

Minutes of Meeting
Solid Waste Update
August 6, 2018
10:30 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer, Operations Manager JP Phillips, and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson. Also present was Coeur d'Alene Press Staff Writer Brian Walker. Chairman Marc Eberlein was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:49 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

Year to Date Trends (Discussion)

Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer said she did not have an update yet for the end of June or July; however, at the end of May, Solid Waste was up approximately 9.7% on landfill waste, and the revenue was up approximately \$400,000-\$500,000 from the originally projected number. Ms. Mayer said the bulk of the increase was from the scale house fees, because that included building and construction activity. She stated that because the revenue had increased, Solid Waste could likely continue a few more years beyond 2024 before they may need to increase their fees.

Ms. Mayer spoke to Personnel concerns, stating that hiring had been tough and they were running very lean on staff during the summer. She added that they were utilizing Sheriff's labor crews to help and were considering adding temporary workers. She also stated that some of their core contractors had slower response times and had needed to haul some of their own garbage.

Disposal Challenges and Solutions (Discussion)

Operations Manager JP Phillips had relayed a story about a resident noticing illegal dumping at one of the rural collection sites, which was not out of the ordinary. However, the resident had noticed a person with a full trailer dumping animal waste and parts, traps and cages, which had filled multiple dumpsters at the Kidd Island Bay site. Mr. Phillips said the resident had done an excellent job at writing up the report for potential prosecution and he had forwarded the information to the Sheriff's Office, along with photo evidence and documents. Mr. Phillips said it had become an obvious offense, because they had evidence the person had lied at the Transfer Station and did not disclose what the waste actually was.

Mr. Phillips then discussed another incident that had occurred at the Prairie Transfer Station where one of the members of the Sheriff's labor crew had been injured. He explained a customer had backed into the crewmember, but did not run the crewmember

over and noted there were no injuries reported. Idaho State Patrol was investigating the accident, the customer did not take blame, and Ms. Mayer said because of the good surveillance system recently installed, they were able to review the footage and make a determination.

Direct Landfill Discharge Update (Discussion)

Mr. Phillips provided an update on the Blue Creek Bay Bridge, stating there was resurfacing being done on the bridge. The concrete was currently being ground off the bridge and the concrete was a special mixture of Chromium, Lead, Arsenic, Barium and other debris to help make the concrete last a long time, and with all the additives, DEQ would not allow anyone to use it as filler. Mr. Phillips said they had called Solid Waste for disposal options and the cheapest options Solid Waste could provide was to ask them to directly haul the concrete to the landfill because it was approximately 1400 cubic yards, which would gain a revenue of roughly \$100,000.

Mr. Phillips explained that they had been giving contractors a reduced fee of \$52 to dump directly at the landfill instead of taking it to the transfer station for a fee of \$67.70. He said there have been contractors with large jobs that have accumulated so much waste that it was justifiable to give them the reduced fee and request the contractors take it directly to the landfill.

Construction Projects (Discussion)

Mr. Phillips provided an update on multiple ongoing construction projects. He said they were getting ready to begin work on the Ramsey Transfer Station sealcoating and pavement repairs and noted they would be closed to large loads August 30-September 3 to tear up a level of asphalt and refinish it. Ms. Mayer said there would be correspondence being sent out to notify the locals about the closure.

Ms. Mayer said that they had been contacted by Welch Comer several weeks prior where Welch Comer needed access off Howard Road in Athol, near the new Super 1 that had recently been opened. She said they were making turn lanes to provide entrance in a new development being constructed and the Highway District would need a small easement due to a back slope retreating onto County property, resulting in a minor relocation of the fence at the Athol Rural Site. Ms. Mayer said it would not hinder any type of operations at the site, except for when construction began and it would cause annoyances with access.

Ms. Mayer informed the Board there would be a dedication ceremony for the Rose Lake Rural Site at 10:00 a.m. on August 8, 2018. She said it would be a ribbon cutting ceremony with representatives from other entities that had been involved in the construction process. She then said she was currently working on purchasing some property at Wolf Lodge, so they could open a collection there. Commissioner Fillios asked Ms. Mayer if they would keep Blue Creek Bay open if Wolf Lodge were to have a site, and Ms. Mayer told him that they would try to consolidate the two. She pointed out that the two sites together were problem areas, further explaining that there were large issues with illegal dumping.

Ms. Mayer provided an update to the Perimeter Road cell buildout project, which was a \$1.4 million project. Excavation began in June, but it was extremely wet and it caused the subsurface to not be buildable. She said in working through with the contractors and the engineers they had worked out that problem, while stating there were also storm water improvements that needed to be made. To keep construction costs down, Mr. Phillips had coordinated with Solid Waste staff to work with the contractor to help with the project. Further, once the excavation started, she said they had run into a roughly 8000 cubic yard rock outcropping and they had to either blast it or work around it. Due to the rock, they had built out further to the North to avoid the rock.

The landfill-capping project should be completed during the current week, Ms. Mayer said. She said there was one section the contractor ran out of turf, so they were waiting for that to conclude and noted that out of the \$2.4 million project, there were no cost change orders and was anticipating it would be very close to the estimated cost at the conclusion. Further, she said they would be having a turf closure dedication ceremony on August 24, 2018 at 11 a.m., and would do an observance for the 25th Anniversary of Fighting Creek Landfill.

Commissioner Bob Bingham asked if they were still increasing the production of gas and Mr. Phillips said that gas production was still on the rise and noted that some of the deeper wells were also showing an increase in gas production. He segued into a discussion of leachate, where he stated they had evaporated approximately 4 million gallons out of the ponds, which left about 4.1 million gallons left. He said they were hoping to evaporate another 3.6 million gallons by October, stating with the new tank, they were seeing an increase in evaporation rates. Ms. Mayer said that of the \$150,000 they were able to submit for reimbursement to FEMA, that they had received \$135,000 because of the leachate.

Ms. Mayer then stated on Sunday, September 9, they would be closing two hours early due to hosting an employee safety appreciation picnic. She assured the Board they were advertising it to the public well in advance to avoid any confusion.

Department Status (Discussion)

Ms. Mayer briefly spoke to privatization and contracting, stating that she knew Chairman Marc Eberlein was conducting some meetings on August 13 with waste companies to discuss the possible privatization. She said she had asked if either she or Mr. Phillips could sit in the meeting as an observer, but had not yet heard back. She stressed that they would like to take the Commissioners back to the sites to show them how the whole system works and spend a few hours with each of them individually. Ms. Mayer pointed out that Solid Waste had an obligation to honor some long-term contracts, with some of them extending to 2022.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

Chairman Pro Tem Fillios adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
