

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
May 6, 2009

Mission Statement: *To enhance communication and the working relationship between the Department and the solid waste management facility owners/operators, through the discussion of issues and the exchange of ideas.*

Committee members in attendance:

Chairman, Doug Sparrow – City-County Sanitation
Barb Butler – City of Billings
Tom Barth – Coral Creek
Mark Nelson – Lake County
Steve Johnson – City of Bozeman
Clay Vincent – Unified Disposal District
Sherrel Rhys – Lewis & Clark County
Max Bauer – Allied Waste Systems
Bob McWilliams – Beaverhead County
Rick Thompson – MDEQ

Others in attendance:

David Seeberger – Allied Waste Systems
Brian Spangler – DEQ Recycling Program
Barry Damschen – Damschen Consulting
Bob Church – Great West Engineering
Jim Chilton – Flathead SW District
Don Allen – WETA
Lou Moore – P2 Program
Dave Duffy – City-County Sanitation
Ed Thamke – MDEQ

Call to Order: Doug Sparrow - 1:35 pm

Reading and Acceptance of Minutes from previous meeting.

Election of Officers: Sherrel was elected chair-person.

Rick read the guidance for Committee Members. Sherrel suggested that a notice be sent to all solid waste licensed facilities urging them to attend the SWAC meetings and stating if anyone was interested, there could be a change of Board members.

Solid Waste Issues From Previous Meeting:

- **Update on the Building Code Requirements for Container Sites.**

MACo working Group Report – Sherrel Rhys/ Mark Nelson

Mark stated that the group had not met since the last time.

Mark did say that he had spoken with Neil Bolton after the last meeting about walls at container sites. Neil expressed that as far as he can tell there is no solution.

- Solid Waste Rules Update: Rick gave this report. The review was received from the Bureau attorney the day before.

Ed stated that there were a lot of redundant comments. Bob Martin sorted and categorized all the comments received. Ed also stated that department would be organizing the response to comments to facilitate one response to similar issues or comments received from the public. Ed informed the committee that a meeting was scheduled for Friday May 15, 2009 to review the comments received with the solid waste program attorney.

Rick stated that the next process would be to file and adopt.

The next rules to be written are the Infectious Waste.

New Agenda Items:

- MACo/ DEQ MSU Extension Solid Waste Training – Discuss 2010/ 2011 curriculum.

Rick explained the information on the topic sheet/ handout concerning the totals from the questionnaire in the application renewals.

He continued to urge the SWAC members to answer their questionnaires as their responses would help guide the department's selection of training topics. Neil Bolton has been sending weekly emails about the various training courses.

Steve asked if it would be worth considering for the agency to buy a whole package that Neil offers as a reference library. Rick thought the series packet was about \$1,200. The committee members all felt this would be great for new operators to be able to check-out the various training DVDs from the department.

Rick stated the smaller facilities felt that their issues were being over-looked in training sessions. He felt there should be more specific training toward the Class III's. All thought that on-site training operator's equipment would be a good idea.

Max explained that he had put together a training called 'Garbage One-on-One'. It starts as if no one had any training at all. After attendees had viewed it, even the older operators thought they had learned from starting over.

Rick stated that he had to have a training contract in place by July 1. The schedule used in the last biennium seemed to get the most people to the trainings. There was a maximum attendance in using this schedule. He would like to keep this one. Barb asked if we could add information to the DEQ website listing other sites for trainings that are already available. Ed thought this could be possible.

The topic of asbestos training was brought to light as being a huge issue. Sherrel stated that John Podolinsky came to their facility to give a one-on-one guidance to their employees on the handling of asbestos. He also demonstrated how to identify and do the record keeping, etc.

The suggestion was made if John was going to one of the smaller landfills maybe the operators closer to that area should be notified so they can attend one of the sessions. Ed stated that with John being short staffed and so busy that we should utilize other resources to get this accomplished. Rick brought up the topic of webinars. This seems to get the most audience at any one time. This could be scheduled into the training and even some of the ones that are already out there.

Rick will put the topics together and email them to the SWAC members in the next two weeks. That way you can give feed back. He will be working on the comments from the last two trainings. The provided task/service list for solid waste training dates was from the last biennium.

Max suggested that the SWAC email Rick their ideas in the next two weeks instead of him making a list and waiting for their response. Thought this might help speed up the process.

P2 Program Update: Brian reported that Dusti and Bonnie are working on preparing for the CD recycling to be in June. The Waste Not Conference was held last week in Billings in conjunction with the Sustainability EXPO Conference. The Mid Rivers Recycling from Iowa spoke about the concept of going around picking up commodities at different communities.

On E-Waste events, Sandra attended and assisted with the first e-waste event in Dillon. She reported that it was very successful. Brian also reported that the Great Falls event was two weeks ago, and that it went better than the event held there last year. Gallatin County held recently collected 94.5 tons in two days.

Brian reported that he has been working with the air program on a diesel pollution reduction project. Brian stated that each state received \$1.73 million dollars from the feds to focus on the reducing the emissions from idling school buses. The main effort is to replace or upgrade school buses so as to reduce the green house gas emissions from that source. To implement the project, the P2 program partnered with OPI and the DPPHS. He prepared a funding application packets for school districts around the state which he will be sending to OPI for their approval. Brian also informed the SWAC that the money received for the project had to be spent by September 2010. There will be a meeting on May 7, 2009 with OPI to finalize the packet that is going out. The packet will be sent to the schools by Friday May 15, 2009. There are 440 packets to be mailed.

Brian informed the SWAC that a grant application has been submitted to the EPA for \$2 million. He stated that the P2 program received a letter of support from OPI for another \$3 million. Decker Coal hauls into Montana and they have fifteen huge trucks hauling coal, there engines were built in 1978. They asked for 3 million dollars from the EPA, that money would come through the P2 Program. When the budget is put together the whole 3 million will go directly to Decker Coal. The final decision for this will be sometime in May.

Max Bauer asked how the justification was made for one company to change-out their engines when others are in the same situation. Brian explained that it was a competitive grant. An email was sent through the DEQ, and there were press releases. Caterpillar from Detroit met with the P2 Program. There was \$8.5 million available and that was for Colorado, Utah, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. The grants will probably be dispersed equally among the

states. There was \$330 million of stimulus money for replacing engines. There was a program already in existence, but needed to be jump-started. The solicitation was out there. And there is criteria that has to be met to qualify to receive funding.

Yellowstone Park, Decker Coal and a construction company out of Great Falls were the three from Montana that submitted applications for grants. Those went through the Montana Contractors Association.

On Monday (May 11, 2009), in Missoula the Western Governor's Association is sponsoring a bio-energy conference, this is a special invitation from the Governor. This is a two-day work shop.

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up: Lou Moore's comment was that the Legislature is gone and all is beginning to feel human again.

- HB-21 passed, which means that recycling tax incentives are permanent in the state of Montana. Both tax credits and tax deductions were available. That also included making permanent the credit against air fees for industries that pay air fees and would recycle glass.

- SB-424 passed, which controls the disposal of mercury thermostats. This one went through very easily.

- Brian then explained to the SWAC that another avenue for funding in his Bureau is the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants. Those have direct application to the SWAC group. Large communities get money directly from the Department of Energy or Block Grant assistance. There is a list of 14-items that Block Grants can be used for. One of those items is recycling. This is the first time that Block Grants have been available. Legislation passed in 2007, but was never funded. The Department of Energy is scrambling now to figure out how to work with local governments that they have not worked with in the past.

Ed's comments on the Legislature:

- SB-451, repeal mega landfills. This has been signed by the Governor. The law no longer exists.

- SB-68, road-kill bill. This was an oversight in the law that was corrected. This too was signed by the Governor.

- HB-418, livestock slaughtering processing plant. This has been transmitted to the Governor and has not been signed. The time-line has passed, so it has become law without the Governor's signature.

- An outside bill that doubled the size of the Methamphetamine Program, this one died in the Committee.

- The revised alcohol content of beer. This has been signed.

- Eliminate charges for motor vehicle registration. This one died.

- HB-75, to revise the Environmental Rehabilitation and Response Account use. This was modified so that if there is a solid waste site that needed to be cleaned up, this account can be used.

- HB-2, the general appropriations act. This had removed over a million dollars of general fund money from our Permitting and Compliance Division budget. When all was done, it was returned. Waiting for the Governor to sign. It has been restored as a one-time only. Meaning it can only be used once during this biennium and it is not a part of the base budget for on-going bienniums. It has to be re-appropriated through HB-2 in future Legislative sessions.

- The Division still has to find a way before the next biennium to make up \$500,000 from our budget. Another problem with HB-2, was the direct transfers out of the junk vehicle account. So, we are still looking at this bill.

- HB-676 is the bill that implements the appropriations bill. HB-2 says what we are going to spend the money on and HB-676 says how it will be done.

Agenda for the next meeting: Air – Chuck Holmer; Federal Legislation; Establishing a Working Relationship with ACCAM.

Announcements: The next meeting will be August 5, 2009, at the Metcalf Building, Room 111, 1:30-3:30 pm.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.