

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 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, Wayne Lepper

Members via Teams: Jenny Mongeau

Members Absent: Russ Colson, Heather Nesemeier, Chuck Hendrickson, Joe Pederson

Others via Teams: Mike Earle

Others Present: Corey Bang, Justin Sorum, Steve Larson, Ashley Magelky, 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 Cliff Bang and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from May 23, 2024.

Business Recycling at RRC – Shannon Thompson and Corey Bang

Clay County has not been able to take business electronics and bulb recycling in the past because we did not have a way to collect money. We now have this capability at the RRC with the cash box. Shannon wants to have this limited to 300 units per business. Businesses should work directly with Retrofit if they have a large amount. Retrofit charges a stop fee for businesses with less than 300 units. Shannon suggests we round up the price Retrofit charges us for bulbs to take care of Clay County's time. The bulbs are straightforward because we are charged per unit by Retrofit, so charging the business customers per unit makes sense.

For electronics, Retrofit charges us by weight. Weighing electronics in the drive-thru would become cumbersome. The weight of items can vary greatly, but the average is 50lbs for misc. items, and 30lbs for items with screens (weight has been going down as technology changes). Solar panels are also starting to come in, and we can send them with electronics.

For electronics, we get charged around \$14 for 50lbs, Shannon is proposing we charge \$20 per electronic item. This fee would be really low compared to counties around us, and would still cover our costs. She also proposes \$2 per sq ft for solar panels (Retrofit charges \$1.78).

Shannon would like to have SWAC recommend to the board that Clay County starts accepting business electronics and bulbs in quantities of under 300 units for the proposed amounts.

Roger Richman motioned to recommend to the County Board that Clay County start accepting business electronics and bulbs in quantities of under 300 units for the proposed amounts, and Everett Nelson seconded this motion.

2024 Proposed Charges for Business Bulbs and Electronics

- 4 foot and Under \$0.35 each
- Over 4 foot \$0.70 each
- Compact Fluorescent \$0.70 each
- Circular and U \$0.70 each
- HID \$2.30 each
- Halogen \$0.40 each
- Broken bulbs \$2.30 per lb
- Miscellaneous Electronics \$20 per piece
- TVs and Monitors \$10 per piece ****UPDATED TO \$20, see amendment below**
- Solar Panels \$2.00 per sq ft (1.78 by retrofit)

Everett asked if accepting business bulbs and electronics would add additional labor. Shannon responded that it would, but not a great deal. Everett wanted to ensure Clay County would not need to hire additional staff for this, and Shannon stated that we would not.

Jenny Mongeau suggested rounding the TVs and Monitors to \$20 per piece as well, to help stay ahead of rising costs. Kevin confirmed that Roger and Everett approve of the amendment to the motion.

The amended motion unanimously carried.

RRC Doors – Joe Olson and Corey Bang

Corey – over the last 18 months, the high-speed overhead doors have had weekly issues. Joe and Corey have reached out to Construction Engineers, PS Doors, Bergstrom Electric, and Diablo Controls to try to solve the issues. The one-year warranty hasn't even started since we've had ongoing issues.

Joe – A meeting happened with Construction Engineers, PS Doors, and Clay County. The consensus is that Clay County will give them one last chance to correct the situation, but there are still issues. Wind is an issue, as well as the loop that goes around the building. The architect states that these doors are spec'ed to withstand the level of wind at the RRC (27 lbs per sq foot for the doors, and the building is designed to withstand 20 lbs per sq foot). We may need to decide what options we have legally. Construction Engineers has done a good job of leaning on PS Doors to get action (PS Doors is the subcontractor). With this, issues need to be worked out with Construction Engineers. Joe and Corey think that the RRC just needs new doors similar to what is at the LEC. These 4 doors cost \$256,000. With the ongoing issues, when PS Doors tells us a door is fixed, it often stops working shortly after. There needs to be time to prove that any of the 4 doors are actually fixed. Our County attorney is aware of the situation. During the meeting, the Wayne Dalton tech was flown in (manufacturer of the door) and told the group that on windy days, the RRC would need to leave the overhead doors open, which is not an

option when the weather is cold as we heat the tipping floor. Another proposal by Wayne Dalton was to replace the wind breakers every few months, which will cost the County additional money.

Corey has been documenting all door issues on emails with all involved parties.

Everett mentioned the time it takes to receive overhead doors when you order them and suggests a deadline for a solution.

Batteries – Everett Nelson

The Hawley Fire Chief asked Everett to speak to SWAC. On May 15th, the landfill had a fire that Hawley Fire responded to. This is raising concerns with the Fire Dept regarding lithium batteries. Cleanup Week seems to have more issues. Everett is concerned about devices with embedded batteries (toothbrushes, power tools, etc) where the battery cannot be changed. He suggests changing language around electronics to include other items with embedded batteries, to educate the public about dangers of batteries. The RRC can take these embedded batteries. Shannon mentioned she will work with the cities next spring for their Cleanup events to add verbiage about embedded batteries. She also mentioned she has been running billboards around the county about rechargeable batteries for a couple months. Everett added that batteries are costing the county money when fire departments need to respond to fires.

Landfill and Solid Waste Update – Corey Bang

Cannabis ordinance was passed by the county. It is posted on the website.

The board approved the purchase of a trailer for mattress recycling, up to \$10,000. A trailer was found in Ulen for \$6500, which we will purchase.

The RRC annual report was turned into the MPCA. One question was returned to us which has been taken care of.

Lakes Area Jetting was at the landfill on June 13th to jet the leachate lines. This is a new company, located in Clay County and at a cost of about 2/3 of Jetway. The owner also worked for Jetway and is familiar with our site. They will come out in the spring and fall going forward. They also jetted the line on the tipping floor. We were going to also have them take care of the sump in the back of the RRC but the ground was too wet. We are going to add a driveway of crushed concrete to take care of this.

Two new variable employees have been hired. Brian has a CDL and mechanical background, so he is able to dump our rollofs. He is also helping Julie remove embedded batteries and removing freon. He is working mornings during the week. Xavier is an MSUM student with the same background as Ella and will help at the RRC and with testing. We have 3 summer employees that started, Evan is back at the landfill, and Henry and Lily are at the RRC helping with cleaning up of the grounds, assisting customers in the drive-thru, and miscellaneous tasks.

Corey was approached by a company, Novastus, that claims they can take 90% of moisture and metals out of our garbage and turn it into a fuel. Corey will meet with them in July and presumes it will be expensive, but if the company wants to set up a prototype here that could work. The thought is we could get more material on our loads to Perham and thus divert more from the county landfill.

Our shortage to Perham has been negated. As of two weeks ago, we were 269 tons over, which is much better than 18 months ago.

The preliminary budget was turned in and will be presented to the board in August.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

On June 24, the budget committee met. The natural gas budget will drop significantly. In 2024 it was \$650k, will now be \$350k due to current market conditions. The less we pay for natural gas, the less we receive for steam, so this reduction in the budget is mostly a wash. Contract Services and Operating Supplies numbers have been kept up. In 2024 we had a significant project: north unit grate cleanse which cost \$450,000. About \$350,000 of this has come out of those two line items instead of coming out of the Internal Service Fund. We increased the Contract Services and Operation Supplies numbers by \$25,000 each for 2025. In 2025, we'll have about \$830,000 of needs if we do everything Brian thinks needs to be done. Overall, the submitted budget has a deficit of \$300,000, but we still expect revenues over expenditures to absorb this deficit. With the recommended budget, tipping fees increase from \$145 to \$149 per ton. Clay County delivers 8400 tons, but the first 6000 tons are an even trade for the fines delivered to the landfill, so we pay this increased amount on only 2400 tons. This results in an increase around \$10,000 for 2025 Perham fees for Clay County.

The full board also met and the budget was presented and approved. The plant manager reported that things are going well. We continue to look at ash alternatives. We applied for an \$850k grant for ash but did not get it. The July meeting will be in Crookston and members will view their plant the converts ash for road materials. Discussions have started with MNDOT about ash utilization in roads.

PFAS air emissions testing was discussed. There are 5 facilities in MN similar to Perham. They want to test 3 of the facilities instead of all 5, and we are fine with Perham being tested. Science is showing that a high level of heat destroys PFAS, so these tests can be positive in showing that these types of plants are beneficial.

Approval has been given to establish the website, including the public facing side and the intranet for employees.

The policy for special wastes was reviewed, this includes out of the ordinary waste from places like Kenny's Candy and possibly medical waste. Receiving these wastes is at the discretion of the plant manager, especially medical waste. We want to make sure the waste is safe for employees to handle.

There was discussion of internal controls around accepting cash. Auditing this can become costly, including video monitoring.

Steve Larson

Steve wanted to mention how Corey is always operating with solution-based thinking and continually explores cost cutting measures, all while being humble. Customer service of his staff has been commended by community members, and Steve wants to make sure these efforts don't go unnoticed.

Meeting is adjourned.