

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025
CLAY COUNTY RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTER
3322 15TH AVENUE NORTH
MOORHEAD, MN 56560
IN PERSON & TEAMS**

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

Members on Teams: Heather Nesemeier, Jenny Mongeau

Others Present: Corey Bang, Ella Holiman, Ashley Magelky, Darren Brooke, Julie Kennedy, Justin Sorum, Paul Fiechtner

Others via Teams: Mara DeRung, Mike Earl

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

Corey Bang made an update to the agenda, removing the introduction of Mara DeRung (new Recycling Outreach Educator) due to staffing.

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Wayne Lepper and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the amended meeting agenda.

On motion by Joe Pederson, seconded by Russ McDougall and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from December 19, 2024.

Purchase of Replacement Land Gem Gas Detector – Corey Bang & Ella Holiman

We started looking at replacing our Land Gem last fall and were quoted around \$19,000. Corey wanted to try to get one more year out of it, but the machine has been giving us bad readings since. The machine is too old to be serviced and updated. We have gotten two quotes for a replacement: Elkins Earthworks at \$17,836.98 and QED at \$19,345. Although Elkins is cheaper, it runs off an iPad that may not work in colder temps when we need to do testing. Stantec recommends we go with the QED, and Corey also recommends the QED option. Corey also mentioned that the previous two machines each lasted around 15 years.

Roger Richman motioned to recommend the purchase of the QED LandGem Gas Detector to the Clay County board. Cliff Bang seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Solid Waste/Landfill Update – Corey Bang

Mara and Corey attended dog encounter and de-escalation training on 2/6. This was provided by the county. On 2/7, Corey took our new county commissioner Ezra Baer to Perham for a tour of the waste to energy facility.

On February 10, Corey met with seven local counties to discuss the upcoming C&D rule changes. There is a grant for \$300,000 available for help with updating how C&D is handled, Corey went to the county board on February 18th for a letter of support for the grant for the seven counties (due to timing, he was not able to consult SWAC prior). If the grant is received, Clay County's cost will be \$15,800 for the project. With the rule changes, the Clay Demo Debris Landfill will likely close, so we need a plan for how to handle C&D materials in the future.

On 2/11, Lakes Area Jetting was at the landfill to jet the lines. On 2/13 the injector went out on the compactor. It is under warranty and was back up within two days (slight delay due to extremely cold weather that week).

On 2/20, Corey and Ashley met with Kevin Johnson who is the lawyer that did the waste designation for neighboring counties. Clay County does not have official waste designation but Prairie Lakes does. Kirk elected not to do a Clay County waste designation when the Prairie Lakes one was being drafted due to the new transfer station not being built and some other issues. Creating a waste designation for Clay County would be a very costly expense and is not required, so Corey will do more research before making a decision. Our county code already states that you can't take garbage in or out of the county. The waste designation would help if we get sued by someone. Corey will be meeting with the MPCA to see what they require and to gather more information.

On 2/28, Stantec submitted all of our annual reports to the MPCA, Corey doesn't expect any issues.

We have started the legal process for reimbursement on the RRC doors. Based on the contract we signed, we cannot sue but have to go through remediation and arbitration. The old doors are being stored at the RRC on our attorney's recommendation. There have been a couple closed sessions with the County board to discuss the situation. There are disputes between parties on the cost of the original doors.

The Sheriff's Dept. has officially requested the use of our grounds adjacent to the demo landfill. A few months ago we had a dirt bike group that wanted to use those grounds and at that time realized the Sheriff's Dept. was using it. Sharing between the two groups would be difficult and the dirt bike group rescinded their request. The dirt bike group is looking for an alternate location. The land by the demo landfill will be used by the Sheriff's Dept. for dog training and some long-range shooting. They will likely make updates to the grounds and allow other counties to utilize the space for training as well. If this happens, Solid Waste will look into some reimbursement from the Sheriff's Dept. for the usage of the land. Kevin Campbell asked if the Public Lands Committee has been updated on this land usage and Corey confirmed they have been.

We have been having issues with the flare at the landfill. It went down in January, we have worked with Burns & Mac as well as Stantec to troubleshoot. We think there is a leak somewhere along the line, when it tries to pull in landfill gas it is instead pulling in oxygen. We are hoping it is an above ground issue, it could be a well head that is cracked so Ella will be inspecting the well heads. We may need to have Stantec come out to help us isolate the issue.

On April 9, we are hosting the NDSWRA/SWANA (ND SW Recycling Assoc) Conference at the RRC. North Dakota is putting on the conference and teaming up with the MN chapter of SWANA. Andrew for

Stantec is on the ND board and coordinated the usage of the RRC. Several staff will attend to get hours for landfill operator training without having to travel.

Cleanup Weeks dates are set for April 27 – May 17. The RRC collaborates with the City of Moorhead for this. Moorhead residents can dump at the RRC for free (with an ID), RRC staff keep track of how much materials are dumped and we then bill Moorhead for this. We have a good plan for coverage and all staff are aware it is coming.

The Barnesville collection for HHW and electronics has been set for June 7. We did Hawley last year and had minimal customers so will alternate these two locations every other year.

Corey is doing an interview with the Forum this afternoon regarding the new legislation about reimbursement for electronics recycling.

The RRC is hosting the Earth Week press conference in April. We will share the date once it is finalized.

Perham Update – Kevin Campbell

There was no Feb. Perham meeting and the Jan. meeting was fairly short. The next meeting is March 14.

The budget finance committee was established and Kevin will be on it again. Per Brian, the plant has been running fine, no real issues. Bill Stearns from Wadena was elected chair for the year.

Discussions with City of Moorhead are ongoing regarding the RRC.

Corey asked the committee if we are ok having our next meeting in April since we had to move the February meeting to March 6th. The committee agreed, and next SWAC meeting is April 24th.

Meeting adjourned.