

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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, Jenny Mongeau, Chuck Hendrickson, Russ Colson

Members on Teams: Joe Pederson

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

Others via Teams: Ella Holiman, Jenn Pickett, Mike Earle

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

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Roger Richman 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 August 22, 2024.

Demo Landfill Discussion – Corey Bang

Corey attended MPCA informational meeting regarding demo landfill rules. The MPCA found that groundwater is being affected by demo landfills, with demo materials being less inert than originally thought. Changes to demo landfills will include: lining and leachate monitoring/collection, permitting and location will be more difficult (similar to MSW landfills), financial assurance will be needed, final cover will change from 2 ft of soil to a permeable liner, groundwater monitoring post closure will likely be added, discontinue unlined permit-by-rule sites (people can no longer tear down their barn and bury it on site for example). These changes will essentially make demo landfills into MSW landfills. Corey expects a lot of demo landfills to close due to these rule changes.

If current demo landfills close before the rules go into effect, they can still go by the current rules. It is expected new rules will be in effect by late 2025 or 2026, and unless a demo landfill is already in the process of closing, they won't have time to close before the new rules.

Next steps: MPCA will be reviewing the information from the meeting then will open for public comment, then incorporate feedback, then open for public comment, until it goes to legislature to become law.

Jenny Mongeau mentioned that these tighter regulations will make people burn and bury items on site in a more secretive way.

Corey expects the Clay County Demo Landfill to close. We need to come up with a plan for demo materials in Clay County, potentially a regional transfer station or our MSW landfill taking in the materials (which will fill our landfill faster and make it much busier for staff).

Heather mentioned that feedback from citizens and advisory boards will be important, as these changes will affect all of Clay County. She asked that Corey let SWAC know when the MPCA is open to public comment.

Solid Waste/Landfill Update – Corey Bang

Shannon Thompson has accepted a trainer position with the MPCA. Her last day was Sept. 13th. Wayne at the landfill also turned in his two weeks and his last day will be Oct. 5th. Corey, Ella, and Ashley met with Shannon before she left to go over her projects and duties. Ella and Ashley will take on the reporting and recycling numbers, etc. Corey has talked with the truck drivers about helping cover on the hill when Ross is not available, and Corey has also reached out to a part time truck driver. Ella has her CDL permit and is practicing, so this will be a big help down the line once she has her CDL. Corey does not think any employee vacations will be impacted by staffing. Corey is meeting with Darren in HR today to go over PDQs for the vacated positions, and will redo Shannon's job duties extensively and add a CDL to Wayne's old position. Both positions will be replaced, with the Recycling Educator position being drastically rewritten to include helping in the drive thru and scale house. Corey is hoping to be able to replace Shannon's position with two people, adding a landfill office person as well (this position wouldn't be filled until next summer, hopefully by Evan who has been our summer help for the past two summers). These changes would free up Ella and Ashley to work on reporting and their other duties without covering the drive thru or scales.

Corey has had more discussions with Novastus about the system that would dry out garbage. The \$2 million price tag has increased to about \$6 million once they got details about our volume and additional equipment needed. Corey let them know that \$6 million is not feasible for Clay County's budget. Novastus suggested that they own and operate the system out of the RRC. Novastus has found a buyer for the dried garbage. We would need to have a contract with Novastus. At this time, Corey won't be going to tour a site unless Novastus offers to pay for travel.

On August 27, Corey met with Steve Larson and Lori along with Jenny and Kevin to finalize the budget. The budget was presented to the full board on Sept. 3.

On August 27, Wayne and Corey looked at the new compactor at Butler. It was delivered last Thursday and staff were trained yesterday. The machine is very straight forward to operate. We trained both truck drivers, Ross, Ella, and Corey on the compactor.

MPCA was at the landfill on August 28th for an audit of how we process transactions. We got good feedback and they were very impressed with Ella's knowledge.

On September 5, Corey and Ashley met with the MPCA to discuss their hauler reporting. The MPCA is trying to get assistance from counties to get the haulers to report their numbers/tonnage to the state annually so they can justify SCORE funding. Clay County is working on our annual hauler tabs, and have decided to add a \$50 per hauler company fee in addition to the per truck fee. If the hauler reports their numbers to the state the year prior, that \$50 fee will be waived. The MPCA is also lenient on getting the numbers in

late (technically due on February 1 of the year after, but they will still accept 2023 numbers). Heather stated that she supports the \$50 fee but wonders if it is high enough for haulers to take the time to report. She also mentioned hosting an in-person training for haulers on how to report. Corey is wanting to try the \$50 fee this year and then assess how effective it was. He also mentioned that the MPCA may be able to come to the RRC to do reporting training.

On September 25, Corey was approached by a company that wants our tire business. After getting our volumes and tire types, this company's price quote was only slightly less than Liberty Tire. Corey has elected at this time to stay with Liberty as we know they are reliable and now have us on a route to pickup tires when in the area and we rarely have to call for pickup. The savings with a new company do not seem worth the unknowns.

Corey attended the Clay County Landowners meeting on September 10. A few properties were discussed, including the recreational use of land around the demo landfill. Any potential leasing of this land for recreation would have to go to the full board.

The \$5 parcel fee increase and \$3 per ton tipping increase was approved by the board on September 17 and will be effective January 1 of 2025. Letters are being sent to haulers with this information and Lori will take care of the parcel fee increase.

Corey attended the SWAA convention in Duluth on Sept. 18-20. Manufacturers' responsibility with packaging was discussed, and the hope is by 2030 all manufacturers will have to pay for recycling of their packaging. They are still working on how this could be implemented. There was also a presentation on best practices for applying for grants and bonding. They also discussed the Dodge County Reuse Room, which is similar to ours at the RRC except they charge for items and have a separate building. The revenue from this does not cover the cost of the employee that prices and runs the store unfortunately. There was also a presentation on the invasive Asian Jumping Worm, which has come as far as St. Cloud. Corey was also able to use these presentations as his Continuing Education credits.

On Tuesday, Corey is going to the board to request \$100,000 to replace the RRC overhead doors. It will take about 6-8 weeks to get ordered and installed. We are looking at if any sprinkler lines need to be moved as these will be regular overhead doors that do not roll up. We've also spoken with our county lawyer about moving forward with the lawsuit. PS Doors and Wayne Dalton have stopped communication with us. We haven't used the doors much this summer (leaving them open during the day), we recently were using one of the tipping floor doors and by noon that day it was giving error codes and it had to be left open.

Ashley and Ella are working on the pumpkin composting event.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

One of the two burners is currently down for routine work. Revenues are falling short on Tuffy's from the steam sales as they are going through changes. Hopefully these come back up, but we have also not had to use as much natural gas to produce additional steam.

We are about \$700,000 difference in cash from 2024 to 2023, due to some items being paid early and other items that were planned to be from the Internal Service Fund but the money hasn't been moved over yet. If we can get by without making that transfer from the ISF that would be a positive.

Our next bond payment is November 1, \$967,000. There is plenty of cash to cover this.

Originally the plant was anticipated to do 55,000 tons, the projection for the year is currently 52,000 tons. Every county is staying within the 500 tons above and below.

The financial audit was clean.

The health insurance increases for next year are only 1.7% for single and single plus one is 3.8%.

There are more grant opportunities through the MPCA and we plan to apply with our ash project.

Meeting is adjourned.