

Minutes of Meeting
Solid Waste
June 27, 2023
1:30 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste (SW) Director John (JP) Phillips, SW Business and Finance Manager Angela Burgeson, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio.

A. Call to Order: Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):

Solid Waste (SW) Director John (JP) Phillips asked that item 5 on the agenda be covered before item 4.

C. Business:

Projects (Discussion)

Athol Paving

Mr. Phillips reminded those present that Coeur d'Alene Paving had been awarded the contract for paving the Athol Rural Collection Site. He said construction was underway and was proceeding well. He predicted that the site would be available for traffic again by July 5, 2023.

Ramsey Transfer Station/Self Service Dumping Area Design & Future Construction (2023/2024)

Mr. Phillips reminded those present that SW had been working on a self-service dumping area design for the Ramsey Transfer Station. He remarked that SW had been working to finalize the plan with Jacobs Engineering and described the parameters of the project. He said this could cut down on scale house and transfer station traffic by 30% - 50%, depending on the day. He speculated that SW employees might be able to do the construction over the fall and winter, but there was some uncertainty about staffing levels. He assured the Board that SW had budgeted funds to have the work done by a contractor, if necessary and added that this project might postpone the need for upgrades to the Ramsey Transfer Station in the future.

Leachate Treatment – Pilot Update

Mr. Phillips said SW had been working on a pilot program for leachate. He explained that the Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board (HARSB) had notified them that their leachate did not meet future standards for treatment at their facility. He stated that they had been working with Jacobs Engineering and Dynatech Systems, Inc. on leachate treatment

feasibility study. He described the steps that had been completed so far and said they hoped to make a trial run this fall. He said they would research whether it would be more financially advantageous to buy or to rent equipment, if the pilot was successful.

Landfill – Phase E3 Design 2023 (Planned Construction 2024)

Mr. Phillips reported that Phase E3 of the landfill was under design this year, with construction planned for 2024. He said that Jacobs Engineering and Parametrics had met with SW on June 9, 2023 to look at the landfill gas system and discuss the project. He predicted that full construction documents would be available to SW by December 1, 2023 and the project put out to bid in late January 2024. He indicated that they hoped for substantial completion of the project by the end of October 2024.

Fighting Creek Landfill (Discussion)

Operations

Mr. Phillips complimented the efforts of the landfill crew for the efforts and willingness to work overtime. He said garbage volume was up, as was normal for this time of year. He added that the Landfill Management Team had worked with the Operations Manager to develop a plan to minimize leachate production. He said that the plastic sheeting they had ordered had been received and would be put down over the next few months.

Gas System

Mr. Phillips reported that the landfill gas collection system continued to work very well. He provided an update of the installation of necessary elements.

Acceptance of HARSB Dried Bio-Solids

Mr. Phillips stated that HARBS had about 25 loads of dried bio-solids that were of lower quality than they were allowed to use for land application, so they wanted to dispose of it at the landfill. He described the procedures required to make the material acceptable.

Transfer Stations (Discussion)

Operations

Mr. Phillips commented that the Transfer Stations had been very busy, especially during nice weather. He stated that operations had been very smooth and the crews were doing an excellent job. He thanked team members for the extra efforts they made and extra hours they had put in.

Staffing Levels and Recruitment/New Employee Attraction and Retention Options/Ideas

Mr. Phillips described the staffing shortages SW had been experiencing. He said they had nine openings at the moment, with four possibly being filled within the next couple of weeks. He said he had spoken with Human Resources (HR) about tactics to attract and

retain employees. He commented that hiring and retention bonuses of about \$500 or hiring people at higher steps might work, but he had no immediate plans to come before the Board with a request.

Mr. Phillips reported on overtime usage at the Landfill and the Transfer Stations. He said that the salary savings from empty positions had been enough to cover the overtime caused by those same open positions. He stated that they had used about 64% of their personnel budget while being about 75% of the way through the year.

Rural Sites (Discussion)

Operations

Mr. Phillips reported that Sunshine Recycling was performing well, moving waste from the rural collection sites to the transfer stations. He said that the sites had been looking good and the levels of abuse were lower. He thanked KCSO for patrolling the sites and helping to educate the public.

Seasonal Positions

Mr. Phillips said that SW continued to have trouble filling seasonal positions, despite increases in wages.

Solid Waste Statistics/2022 vs. 2023 (January – May Compared) (Discussion)

SW Business and Finance Manager Angela Burgeson provided a quick review of statistics, comparing 2022 numbers versus 2023, for the months of January through May. She covered Ramsey Transfer Station, Prairie Transfer Station, Fighting Creek Landfill and the Rural Collection Sites.

- 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):** Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk