of 2023 was \$1,095,00. Internal Service Fund is at \$1,061,000.

We were projected to process 55,000 tons for 2023, actual tonnage was 54,313.

As of end of December, Clay County was down to 234, currently down to 140 so we are pretty much caught up.

The plant manager reports that plant performance is going well.

Chris McConn (OTC) reported on legislative activities coming up. We will have attendees Feb 27 in St Paul.

OTC came to us with an ash disposal agreement. All of our ash goes to OTC and we incorporate this into the PLMSWA budget. No action was taken at this time and the plan is to have lawyers look it over as it is around 10 pages long.

With the new rules and regulations regarding cannabis in MN, the PLMSWA drug and alcohol policy has been updated to coincide with the OTC policy. Annually, 15% of employees in key positions will be tested.

Joe Pederson mentioned that it has been a few years since SWAC members have toured the Perham facility and recommended a tour in the coming months.

Introduction of Alex Soyring – Justin Sorum

Alex is the new Asst. County Engineer for Clay County Highway. Alex has around 13 years of experience with Braun Intertec and WSB. Alex may attend SWAC meetings if Justin is not available.

SCORE reporting - Shannon Thompson

Shannon is currently gathering numbers for SCORE reporting. The RRC having everything in one place has been a positive. One example is the amount of metal we have been able to divert from the landfill and we also get the revenue from recycling.

Clay County receives around \$180,000 in SCORE funding annually. Kevin would like to see the numbers to compare to prior years. The SCORE funding does not completely fund the recycling program.

Clay County is mandated by the state of MN to provide a recycling opportunity to all County residents. We have drop sites in cities and townships that provide this to residents of the city and surrounding areas. The cities submit their expenses for these sites to Clay County for reimbursement. About four years ago we tried to set up a formula for how much to reimburse the cities, and we came up with a number specific to each city. Some cities are looking to move to single-sort curb side recycling for city residents, but the drop site needs to stay open in order for the city to qualify for reimbursement.

Kevin Campbell asked about cities like Moorhead and Dilworth and if there have been any gains for recycling provided at apartments. Shannon responded that hurdles include management buy-in and the transient nature of residents of apartments. Kevin and Shannon discussed how there are also issues with having room for a recycling dumpster at existing apartment buildings (it can take up parking spots as well). Planning and Zoning being involved with new apartments is crucial in ensuring the recycling space is part of the final project. Corey mentioned that another issue in the past is when a recycling bin was put out at an apartment, it was just used as a second trash dumpster. Chuck Hendrickson volunteered to discuss with the city manager about space for recycling bins at apartments. Heather Nesemeier thinks education of those moving into apartments would help, possibly management providing a packet to residents regarding recycling. Shannon brought up that two prior Clay County interns worked part-time with the City of Moorhead in the past and worked to implement recycling at apartments. The bins were placed at apartments. Todd Bratlien mentioned that when single-stream was implemented they also needed to implement recycling at apartments. There was grant money and dumpsters provided. Issues we ran into were lack of room for a second dumpster at locations, or the apartment historically had two dumpsters for trash and ran into issues when they then only had one dumpster for trash. Todd believes around 75% of the recycling bins that were placed have been turned in and replaced with trash dumpsters.

Meeting adjourned.