

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Roger Richman, Cliff Bang, Everett Nelson, Russ McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson, Jenny Mongeau, Joe Pederson, Wayne Lepper

Members Absent: Russ Colson, Heather Nesemeier

Others via Teams: Steve Larson, Mike Earle

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

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.

On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by Jenny Mongeau and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from March 28, 2024 (April 2024 meeting was cancelled).

Mattress Recycling – Corey Bang

Becker County disassembles mattresses by hand for recycling. They have given us a price of \$12.50 per mattress. We charge \$15.99 per mattress but would not be able to take every mattress to Becker as they have to be clean and dry. We would have to store them until we get a load. Corey is thinking a semi box trailer would work. He thinks a trailer would be less than \$10,000.

Corey's concern is that Becker County does not have an outlet to recycle to mattress materials, at this point they are deconstructing the mattresses, bailing the materials and storing on site. Corey fears that we purchase a trailer then Becker County may not find an outlet for the materials.

Corey thinks we could get a load of around 100 mattresses every couple months. Jenny Mongeau asked about using a shipping container instead of a trailer, but Corey mentioned that this would mean staff handle each mattress twice. His plan is to use one of the loading docks at the RRC with a trailer for ease of loading.

Corey also mentioned that if we purchase a trailer and mattress recycling does not work out, we could use the trailer to store electronics. Kevin Campbell asked about having an MOU with Becker stating that once the mattresses are brought to them, they are Becker's responsibility. Corey responded that we can try, but there are some state statutes that you are responsible for the waste still.

There is a grant if we rent a trailer for mattress recycling, or if we pay someone to haul for us. This does not cover if we purchase a trailer.

Kevin also asked if there would be issues with our Waste Designation Plan. Corey responded that this is recycling so it would not be an issue.

Roger Richman motioned to recommend to the County Boards the purchase of a semi-trailer for mattress recycling. Everett Nelson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Corey added that Becker County will send an employee to the RRC to train staff.

Cannabis – Corey Bang

Corey is a part of the team writing the cannabis ordinance that will be brought to the County Board next week. Solid Waste's concern is with the storage of the byproduct and people dumpster diving for it. The ordinance states that all byproduct must be stored securely and deemed unusable. The MPCA does not have rules for cannabis yet, but will wait to write their rules until MN writes theirs. For now, the county is keeping verbiage vague.

Landfill Activities – Corey Bang

The flare went down a few days after Brett left in March. Ella has downloaded the large manual and looked through it. She found we were not resetting it for long enough, and now the flare is up and running.

One leachate pump is down, we have pulled it and it looks like the lines need to be jetted. Corey has reached out to a new jetting company in Clay County to come out the first week of June. The new company is about half the price of Jetway. The employee at the new company actually used to work for Jetway so he is already familiar with our landfill setup.

On 5/15 during Cleanup Week there was a fire at the landfill in the early morning. Hawley Fire responded, as well as Corey, Wayne, Ross, and Logan. The fire was not major, Wayne used the equipment to take care of it and it was handled within about 30 minutes. It was reported to the MPCA.

Our annual report from Stantec with submitted to the MPCA, it was approved with one comment that our working face is too big. Stantec told us that that was the only comment the MPCA could make and the comment is made for most sites.

The trees have arrived and Wayne will plant them when we are able to have coverage for him. These include evergreens, lilacs and poplars. We get the trees from Soil and Water.

Solid Waste Updates – Corey Bang

Stantec is working on a comprehensive calendar of when our permits and reports are due throughout the year.

Stantec has been testing wells the past 3 days at the landfill. All but one residential well was tested, as they did not have their water turned on. Last evening, Stantec got their ranger stuck in the swamp to the

west. If we take our loader out there it would definitely get stuck. Corey sent his ATV with a winch and thinks we can get it out that way.

On April 2, the county board approved the landfill reorganization plan for staff. Ella has since graduated with her Bachelors, and will officially start as the landfill tech on July 1.

Cleanup Week was a trial once again. Last year we had two full-time staff out with family, this year we were short one person at the landfill (Brett) and had an RRC staff out with family. Even with being short-handed, Cleanup Week was a success. We were about double the amount of materials from private self-haul customers.

- Stats for Cleanup Week materials (private self-haul only)
 - 355.75 yds of garbage
 - 17 freon appliances
 - 22 non-freon
 - 88 pieces of furniture
 - 39 mattresses
- Customer stats
 - 295 unique customers (not including recycling/HHW only loads)
 - 39 customers made multiple trips
 - 385 private loads were brought to the RRC
- Semi load stats
 - 100 loads to the landfill
 - 24 loads to Perham
 - Corey also helped with hauling

The compactor will be delivered around September 1. Our current compactor is going through antifreeze rapidly so the new one will be appreciated.

On April 8, Corey met with the managers for all neighboring counties. The new demo landfill rules will not go into effect until May 2025. We are not sure what the rules will be. If demo landfills start to close, we want to have a regional plan with neighboring counties. The primary reason demo landfills would close is the requirement to be lined. The demo landfill in Clay County has a clay liner only. There may be incentive to close demo landfills early. Corey expects our demo landfill to close if the expected rules go into place.

The demo material from the construction sites in Moorhead (Center Mall, 11th St) have been going to the demo landfill. There was some unexpected pipe that has asbestos at the 11th St project. Our landfill has taken in seven 20-yd dumpsters. Hopefully there is not much more asbestos as we have limited room. Corey is working on a backup plan. Asbestos must be placed in areas in the landfill that can be marked with GPS in case it needs to be dug up in the future.

Shannon was asked to talk about the Hawley and Barnesville collections (electronics and HHW). Historically we have had spring collections at both locations, but it was decided to go every other year alternating between the two sites. This spring we did Hawley, and Barnesville took some electronics boxes to do their own collection on their cleanup day. Barnesville seemed to go smoothly. Having the towns collect electronics on their own may be the route to go, as numbers have decreased drastically at

the collection events, likely due to the RRC being open. It doesn't make sense staff-wise to send multiple full-time staff to collection events that are poorly attended.

For business collection, we have historically done spring and fall but only did spring this year. Shannon sent out about 300 flyers to area small businesses, and only 8 customers showed up. This may not be a great use of time anymore either. Shannon wants to look into taking small amounts of unregulated business waste (bulbs and electronics, not HHW) at the RRC for a fee. There would be a limit on how much we can accept from a business as we want large business to work directly with Retrofit.

Julie discussed the HHW collections of the past two years. This year there were seven customers. Taking a trailer and multiple staff does not make sense. Last year, there were about 20 customers in Hawley and 40 in Barnesville but it was mainly waste oil. During this year's Hawley collection, there were many customers from that area that brought their HHW to the RRC instead.

Everett mentioned that the cities do not always pass along information to the townships, and he was not aware of the Hawley collection except that he saw a post while getting his mail. Shannon plans to send to township officials going forward. Kevin mentioned that Clay County will soon take over the old MN DOT station on the east end of Hawley on HW 10, and this may be a better location for a collection paired with portable signs advertising the collection for a few weeks.

Jenny mentioned that there is still value in having more options for dropping HHW/electronics than just in Moorhead, especially for citizens living further out. Making sure we advertise both the collections and the RRC is also helpful. Jenny mentioned having the collections around local cleanup events is better timing for people than a random Saturday in June, as people are cleaning their garage for cleanup day/week and then have their chemicals they are ready to dispose of. Jenny also added that it is important for County staff to have visibility in smaller areas around the County as well.

Corey mentioned that for staffing it would be ideal to not have a collection on a Saturday that the RRC and landfill are open, especially during Moorhead Cleanup Week. The problem is the cities set when their cleanup day is and the county has to correlate with that.

Jenny wanted to mention that she stopped into the RRC during Cleanup Week and was impressed by how the facility was running.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

We are down about \$70,000 versus this time last year, nothing alarming as it can have to do with timing of annual payments etc.

Clay County's deliveries are at -24 tons, may be positive by this time next week.

Stack testing is going well.

April: 4059 tons, this puts the facility on pace to 52,000 tons for the year instead of the projected 55,000. This is likely due to the planned closures earlier this year, and we should be closer to the 55,000 by end of year.

The amount of natural gas we've had to buy is way down due to work Bongard's has done, steam sales are also up so we are in a good scenario.

Ash would not likely be used in Clay County roads due to distance. The goal is to use all clean ash in roads and avoid landfilling it. We have an \$850,000 grant submission submitted that we should know about by August.

The website would consist of two parts: intranet would be an internal site for employees to access policies and forms, and the external site is public facing for people to gain information on the facility. The price is \$5000 to build the site, with a \$35 per month cost to host. The question is who would maintain the website and keep it up to date. Karen and OTC's IT could help, but the two OTC commissioners are bringing it to their board to make sure there is no issue. The intent is by next month to approve moving forward with the website.

Meeting adjourned.