

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Solid Waste**  
**November 2, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste (SW) Director John Phillips, SW Principal Planner Lauren Chaffin, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Coeur d'Alene Press Reporter Madison Hardy. Commissioner Brooks and Ms. Hardy were present via teleconference. Commissioner Leslie Duncan was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion):**

**Operations Updates**

Solid Waste (SW) Director John Phillips reported that the transfer stations had received a lot of yard debris from the recent early snowstorm. He also said that there were a number of dead trees near the dumpsters at the rural collection sites. He explained that the state owned the land but had given SW permission to cut the trees. He added that the state had offered to haul the logs away, if they were cut into 6 foot lengths and that SW would have the arborists chip the branches.

Mr. Phillips stated that he had been working with Kootenai Electric to run power to three rural sites so they could add lights and security features. He said they were working on easement questions. He predicted he would soon come to the Board to request approval of easements on County-owned property so that Kootenai Electric could install underground electricity on other rural sites. He added that he had received estimates for the projects, with a projected finish time sometime in the spring.

Mr. Phillips listed upcoming bids for SW:

- DAR Dozer rebuild of a machine at the landfill, at a cost of about \$525,000
- Waste Handler Loader at the Prairie Transfer Station, for about \$288,000
- Two Transfer Trailers for the Ramsey Transfer Station, at about \$96,000 each.

He confirmed that an appropriate warranty would be included in bids for the rebuilt machine.

**Recycling Updates**

SW Principal Planner Lauren Chaffin explained that recycling costs had gone up steeply, which made it necessary for SW to make changes in its recycling processes. She reminded

the Commissioners that they had just approved a new contract with Bluebird for their recycling needs.

Ms. Chaffin stated that commingled materials were much more costly to recycle than sorted. She said that the rural sites' recycling had been commingled, the cost of which had gone up to \$124.44 per ton. She pointed out that corrugated cardboard made up over 40% of what the rural sites took in and that it now cost only \$30 per ton. Consequently, she said they had decided to provide bins for cardboard only at the rural sites. She acknowledged that this was a reduction in service, but said it made sense financially.

Ms. Chaffin said that they recycled 13,890 tons of wood in 2019, at a cost of \$26 per ton. She noted that, prior to the recent storm, they had already processed 12,800 tons of wood in 2020 and the cost had increased to \$27 per ton.

### **Waste Statistics**

Ms. Chaffin provided the following data:

- The landfill received 196,207 tons of waste in 2020, an increase of 8.3%. The five-year average showed 7.4% growth.
- The Prairie Transfer Station had received 86,949 tons in 2020, an increase of 9.3%. Their 5 year average was 8.7%. They also had 216,818 customer visits, 13.7% more than 2019.
- The Ramsey Transfer Station received 137,126 tons in 2020, an increase of 3.4%. Their 5 year average showed an increase of 4.4%. They had 365,663 customers, 8% more than 2019.

Ms. Chaffin added that they had reduced their fees, but the increase in growth had offset much of that reduction.

### **Personnel Updates**

Mr. Phillips remarked that the department was undergoing some transitions. He said there would be changes in wages to reflect changes in responsibilities for staff members. He noted there was also succession planning being considered, to cope with predicted retirements over the next several years. He stated that their plan for personnel in FY21 would be presented at the next Human Resources meeting on November 12, 2020.

Mr. Phillips commented that they had three open SW Technician positions and were looking for qualified applicants.

Mr. Phillips reported that one employee had contracted COVID-19 and was working from home. He said the facility had been deep cleaned where needed and other staff told to

monitor their health and stay home if they developed symptoms. He added that staff has been reminded of mask protocols and distancing requirements.

**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 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

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

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