

Solid Waste Advisory Committee
March 2, 2006

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: Doug Sparrow – 1:40 p.m. Helena, Montana. This will be an informational meeting due to no quorum.

Committee members in attendance: Barb Butler – City of Billings; Bob McWilliams – Beaverhead County ; Dustin Johnson – City of Bozeman; Sherrel Rhjys – Lewis and Clark County, Doug Sparrow – City County Sanitation Service, Inc. and Rick Thompson – DEQ.

Others in attendance: Mark Nelson, Will Selser, Bob Martin, Bonnie Rausch, and Ed Thamke.

Legislative Issues

Ed Thamke expressed his concerns about the status of the solid waste fee account and the negative impacts that could result if additional appropriation is required to fund the Pollution Prevention Program. Ed gave an overview of Lou Moore's request for the Solid Waste Program to fund an FTE for the recycle program. He explained what this would mean, that we could not fill the FTE positions in the Solid Waste Program, let alone one for another program. He suggested that a portion of the fees from the regulation of coal combustion waste (CCW) landfills could fund the increased appropriations proposed by the P2 Program. Ed also indicated that Rick would be working with a group of stakeholders to work out possible language for CCW waste bill.

Other possible bureau legislation includes:

- A revision of the meth law to correct an error by the Legislative Services Division when they approved the funding for the meth clean-up program. They did not put a code that provides for these employees to be permanent. The other is returning the training budget.
- Modifying the Hazardous Waste Program statutes to require licensed facilities to pay annual maintenance fees.
- Repealing the section of the Motor Vehicle Act that requires the junk yards to submit quarterly reports on their inventory to the Department of Justice.

Ed said the above requests would be submitted in the near future to the Legislative Service and to the Governor's Office for preliminary approval.

Barb requested advice from Ed concerning the Mega landfill rules. Stating that when it was enacted there were 130-landfills, now there are only 28-landfill. If that is the case where is the trash going. Barb suggested that the Mega landfill Siting Act should be modified to reflect the current status of waste disposal in the state. Ed agreed that this

law needed to be modified. Will Selser noted in the existing law that it applies to building new landfill not existing ones. Ed also suggested that the solid waste rules would be looked at closely so as to make inserts and strikes where appropriate to regulate large landfills\mega landfills if the Mega Landfill Act were to be repealed. .

Recycle Program Update

Bonnie Rausch gave the P2 Program report for Brian Spangler who could not be at the meeting.

- Several demonstration projects including the deer composting project with the MDOT. He is concerned that there is a three-year limit on compost demonstrations and this may not be enough time to assess the success of the road kill deer compost project.
- 3-R's (reducing, reusing, recycling), program in the state government. It has been neglected because of short staff in recent years. He is trying to bring back a program that all can embrace.
- Preparations for the the Great Falls and Helena earth day festivities.
- Working on several federal grant applications
- Thermostat collection using buckets that were sent to the county sanitarians. There was a huge amount of mercury-filled thermostats collected. The rebate deadline was April 1.
- The Integrated Waste Management Plan should be finalized before the Environmental Review meeting on March 23, 2006.

Bonnie also reported that;

- Region 8 awarded a \$60,000.00 grant to the department to start a clean-up program for school labs.
- An Environmental 101 class is being planned for highway contractors in connection with the Contractors Association and the Building Industries Association.
- A water pollution prevention training will be offered in April. There is a \$200.00 fee.
- An asbestos conference was being planned for April, depending on the rule statues of the rule changes.
- On May 23, 24, 2006 in Billings, the P2 program will be partnering with EPA Region 8 for an air toxic out reach event.

Solid Waste Rules

Bob Martin gave the rules writing report. Stating that the packet was broken down and should be easier to understand. The packet has been separated into three sections (FA; Compost, Landfarms; Baled tires; and Solid Waste Management).

Announcements / Training Issues : **SWAC will meet again on May 4, 2006 at the Last Chance Gulf Building, Room 112, 1:30 pm -3:30 pm.**

Adjourn: 3:20 pm.