

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

January 10, 2008

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 – Valley View Landfill
Sherrel Rhys – Lewis & Clark County
Joe Aline – Shumaker Trucking & Excavating
Steve Johnson – City of Bozeman
Barb Butler – City of Billings (by phone)
Max Bauer - Allied Waste Systems
Bob McWilliams - Beaverhead County
Mark Nelson - Lake County
Rick Thompson – DEQ

Others in attendance:

Darrell Stankey - DEQ Junk Vehicle Program
Jim Chilton - Flathead County Solid Waste District
David Seeberger - Allied Waste of Missoula
Barry Damschen - Barry Damschen Consulting
Pat Crowley - Crowley Consultants, LLC
Mary Louise Hendrickson - DEQ Solid Waste Program
Bruce Meyer - DEQ Junk Vehicle Program
Dave Duffy - City-County Sanitation
Sandra Boggs - DEQ AEPP
Ed Thamke - DEQ WUTMB
Mary Seibert - DEQ WUTMB
Lynell Roark - DEQ WUTMB
Mike Vogel - Montana State University Extension Service
Bob Church - Great West Engineering
Jana Sucky - Montana Recycling Association
Erin Thompson - Women's Voices
Jamie Silberberger - Women's Voices.

Call to Order: Doug Sparrow – 1:35 pm, Helena, Montana.

Review of minutes from October 11, 2007.

- Sherrell suggested the change of MACo comments.
[Page 2, MACo said they support a new rule as it would give them a legal standing.]

Also, with the correction on [Page 3, Michele Lizon's position is still vacant.]

With these changes the minutes were approved.

Solid Waste Issues From Previous Meeting:

- **Update on the building code requirements for container sites. Status of Draft Rules by Mark Nelson.** There was nothing to report.

- Solid Waste Program Vacancies:

Rick stated that this was an issue that was discussed at the last meeting. The previous discussion centered on position 00462 Environmental Science Specialist position. The Solid Waste Program is seeking to change that position to a System Analyst for the Bureau.

Ed Thamke took over the discussion and asked for input from the SWAC in regards to converting position 00462 from an Environmental Science Specialist to a Systems Analyst. Ed explained that one of his goals for the Bureau and the Programs is to make ourselves more accessible to the regulated community. He feels that we can accomplish regulatory and permitting hydrogeology review with one hydrogeologist in the Solid Waste Program (SWP) and use the vacant hydrogeologist position for a Systems Analyst. Initially systems analyst would make sure that the SWP's data base, electronic forms, and basically all IT services are more within the program's control rather than relying on the department's IT personnel. A program embedded Systems Analyst would allow the SWP to accomplish IT changes more quickly and effectively. The Systems Analyst would be paid predominantly by Solid Waste fees in the beginning, however, a fee increase based on our current FTEs, funding level and expenses may be necessary in 2011. The position would eventually be funded by each of the programs in the bureau as the systems analyst transitions into a bureau wide position. The funding burden on the SWP fees will subsequently be reduced and distributed on a percentage basis to the other bureau programs in the bureau.

Rick commented on the other vacancies. Position 00464, the position vacated by Mary Louise Hendrickson will be advertised in March. Position 00498, the position vacated by Colin McCoy is currently being advertised, with very few applicants so far.

The request was made for a list of all FTEs and job description for each. Ed will send a copy of the spreadsheet he has for this request.

- Recycling Market Development Work Group Update.

- Sandra Boggs for Brian Spangler

Brian Spangler will send an updated list of the Recycling Task Force to each SWAC member by the end of January.

Dusti Johnson could not be at the meeting due to her making a presentation to the Landscapers Association Conference in Billings.

Dusti has been involved with the Missoula Federal Credit Union project. She has been networking with 10-12 people who have been involved in building a one-of-a-kind

building using fly ash in the concrete mix. The foundation tests have come back very well. They are now proceeding with the construction.

Sandra Boggs has been working with EPA Region VIII on a regional approach to electronics recycling. Next she will be providing an overview of the lessons learned working with the manufactures and retailers. There will be a discussion with EPA and Region VIII states on the long-term plans for electronics recycling in and the region. The discussion will focus primarily on a public information campaign. There will be another regional meeting in May in Colorado.

Brian also spoke about the waste reduction recycling plan that is required by state law for each state agency. He mentioned the Governor's 2010 Initiative for 20% in reduction in energy consumption by state agencies by 2010, as well as the new law requiring agencies to have a plan to use vehicles that get better gas mileage. Brian informed SWAC of the formation of a "Green" planning team for the agency in the near future.

-Lapse in tape -

Other Solid Waste Program Issues: Rick Thompson

- Quarterly Report

Rick referred to the handouts in each packet. One being the solid waste projects status report, and the other being the staff assignment report for licensing projects. Rick explained that the licensing projects are currently being updated on the internet. This is done monthly. If there are questions about a project's status, one can look on the web page or call the SWP.

The discussion went back to the hiring of the vacant hydrologist position (00462).

Mark Nelson commented that he was concerned about the 'snap-shot' if this position does not exist. He thought the Legislature would not be willing to fund if not filled. Rick agreed if this position doesn't exist when the 'snap-shot' is taken, it would not be funded for another biennium.

New Issues

- Mercury Recycling Issues – Jamie Silberberger and Erin Thompson from Women's Voices of the Earth.

Jamie gave a report on their concerns for Mercury on how it affects women's health. Jamie said that mercury is a neurotoxin which can be passed from mother to child through the placenta or breast feeding. Mercury causes neurological disorders in children and other developmental delays. In adults it can affect the kidneys, heart and liver damage. Mercury from the solid waste stream (mercury containing products), can evaporate into the air or leach into the groundwater from the landfills. It will eventually leak into the streams, therefore, contaminating fish.

To reduce mercury in the environment, one of the campaigns Women's' Voices of the Earth (WVE) is focusing on is the recycling of mercury containing products. To that end they have received a \$50,000 grant from the EPA. Women's Voices of the Earth are

working with the EPA on developing a retail collection pilot. In Montana there are 13 stores that are participating in this pilot. They have agreed to collect florescent light bulbs in the stores as well as Mercury containing thermostats. Colorado, Utah and South Dakota are also participating in this pilot.

The idea of the state purchasing a florescent light bulb crusher was raised. Everyone present thought it would be a good thing for the state to have. Ed commented that he had received an email from the Enforcement Division inquiring about any projects in the Bureau which could be funded by fines received from an Enforcement case. The DEQ Enforcement Division reported that they intend to purchase a crusher, which could possibly be used for crushing the florescent tubes.

- Crushing of Junk Vehicles

Sherrel Rhys spoke on the problem that Lewis & Clark County is dealing with concerning the junk vehicle yard being broken into and equipment being damaged. She inquired if county residents can take their junk vehicles directly to recycling facilities such as Pacific Hide and Fur or private wrecking facilities. She speculated that the money received by the recycler for the scrap value of the vehicle could go directly to the junk vehicle program. Sherrel asked if the above scenario could be implemented instead of having to collect the vehicles at a county operated junk vehicle yard, and have the liability of having that yard while waiting to crush the vehicles once a year.

Bruce Meyer of the Junk Vehicle JV Program commented that major impact of Sherrel proposal would be loss of revenue to the JV Program.

Bruce informed the SWAC of the requirements necessary to prepare a vehicle before it can be considered a junk vehicle for recycling at a steel mill. Currently the commercial crushers handle the preparations. Un-prepared cars are worth \$25 in Billings. Prepared cars from county JV yards were worth \$130 a ton last year.

Bruce stated that the biggest deterrent to intruders is stacking cars. Once the cars are stacked it cuts down on the intrusion.

Darrell Stankey gave explained that there is a section of law that was established several years ago that does allow the counties to sell the vehicles to license wrecking facilities not individuals. The reason for this is that the state and county operated programs are not to be in competition with private commercial wrecking facilities. When all this went into effect one of the things that was done was a survey of the number of vehicles in the Lewis and Clark County junk vehicle yard. The wrecking facilities owners/operators were invited examine the vehicles. The overwhelming comment from the private facilities was that only 2% of the inventory of vehicles in the county yard was of any interest to them. To sell those 2%, there has to be a title transferred with that vehicle with and or a sheriff's release. Release from the owner would also be sufficient. In terms of a sole-source of contract for getting rid of those vehicles, state law will not allow the program to do that. It has to be by competitive bid process.

Darrell stated that taking the vehicle directly from wherever they were picked up after being released by the owner and taking them to a scrap facility is possible. Reimbursement would be made directly to the state. This scenario is possible if there are no other alternatives.

Darrell also explained that when an individual signs a release for a vehicle, they have released all rights to that vehicle to the state. The state therefore becomes the party that has to get rid of those vehicles. The county acts as the collection and storage place. This is why the grant monies goes to the counties. Not all county yards are located at county landfills.

- Compost Facilities, Tipping Fees. - Rick

The issue once again was should compost facilities pay a tipping fee or tonnage to the state because they operate in the same manner as other management facilities. In some cases they are just as involved as a Class II landfill to regulate, but yet they are not paying a tonnage fee at this time. Therefore a tonnage/tipping is once again being considered. In addition some of the revenue gained from compost facilities could go toward recycling programs or to the P2 Program to help fund some of their activities.

The Committee revisited the proposed of System Analyst position.

- They all agreed it would be better to have one person to support the Program.
- The motion was made and seconded for hiring a System Analyst.

Announcements/ Training Opportunities: Mike Vogel

- MSU Extension SW Related Training

- 24-hour OSHA Haz-woper and Landfill Safety Course at the Wingate Inn in Helena in January; and
- EPA Refrigeration Extraction Certification Course to be held in Billings at the Hilton Gardens, March 22 to the 24th.

Mike also announced that MSU has a bulb crusher which is being used at all 61-county extension offices.

Agenda for next meeting:

- Law rewrite
- Proposal for Tipping Fees

S.W.A.C. will meet again on April 10, 2008 at 1:30 pm in the Director's Conference Room 111.

Adjourn: 3:40 pm

