

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 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, Jenny Mongeau, Chuck Hendrickson, Russ Colson

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

Others via Teams: Ella Holiman

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

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

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Joe Pederson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from July 25, 2024.

Recycling Program Updates – Shannon Thompson

Empty ag pesticide container collection is the next two weeks at the landfill. Ads are in the papers in Clay County, on the radio, and mailings were sent to the townships as well.

Shannon has been at the libraries and the fair launching bottle rockets.

Recycling bins went to the fair and will be at Rollag for the Western MN Steamtrashers Reunion.

Joe Pederson asked about bins at Potato Days and Shannon responded that they did not want bins due to the hassle. Corey is on the board and will get bins there for the rodeo specifically.

Business Electronics and Bulbs Recycling has officially started at the RRC. A separate ticket has been created so drive-thru staff can count items and the scale attendant can run. Retrofit stated that we do not need to sort out the business materials from private materials but just have separate numbers of how much is business waste. MN has a covered electronics program which only covers electronics from private homes, so this is why we need to keep residential and business numbers separate.

Jenny added that the last few comments go to show how recycling can be a hassle and sometimes people don't want to take the extra steps. Shannon mentioned that the big thing is it is the same amount of material, and with bins co-located that can help ease the extra work. Changes in people in charge of these events also has an effect on if the bins are wanted. Todd added that an ongoing issue is contamination.

Shannon is working on a script for a battery recycling video. Julie will look it over, and Corey and Mark Sloan will then work on it. Corey mentioned we are waiting until state law comes out in October.

\$560,00 in 2024 budget for recycling is for city reimbursements, tires, electronics, etc. Kevin brought up that only \$130,000 is used so far and asked when cities submit for reimbursement. Shannon responded that Moorhead is at the end of the year, so that is a good chunk. Small cities are also generally slow to submit for reimbursement. The cities do submit for their entire costs even though we only reimburse a portion. Having the entire amount is helpful when we advocate for more SCORE funding. We received \$200,000 in SCORE funding in 2024 and have proposed \$600,000 for 2025.

Landfill/Solid Waste Activities – Corey Bang

The Annual RRC contract meeting is today at 9. This is with City of Moorhead and Clay County.

On July 30th, Corey attended virtual forklift training and can now certify our staff.

On July 31st, Commissioner Campbell, County Administrator Steve Larson, and Corey met with Becker County to go over our load sharing agreement. Starting this month, Clay County will deliver our own loads to Perham. Prior, Becker County was delivering Clay's loads to Perham. This takes Clay County a little longer but will be a more equal trade. We will also start using Becker's mechanic for repairs and reimburse them.

Corey meets with a company tomorrow for an estimate on new overhead doors for the RRC. All parties are in agreement that these doors just do not work and we need to replace them.

The new compactor is in Fargo and should be ready in mid-September.

Brian at the RRC has helped get us caught up on freon appliances at the RRC. Freon cannot be removed when it is cold; over the winter we may haul some to the heated tipping floor so they do not pile up.

On August 20, the state auditor was on site at the landfill to review our ticketing and cash counting practices. Her initial feedback was positive but we will know more at a later date.

Next week, Corey will attend a meeting regarding demo landfills that the MPCA is putting on. This will be about the new demo rules.

The budget for 2025 is still being worked on. We've recently adjusted how we pay for different items in Solid Waste. The dollars on property tax statement should go for capital costs for Solid Waste. Capital costs include bond payments, payments to Perham, and the Internal Service Fund. There is also the Operational Budget which we put \$270,000 into yearly for the costs of closing the landfill when the time comes. We need to confer with Lori (Auditor) and the state to see where we sit in this fund, but we may be able to move this \$270k into capital costs. To do this we would need to increase the Solid Waste property tax from \$45 to \$55. The thought was to increase by \$5 each year over the next two years. We are also looking at a tipping fee increase from \$53/ton to \$57 or \$58. We want to keep any increases as reasonable as possible without jeopardizing the finances of the department. While \$5-\$10 a year increase in property taxes may not affect some people, we have to keep in mind that there are many other taxes that add up to a larger increase. Jenny added that we are very aware that if we raise fees too much we will

start seeing items in the ditches more or people will burn their garbage. Everett added that some people are burying their garbage.

Heather asked if other residents have thoughts on the two increases. Joe stated that the tipping fee is what he feels the most because it increases the cost of his garbage pickup. Rural residents generally have higher hauler fees as well.

Our tipping fee will need to raise to \$57 or \$58 per ton just to keep up and not tap into reserves. We pay Perham \$149 per ton (granted the first 6000 tons are an even trade as we take in the fines).

Steve Larson added that a challenging piece of not increasing fees to residents/haulers is how much the costs of equipment etc. continue to rise.

Kevin added that the County recently approved an about 6% salary increase for county employees between the Cost of Living adjustment and overall adjustments due to a wage study. This is an added cost as well but without it we lose employees.

Cliff asked about where we are with the cell closure and expansion at the landfill. Corey answered that Stantec is doing a fill study for us and we are doing better than expected with the life left, especially with the extra that went to Perham to catch up for prior years.

Corey mentioned that yesterday at the RRC we had an out of state pickup pull in with a MN rental trailer, who then wanted to take their tires back with them when they heard the price of tires. Staff wrote down their license plate in case we find the items in the ditch. Once the customer knew we were doing this they decided to dump the tires. We now have a policy if a customer wants to take back a material due to pricing, we write down their license plate.

There is no Perham update today as that meeting is next week.

Meeting is adjourned.