

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Russ Colson, Cliff Bang, Everett Nelson, Russ McDougall, Wayne Lepper, Chuck Hendrickson

Via Teams: Roger Richman

Members Absent: Jenny Mongeau, Heather Nesemeier, Joseph Pederson

Others via Teams: Brett Rice, Jen Pickett

Others Present: Corey Bang, Shannon Thompson, Justin Sorum, Ashley Magelky, Steve Larson, Todd Bratlien, Julie Kennedy, Paul Fiechtner

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

On motion by Wayne Lepper, seconded Everett Nelson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Cliff Bang and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from January 25, 2024.

SCORE Funding – Shannon Thompson

Shannon stated that for the past year, SCORE eligible activities have been between \$400,000 and \$500,00 for Clay County. We receive under \$200,000 in SCORE funding each year. The funding we receive covers right around 30% of SCORE eligible activities.

Shannon mentioned that a lot of the funds received are spent on state mandated programs, for example, we are required to provide a recycling opportunity to every member of our county.

Landfill Activities – Brett Rice

Brett has taken a position in Solid Waste in Florida, and his last day with Clay County is March 5, 2024.

The landfill has been running smoothly. The frozen roads have been a positive. There have been a few minor covered repairs on the new loader.

Kevin Campbell wants to thank Brett for his time with the County and wish him well in future endeavors.

Solid Waste Updates – Corey Bang

Stantec pricing to test residential wells is \$850 per well if we do four wells. Everett Nelson would like these done for the safety and peace of mind of the local residents. Kevin Campbell mentioned the stipend that Clay County has been paying Hawley Township for hosting the landfill, and suggested those funds be used to cover these tests. Everett added that he is not asking for these tests to happen annually but once time to set a baseline of PFAS levels on the NW edge of the landfill. Everett will discuss with his township and report back. April 2024 will be the testing at the landfill, and Corey mentioned that the timeline can be adjusted a bit if the residents need it to be.

Brett and Corey were looking for a used tanker to add at the landfill for leachate hauling. The fifth wheel plate on our current tanker needs to be redone, but we would still want to keep our current tanker. Having a second would allow a second driver to haul leachate when we fall behind. Corey has found a used tanker with a 6500-gallon capacity, fully set up for what we need, for \$20,000. This would be purchased with the Internal Service Fund. Campbell asked if leachate amounts are rising, and Corey responded yes, with 1.373 million gallons hauled last year, which is historically high and was a dry year.

Cost will be \$2000-\$3000 to fix the current tanker, this is already in the budget. Repair would take a couple weeks; new tanker could be up and running within a month. Purchasing a new tanker makes fiscal sense, otherwise we may need to hire a company to haul leachate which costs thousands per load.

Roger Richman motioned to recommend to the county board the purchase of the used tanker for \$20,000. Russ McDougall seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously carried.

Corey met with the board yesterday and is having the Landfill Operator position posted. Stantec will help with testing etc. in the interim. Our intern Ella also has knowledge of the well testing.

There will be a meeting of the advisory committee for the RRC immediately following March's SWAC meeting. This is to review the contract between the county and the City of Moorhead regarding the RRC facility. This committee includes two county commissioners, two city commissioners, Corey Bang, Paul Fiechtner, plus Steve Larson and Ashley Magelky will be in attendance.

On Jan 26th and 29th, there were two thermal events at the RRC. On the 26th there was a small fire on the tipping floor, Sean saw the sparks then flames, a fire extinguisher was used to put out the fire and the material was spread out on the tipping floor and monitored. On the 29th, Sean found a battery that was smoking. He used the claw of the waste handler to pull it out of the pile, no fire actually started but the battery pack did explode. It was a recharger for cell phones or something like that. Unfortunately, with these battery fires, you can't put them out, you just have to let them burn out and remove them from other materials. The battery pack was still hot about 45 minutes after. We are working on an educational campaign to alert residents about the danger of rechargeable batteries in their regular garbage.

On Feb 9, Corey, Shannon and Ashley attended a mattress recycling training in Becker County. They are deconstructing mattresses by hand on-site. We have a couple concerns about taking mattresses to Becker. They have been collecting mattresses since July and do not have an outlet to sell the materials they are collecting. We would not want to invest in purchasing another trailer and figuring out storage unless we know the program will be successful. Becker County also has not determined a price per mattress, and have quoted between \$12-\$20 per mattress. Until there is clarification on these couple items, Clay County will not be moving forward with recycling mattresses with Becker County.

There is a scheduling conflict for the April SWAC meeting, as there is landfill operator training in the RRC conference room. We can either move it up a week to April 18 or cancel. We can discuss at the March meeting.

On Feb 23, Corey attended an ash utilization meeting with Justin Sorum.

On Feb 27, Corey gave the department update to the county board.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

Financials are going well. A review was done of the last six years of balances. Around 2017, we were running in the red and counties were asked to put cash in to cover the shortfalls. In 2018 at the end of the year there was \$988,00 in cash. In 2019 the Internal Service Fund was started. There was \$723,000 in cash and \$395,000 in the ISF. In 2020, cash was at \$989,000, ISF stayed at \$395,000. In 2021, cash was at \$876,000 with ISF at \$790,000. In 2022, \$1,200,000 in cash and \$1,040,000 in ISF. In 2023, we had \$1,095,000 in cash and \$1,061,000 in IFS. Unfortunately, the IFS can be used up quickly when big ticket items are needed, and we are around \$1.5 to \$2million short of our 5-year projected needs.

On March 18 there is a two-week shutdown of the plant. Corey believes both sides shut down this time.

OTC ash landfill will be full in next 6-8 years, we asked OTC to see what the process to expand their landfill is. The cost would be around \$30,000, and it was decided to go forward with it. Perham still wants to look into using ash on roads though (likely in Becker and Ottertail County due to the materials their roads are made of).

Justin Sorum discussed the options for using ash in roads. You can use it in an FDR type setting (grind up existing bituminous road with the gravel underneath it then is used as a stabilizing agent that gets mixed in). Or you can also use it to stabilize gravel roads but there are questions with the MPCA on whether this is permissible or not. OTC and Becker have upcoming FDR projects that may test this out, and the road would be tested for the next twenty years. You do not need to wait twenty years to know if the material is working. There could be a possibility of MNDOT using ash in future projects. Everett Nelson mentioned at the Township meeting there was discussion about using ash in gravel roads. Justin responded that it could be used in gravel roads as a stabilizer, but we are not sure if it will be permissible with the MPCA.

The OTC landfill is owned by OTC but it was agreed that the Prairie Lakes counties would split the cost of the permit for expanding the landfill so they can continue to take ash.

As of last week, Clay County was at -12 tons for deliveries.

Chris McConn told the Prairie Lakes board that there is a new grant with the MPCA that deals with alternative recycling methods. Chris thought that using ash in roads may qualify for this grant.

Prairie Lakes is looking at creating a website for employees to view policies and procedures. There are also talks of getting a public website so people can learn more about our facility.

Meeting adjourned.