

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
September 7, 2005

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.*

Call to Order: Sherrel Rhys - 1:40 p.m. Helena, Montana. This will be an informational meeting because of no quorum.

Committee members in attendance: Sherrel Rhys – Lewis & Clark County; Barb Butler – City of Billings; Tom Barth – Coral Creek Landfill; Clay Vincent – Hill County, Bob McWilliams – Beaverhead County and Rick Thompson – DEQ.

Others in attendance: Lou Moore, Pat Crowley, Renai Hill and Ed Thamke.

Solid Waste Issues From Previous Meeting:

Without a quorum it was decided to formally discuss the items on the agenda. The September 7th agenda will be one used for the December 7th meeting. The committee members present discussed the following agenda items.

Operator Training

Rick gave a report on the solid waste training budget. Mike Vogel was the only person he had heard from. Mike was not at this meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

Sherrel Rhys questioned how the MACo/DEQ contract was structured and if the training funds were specifically earmarked in the solid waste budget. Rick confirmed that the funds are earmarked each biennium specifically for training.

Rick acknowledged the continued need for the training facilitated by the DEQ's funding of the contract especially in recent years. He also acknowledged that training costs have increased over the years and department funding has to be commensurate with those costs.

Rick further explained that the proposed course content for the contract for the FY06-FY07 biennium was based on the response to the survey attached to the FY06 license renewal application forms. The three top-ranked training courses requested were the 24-hour and an 8-hour Hazwoper training courses as well as a course on the recognition and handling of meth-lab contaminated waste materials. Rick said he would work with Ed Thamke and Deb Grimm (DEQ Meth Program Coordinator) to develop a course that was specific to landfill operators if there was not one already in existence.

The question was asked about how the amount budgeted for training was determined and it was suggested by the committee that a percentage of the fees collected by the department be statutorily dedicated to training.

Rick indicated that the funds budgeted for training is a flat amount based on the cost of prior year training events.

Ed indicated that the department is in the early stages of the legislative planning process. If the SWAC feels strongly about statutorily mandating a certain percentage of the SW fees for operator training, now is time to get that concept included in the planning process.

The remainder of the discussion on training focused on how to sustain the level of interest and quality of the training courses provided.

New issues

Rick introduced Renai Hill to the committee and explained the position that she would be filling.

Barb wanted to know why there was not a professional engineer on staff. Ed explained why these positions were not filled, due to salaries and explaining how the current engineering position works. He then proceeded to explain the reorganization of the Solid Waste Section. Explaining the new positions of licensing and regulatory staff.

Rick stated that the department plans to have the solid waste program licensing manual published on the web early in the new year. There are also future plans as well for applicants to be able to track the status of their application on the web.

Concerns were put forth about moving Darrell Stankey into the position of overseeing landfills, due to his inexperience with the facilities.

Solid Waste Rules

Pat Crowley gave a report on the status of the solid waste rule writing. It is down through the final polish before going to Rick and Ed. He also explained the steps before the rules are put into force.

Mega-Landfill Siting Act

Barb Butler commented that the City of Billings (City) is approaching the annual tonnage that would require the City landfill to become a mega-landfill. The City has some issues with the Mega-Landfill Act in its current form and is asking the SWAC and DEQ to back them when they go to the Legislature to amend this law.

Rick announced that he has a list of names for a coal combustion wastes stakeholder group and was hoping someone from SWAC would consider being on that committee when it is formed.

P2 Update

Lou Moore gave a report on the glass pulverizer. Stating how well it has been accepted.

Announcements / Training Issues : SWAC will meet again on December 7, 2005 in the Director's Conference Room 111. Due to bad weather the meeting was postponed to December 14, 2005 at the Last Chance Gulch Building, Room 112.

Agenda for the next meeting: Same agenda as the September 7, meeting.

Adjourn: