

**Minutes of Meeting  
Solid Waste Update  
September 28, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste (SW) Director Cathy Mayer, SW Principal Planner Laureen Chaffin, SW Operations Manager John Phillips, BOCC Communications Manager Nancy Jones and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion):**

**Department Status Update**

Solid Waste (SW) Director Cathy Mayer thanked the Board for moving the meeting date to today and said that she had wanted to participate in one more before turning the position of SW Director over to the current SW Operations Manager John Phillips. She commented that he would be inheriting a wonderful team and thought he would have an easy transition. She also thanked the Board for the great working relationship they had enjoyed.

Ms. Mayer said that there had been about \$8 million in major construction projects at SW over the past six and a half years, not counting the smaller ones, which had been totally paid for through the SW Enterprise Fund. She credited much of this to SW Principal Planner Laureen Chaffin's hard work. She remarked that the department's revenue had increased and they had been able to reduce fees to their customers.

Ms. Mayer commented that SW would continue to try to consolidate and improve rural collection sites on County-owned land. She reviewed some of the major projects that had been completed during her term. She also commented on long range projects that were still in the planning stage.

Ms. Mayer announced that the Board would be receiving a recycling contract in a couple of weeks. She noted their current contract would end September 30, 2020. She stated they had done an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) with three firms and planned to award a contract to Bluebird Recycling with an amendment to the agreement with American Metals. She predicted that there would be some changes in what was accepted for recycling, due to the expense.

**Management Personnel Changes**

Ms. Mayer announced that the new SW Operations Manager would be Doug Goodwin and his former assistant at the Ramsey Transfer Station, Dave Huskey, would become the

Transfer Station Manager. She commented that they would be looking for a new Assistant Transfer Station Manager.

Ms. Mayer remarked that one of their mechanics had transferred to Parks & Waterways (P&W) and an Operator had transferred to the Airport. She added that two of their Spotters had left SW as well, leaving SW with about ten positions in flux right now. She said the Wage Study, Salary Adjustments and COLA provided by the Board had been appreciated by her staff. She stated they would address issues such as job description updates, compression and discovering better job equivalences for HR to use in future wage studies.

#### **Future Department Recommendations**

Ms. Mayer stated that the issue in the past which had troubled her the most was the 2015 taking of \$5.9 million considered excess funds from SW on the Treasurer's recommendation to the Board. She explained the details of the incident so the present Board would understand the impact the decision had on the department and be less likely to approve a similar action in the future. She said she and Ms. Chaffin had opposed this at the time, but had been overruled.

Ms. Mayer expressed concern that the Board fully understand the requirements fulfilled by the Closure/Post Closure Liability Account. She said it held about \$9 million right now that was obligated for future closure/post closure needs.

Ms. Chaffin provided additional details about the way the landfill's closure/post closure needs were calculated on an ongoing basis.

Ms. Mayer stressed that she would not recommend any move to privatize SW in the future. She stated it would not be logical financially or operationally.

**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.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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