

**SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 9, 2014**

*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:**

Sherrel Rhys – Lewis & Clark County  
Joe Aline – Shumaker Trucking & Excavating  
Max Bauer – Republic Service  
Barb Butler – City of Billings (Phone)  
Clay Vincent – Unified Disposal  
Dave Duffy – Tri County Disposal  
Rick Thompson – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
Jim Simon – Gallatin County Landfill  
Mark Nelson – Lake County

**Committee members not in attendance:**

Larry Lakner – Beaverhead County  
Chris Viets – Richland County Landfill

**Others in attendance:**

Matt Elsaesser – Recycle Montana  
Kathy O’Hern – DEQ Solid Waste Section  
Barry Damschen – Barry Damschen Consulting  
Liz Ulrich – DEQ Air Resource Management Bureau  
Gordy Higgins – DEQ Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau  
Shasta Steinweden – DEQ Enforcement Division  
Bonnie Rouse – DEQ Recycling, Energy and Compliance Assistance Program  
Candace Bell – Jefferson County Solid Waste  
Brian Hohn – Broadwater County Solid Waste  
Glen Rafish – Butte-Silver Bow Landfill  
Robert Pudner – Recycle Montana  
Bill Pedersen – DEQ Energy & Pollution Prevention Bureau  
Lisa Peterson – DEQ Permitting and Compliance Division  
Kim Carley – City of Helena  
Stephanie Beckert – Great West Engineering  
Kirk Trease – Republic Services

**Called to Order at 1:31 p.m. by Sherrel Rhys.**

**The Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.** Sherrel asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes. There were none.

**Sherrel asked for everyone to introduce themselves and to state who they work for as there were several new people in attendance.**

- **Local Government and Recycling**

- LGR Update – Bonnie Rouse or LGR Staff
  - Bonnie talked about the Common Sense Sustainable Business Program, the Smart Schools Program of which the Lieutenant Governor has been promoting.
  - Bonnie also reported that John Podolinsky and she were scheduled to attend and present at the Air and Waste Management Conference October 27 – 29, 2014 in Spokane, WA.

- **Agenda Items From Previous Meeting**

- Federal Green House Gas Rule Making Update – Liz Ulrich, AWRMB
  - Liz gave a brief summary of the Federal Green House Gas proposed rulemaking for those who were not aware of those developments. Barb asked if they (AWRMB) hear any chatter before rules notices are published. Liz suggested that interested parties monitor Federal rule making activities at the website Regulations.gov.
- Rules update – Draft Compost and Landfarms – Gordy Higgins
  - Gordy explained that there are currently no specific rules in place for compost and landfarms, just guidelines. He explained the need to create a consistent way of licensing under the Solid Waste Management Act for those types facilities and that the framework will be a little different between the different rules that are being drafted. Gordy also stated that the draft closure and post-closure rules for compost and landfarm facilities will be similar to those for solid waste landfills. There was considerable discussion regarding the tracking of the amount of material received at landfarm facilities. Gordy indicated that he will do some more research on the issue.
  - Gordy also told the SWAC that the submittal of all draft rules to the Secretary Of State will not be done until after the legislature has adjourned in April 2015.
- Solid Waste Training – Kathy O'Hern and Rick Thompson
  - Rick Thompson gave a brief summary of the recently concluded Solid Waste Program sponsored training events in Great Falls and Lewistown. Those events were the; 24 Hour HAZWOPER - September 16 – 19, 2014 in Great Falls and, Landfill Training – October 21 – 23, 2014 in Lewistown. Both were well attended and received high overall evaluation scores by the attendees.
- Lewis & Clark County/City of Helena Solid Waste Study Update – Sherrel Rhys
  - Sherrel gave an overview of the status of the joint City of Helena\ Lewis and Clark County solid waste efficiency study conducted by Neil Bolton of Blue Ridge Services. She listed some of Neil's recommendations and asked how those changes can be amended in the operation and maintenance plans for the city's transfer station and the county's landfill.

- Rick explained that submittal of written operation and maintenance plan changes should be made to the Solid Waste Program for approval.
- **Solid Waste Program Update**
  - Licensing Activities – Rick Thompson for Mary Hendrickson
    - Mary reported that the program has been working on EA development for 3 landfills, two expansions and one new E&P facility.
    - Septic tank pumper invoices and renewals are being prepared for mailing by November 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Inspection Activities – Kathy O'Hern for Rick Thompson
    - 145 facilities and 7 that had major violations and only 14 minor violation. Some were lack of cover and some of lack of immediate cover.
    - Kathy also mentioned Who-Takes-What Survey Monkey survey that was sent out in a September email.
  - Enforcement – Shasta Steinweden, DEQ ENF
    - Shasta gave a brief explanation of what the Enforcement Division does. She also handed out a spreadsheet that shows the number of complaints throughout the state and it is broken down by county. She also commented that she receives several junk vehicle complaints but didn't include those in the spreadsheet. Sherrel commented on how nice it is to have the Enforcement Division involved and handling solid waste complaints at non-licensed facilities.
- **New Agenda Items:**
  - Update on Landfill Fire at the Lake County Landfill – Mark Nelson
    - Mark recounted that the fire started in February of 2013 possibly in wood delivered from a bee hive factory in Polson. Most of the wood slats received were kiln dried pine. Mark talked about the fact that foam is the material for extinguishing a fire of that nature. Clayey soil, similar to what was used at the 2011 Tire Depot was also used on the fire. In June their contractor rented a larger excavator to use. Mark went completely through what occurred and what they did to the fire under control and what they are doing going forward to prevent a re-occurrence. Rick asked him about the use daily cover and Mark said he was going to start checking the daily cover.
    - Mark also mentioned that he asked Neal Bolton for assistance in dealing with the fire. Neal referred him (Mark) to a Canadian company that specializing in extinguishing persistent industrial fires. The company subsequently sent their engineer from California to assist with extinguishing the Lake County Landfill fire.

- **SWAC Vacancies**  
Rick relayed a message from Larry Laknar asking if the SWAC can find someone to replace him on the committee. Kathy said she would advertise SWAC vacancies in the next Solid Waste Newsletter.
  
- **Recycle Montana** – Matt Elsaesser introduced the new AmeriCorps intern who will be working with Montana Recycle for a year.

- **Agenda Items for next meeting:**

- Legislative proposals
- Rules update

**Set Next Meeting Date – January 8, in Room 111 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:24 p.m.**