

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

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

Members on Teams: Russ Colson, Heather Nesemeier

Others Present: Corey Bang, Steve Larson, Darren Brooke, Ashley Magelky, Paul Fiechtner, Julie Kennedy, Todd Bratlien

Others via Teams: Ella Holiman, Jenn Pickett

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

Corey Bang made an update to the agenda, removing the PLMSWA Website demo as the website is not loading. We plan to have this item on the December agenda.

On motion by Joe Pederson, seconded by Everett Nelson and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the amended meeting agenda.

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Cliff Bang and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from September 26.

Introduction of Darren Brooke – Corey Bang

On January 1, Darren Brooke will become Corey's new direct boss. The board approved the Assistant County Administrator position, and Darren will be taking over 7 departments. Darren will attend meetings in lieu of Steve Larson. Darren has been with the county for about 14 years, and is currently in a dual role as HR Director and Assistant County Administrator. The board approved making the Assistant County Administrator a full-time position.

Demo Prices – Corey Bang

Comstock/Disposal Services (the demo landfill) sent a letter that as of January 1, 2025, they will increase their rates from \$13/yd to \$16/yd for demo. We are currently at \$15.50 a yard and are breaking even. Corey stated that Clay County will need to raise this rate to keep up with the new Comstock rate, but mentioned that this may unfortunately increase items disposed of in ditches, etc. Corey proposes a rate of \$19.40/yd for the private customers (with the generator fee it is \$20 per yard for the customer). Commercial demo would raise from \$20/yd to \$25/yd. Hopefully this encourages the commercial loads to go to Comstock instead of our landfill.

Roger Richman made a motion to recommend the above demo rate increases to the County Board; Everett Nelson seconded the motion.

Kevin Campbell suggested sending a letter to the townships and cities about the demo rate increase so they can let Clay County know if they are seeing more items in ditches. Corey had a resident near the RRC tell him about items illegally dumped in his tree line this fall, and Corey allowed the resident to dispose of the items for free since they were not his.

Cliff Bang asked if Comstock has said if they will close once the new demo landfill rules go into effect. Corey responded that they are still waiting to see what the rules are, but surprisingly did renew their license recently. Corey expects them to close once the new rules go into effect though. Corey had a meeting with neighboring counties to start the discussion on how demo will be handled with the new rules.

Solid Waste/Landfill Update – Corey Bang

Ella has taken her CDL training with Red River Valley CDL as it was a week long versus the NDSCS training which was three weeks. With staffing, we couldn't afford to have Ella out for three weeks. She drove a beet truck this fall which helped with driving experience. Ella passed her test and is now helping haul water and garbage.

We have hired Mara DeRung as our Recycling Programs/Outreach Educator, and she will start on December 9 as she needs to move to town. She is currently pulling wires for a tech company, so she won't be afraid to get her hands dirty.

We have had no applicants for the landfill operator position. We have decided to hire for the landfill clerk position now instead of waiting for the spring so that we can free up Ella for other tasks. We had two interviews this week, both were strong candidates. We are waiting on acceptance of the offer and will get them started as soon as the background check comes back.

On November 18, Corey attended the township officers meeting and updated them on rate increases (tipping floor and parcel fees).

Corey had a meeting with PS Doors' insurance company, they sent out an engineer to look at the doors and see if their insurance would cover the replacement. We are moving forward with replacing all four doors the week of December 16. Once we told PS Doors that we are replacing these, they have stopped coming to fix any issues; one of the tipping floor doors is completely unusable and the other is only working partially.

There is a solar energy company coming in to the southern part of the county. We looked into having solar panels at the landfill but are out of this company's range. The closed cell to the south would be a good site for solar panels.

The county is closed Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving. We will have the RRC open for 4-5 hours on Friday for the Moorhead and Fuchs trucks to dump. No semis will haul garbage that day though.

Total lbs for the Take Jack Back pumpkin composting event: 29.64 tons total, with Fuchs collecting 57,320 lbs and Ella/Ashley collecting 1960 lbs. Both Ella and Ashley have done the event in the past and Corey

asked them to double team it this year. Roger Richman mentioned there was good coverage on tv. Joe Pederson asked about why the Fuchs numbers are so much higher than Ella and Ashley, Corey responded that Fuchs takes care of the large dumpsters at the bigger sites like Moorhead and Barnesville, and Ella/Ashley take care of the 96-gallon totes at smaller sites like Georgetown and Oakport.

The County signed a three-year contract with the City of Moorhead for operation of the RRC, with representatives from both entities meeting annually to review. Steve Larson announced that the County has received a letter from the City of Moorhead providing notice of potentially vacating the contract after year three. Their main concerns are Moorhead's payment of mowing and snow removal, and the additional trash that the Moorhead operator is moving (around 20% more than expected which is due to County trash from outside Moorhead). The contract requires a one-year notice to vacate. If Moorhead vacates the contract, then Clay County will take over all operations at the RRC (purchasing equipment and hiring an operator; Corey has a truck driver that would be interested in this operator position). Kevin Campbell mentioned that a meeting will be set up with the Resource Recovery Team from both the county and city. Heather Nesemeier added that Moorhead is open to discussion about the contract. Jenny Mongeau added that the RRC project was started as a joint facility and asked for funding from the state together, and she worries about the credibility of any future partnerships. Kevin Campbell added that we knew there would be county garbage coming into the RRC, and he is also not sure if we would have received funding from the state if the facility was not a joint facility.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

We have not used any of the Internal Service Fund and it's sitting at around \$1 million. At the end of October, the cash balance is at about \$500,000 less than October of 2023, which is a result of paying some capital work this year from cash instead of the Internal Service Fund. We still have a \$185,000 payment to OTC this year. Steam sales have been down with Bongard's decreasing their steam usage, but this decreases how much we buy in natural gas when we need to run the gas boiler to provide steam. These two items are not dollar for dollar though.

A neighboring land owner to the OTC ash landfill is willing to sell some land to be used to store ash and then process it to remove metals and prepare it for usage in highway projects. The price is \$120,000 but would need to be paid by December 31, 2024. OTC would pay for this land but would want indication that the PLMSWA would extend the contract as far as ash goes. With the quick deadline for land purchase, Kevin was uncomfortable agreeing to this without seeing contract language, so the motion was shifted to PLMSWA agrees in principal that we want to be a partner and user of the facility and that there will be an annual payment incorporated into the operation expense (currently \$300,000). The metal removed would be sold for revenue. The thought is also to reclaim and clean the ash currently in the ash landfill. There has been talks about partnering with another facility to remove the metals etc, but this would include trucking the ash which is an added expense.

The COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) came out to 2.65% (which is an average of the counties).

Two or possibly three of the board members for PLMSWA will not be on the board next year.

Meeting adjourned.