

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, JULY 25, 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, Heather Nesemeier, Joe Pederson

Members via Teams: Jenny Mongeau, Chuck Hendrickson

Members Absent: Russ Colson

Others Present: Corey Bang, Justin Sorum, Steve Larson, Ashley Magelky, Paul Fiechtner, Julie Kennedy, Dave Olek, Christina Wilwand (Stantec), Andrew Feia (Stantec)

Others via Teams: Mike Earle, Ella Holiman

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

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

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Wayne Lepper and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from June 27, 2024.

Water Testing at Landfill – Spring 2024 – Stantec (Christina Wilwand)

Stantec completed the spring water quality testing at the landfill. The standard wells were tested plus two residential locations, Jerome Ekre and the Weaver stock pond. The final report and EQUIS date was submitted to the MPCA on June 28th.

The landfill is required to meet the WQC (Water Quality Standards), but MPCA would like landfills to meet the IL (Intervention Limit), which is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the WQC. Standards for groundwater and surface water differ.

There are 54 total landfill wells tested and 3 residential wells required (with 8 additional that could be tested). The compliance boundary (physical area in and around the landfill) has increased since 2011.

2024 Spring Monitoring Highlights

- No significant change in groundwater flow direction
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):
 - Compliance wells
 - Vinyl Chloride exceeded the IL in W-2

- 1,2,3-Trichloropropane exceeded the WQC in W-5
 - Diethyl ether (Ethyl ether) was detected above the RL in W-2
 - Toluene was detected above the RL in W-302B
- Residential wells & Surface water
 - No VOCs detected
- Lysimeters
 - Diethyl ether (Ethyl ether) detected in Lysimeter LYS-III-P1
- Inorganics, Metals, and General Chemistry
 - Compliance wells
 - IL exceedances: Arsenic (5), Cadmium (1), Manganese (11), Nitrates (1)
 - WQC exceedances: Manganese (9) and Nitrates (1)
 - Residential wells
 - IL exceedances: Arsenic (3) and Manganese (2)
 - WQC exceedances: Arsenic (1), Manganese (4), Nitrates (1)
 - Lysimeters
 - WQC exceedances: Arsenic (2), Boron (1), Manganese (2)
 - Surface water
 - IL exceedances: Boron (1), Manganese (1), Mercury (2)
 - WQC exceedances: Manganese (2)

For residential, Stantec tested the J. Ekre site and the Weaver stock pond. 40 PFAS compounds were tested. The WQC for PFBA and PFHpA are both 7000 ng/L. Both sites were well below the WQC, with Ekre at <4.0 and <1.0, and the Weaver stock pond at 6.3 and 2.0.

Recommendations

- Continue with the EMS
 - Closely monitor W-2 for vinyl chloride impacts
 - Monitor IL/WQC exceedances
- Evaluate future PFAS sampling
- No other corrective actions are necessary at this time. Clay Co Landfill has conducted several corrective actions to date (i.e., relocating waste, hydrogeologic investigations, active gas collection system, etc.)

Novastus – Corey Bang

Novastus is a company based in Tennessee that has a system that removes moisture from waste and turns it into bales that can then be burned for energy. When the moisture is removed, the weight is cut in half. The garbage is ran through the equipment and dried and pulverized. The moisture evaporates into the air, and there should be no odor. The system is supposed to work from -20* to 100* and in most any weather. The system can also be scaled to whatever capacity we need.

Novastus would like to install a system on the south side of the RRC, with the agreement that if it works, we would purchase it for around \$2million. Corey mentioned that this would save on landfill space and also cut down how many loads the truck drivers take to landfill, which saves money. The bales would be easily loaded into our current trailers and might even be less tough on them.

Corey is thinking this could be a good solution for the waste we send to Perham. Clay County currently sends 8400 tons annually to Perham. With this system, we could turn 16,800 tons of RRC trash into 8400 tons of dried baled material. Corey spoke with Brian at Perham and Brian mentioned this may be too dry to be burned but that it could then be mixed in with the wet garbage they receive from other haulers.

Novastus suggested a 1-year trial period to ensure the system works in MN. Joe Pederson mentioned that a 3-year trial period would be better to ensure it would work in our weather. Heather added that she was thinking 2 years but likes 3 years better, and mentioned that the last winter we had would not have been a good representation of how harsh MN winters can be.

Kevin Campbell suggested that Corey and an engineer travel to the Novastus location in Tennessee to tour their facility. Corey wants to see if Novastus will cover the expenses for Corey and an engineer to travel to TN.

Landfill and Solid Waste Update – Corey Bang

Former landfill manager Brett Rice was involved in a scooter accident in Florida and is recovering. We have a card and are collecting money to send to him for anyone that would like to contribute. We wish him a quick recovery.

Business recycling was approved by the board, and we have all the materials set up in our ticketing system. We've had a couple business customers so far at the RRC.

The mattress trailer was picked up and is at the RRC, we are getting it DOT'd. The Forum was here on Tuesday for an interview and will have an article in the next week or two on mattress recycling.

Shannon and Corey attended Government Day at the county fair, Shannon did bottle rockets with the kids.

We are breaking pretty much even with tires and demo. For tires, we are a little under but this is due to people bringing in tires they find in ditches. In these situations we don't charge people since they are helping the county out.

The RRC budget discussion will tentatively be next month after SWAC. This includes Clay County Board members and Moorhead City Council members.

Corey attended the Prairie Lakes meeting in Crookston yesterday, and Kevin will report on this.

Corey met with the Hawley Fire chief and batteries were discussed further. Corey brought up having boxes located at each of the recycling centers so residents can more easily dispose of them safely. Julie brought up that if we go this route, these centers would need battery cases for safety, and Corey responded that he was already discussing this. The need to educate the public was also discussed, and Julie mentioned that we have posted on the website some common items that have lithium batteries that can be dangerous. Hopefully as the word gets out more people will know about small things like electric toothbrushes and that they need to be brought in for safe handling. Julie also brought up that Clay County cannot take in larger rechargeable batteries such as e-bikes, and that she refers residents with these items either to manufacturer or a local business (such as Great Northern Bike in Fargo). Some toys and lawn

mowers also get to be too large; they need to be under 300 watts for us to safely handle. Julie also mentioned that a grant was just awarded at the state level for \$2.1 million for the purchase of fire cabinets to store batteries. The money will be dispersed in October 2024, and she expects the RRC will receive a cabinet about a year after that. Everett also mentioned that the fire dept in Hawley is concerned about what equipment is needed to put out battery fires and what they may need to purchase.

Corey will be taking a forklift trainer class on the 30th so he can certify other county employees. The employee in the Highway Dept that usually was the trainer is retiring.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

The Prairie Lakes board met in Crookston for yesterday's meeting and toured their ash facility. Kevin showed a short video of their process of separating the ash. A loader is used to fill the machine that separates ash. For Perham, the thought is to have the ash used in roads in Becker and Ottertail Counties. Diverting Perham ash from the landfill would help slow down needing to open a new cell or find an alternate end for our ash, as the OTC landfill will be full in the next 6-8 years.

Waste composition study – done every 5 years in Perham, the state requested permission to do one here but we want it to count towards our 5-year study and the state to fund it, as it costs around \$30-40,000.

Meeting is adjourned.