



Department of Environmental Quality
Solid Waste Advisory Committee – hybrid meeting agenda
DEQ: 1225 Cedar Street, Helena, Ponderosa Room

ZOOM

April 10th, 2025
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

- ❖ Call to Order – Fred Collins
Meeting called to order at 1:35pm
- ❖ Introductions
 - Fred Collins – Solid Waste Section Supervisor - DEQ
 - Megan Wingard - Materials Management - DEQ
 - Phil Nyhof – Environmental Science - Hazardous Waste - DEQ
 - Amanda Henderson – Program Support Specialist- DEQ
 - Rick Thompson – Waste Management Bureau Chief - DEQ
 - Jim Simon – Gallatin County Solid Waste Director
 - Ryan Foley – Environmental Scientist – DEQ
 - Candi Zion – Recycle Montana
 - Dusti Johnson – Materials Management - DEQ
 - Andrea Staley – Data Control - DEQ
 - Brady Christiansen - Materials Management - DEQ
 - Emily Almberg – FWP
 - Garett Masin – Enforcement - DEQ
 - Greg Kurvink – Environmental Science - Asbestos/Meth - DEQ
 - Jacki Pierson – City of Helena and Lewis & Clark County Landfill coordinator
 - James Gibson – Glasgow/Valley County Landfill
 - JD Foreman – City of Helena Transportation
 - Jeremy Welch – Republic Services
 - Barry Damschen – Barry Damschen Consulting
 - Mary Hendrickson – Barry Damschen Consulting
 - Joe Aline – Shumaker Trucking & Excavation
 - Joel Ebert – Solid Waste Management Specialist - DEQ
 - Madeline Marchiafava – Solid Waste Hydrologist - DEQ
 - Mark Nelson – President Recycle Montana
 - Pete Anderson – City of Helena
- ❖ Approve minutes from January 23rd, 2025, meeting
Fred moves to approve minutes, Approved.
- ❖ CWD updates
 - Emily** - Querying and sampling at various landfills. How widespread are deer and elk accessing landfills? Are there additional needs for funding for fencing for landfills to keep elk/deer out? Kalispell landfill is a great partner, removed a lot of deer that tested positive for CWD.
 - Rick** – Does the Kalispell landfill still use landfill cover? They were approved for ground up woody/vegetative material.
 - Emily** – Set up trail cameras, cameras caught deer consuming waste.

Jim Simon – Visited with Bevin McCormick from FWP, has never seen deer or elk on waste pile.

Emily – There was camera footage where deer had trash between their feet.

Fred – When doing inspections, has rarely seen wildlife at sites.

Jacki – Has not seen antelope in the active site.

Mark – Lake County has a small deer herd, has seen deer eating out of compost pile, not on active piles.

Barry – Has never seen deer eating from active piles.

Emily – Most activity is at night. Staff detected signs in early morning after dark.

Fred – Class II must do daily cover, soil tarps etc.

Jeremy – Occasionally sees bears or mountain lions, but not deer on active sites. Sometimes compost.

Emily – How is leachate handled? Might be left on vegetation cover.

Barry – Some landfills have ponds for leachate, no tracks to ponds ever.

Emily – No spraying leachate on anything?

Rick – Would prions be present after a certain time?

Emily – Clay based soils hold onto prions, might stay in leachate. There might be a way to filter leachate to remove prions.

Fred – Talking to MT DOT about carcass disposal.

Emily – Mentioned Bevin might be more familiar with the process. Composting might reduce prion load. No prions are the only safe level of prions.

Jim Simon – Buries carcasses vs composting to stop CWD transmission.

❖ Solid Waste Section Updates

- Staff assignments, hiring – Fred Collins
 - Still hiring for Tim Stepp's position, working with HR and hoping to have listed in May/early June.
- Trainings – Fred Collins
 - Scott with Altitude Training Associates for storm water training in May or June.
 - Composting

- Project statuses – Fred Collins
 - Five comments submitted through MEPA, license will be out, and final EA will be out.
 - Flathead Expansion EA – reviewed by MEPA and legal. Might be licensed by end of May or into June.
 - Grizzly Disposal in Missoula, working on it until end of May and then EA.
 - Gallatin County – going through preliminary engineering, will be after the first of the year 2026.
 - Pacific Steel Landfill – stopped first truckload into cell.
- Licensing updates/reminders – Andrea Staley
 - 161 renewals, 113 came back. The last 48 are mainly composting sites.
- Inspections – Madeline Marchiafava
 - Fully staffed and ready to go out and do inspections.
- Materials Management Program – Brady Christiansen and Dusti Johnson
 - Brady – Not too much going on with JV. Renewing direct haul contracts and need to go out into fields.
 - Dusti – Working on:
 - National levels down to state level.
 - Clean-ups on vapes etc. on Earth Day.
 - Paint collection and e-waste.
 - Tanneries with a greener tanning solution.
 - Battery take-back for lithium and regular batteries, hoping it's finalized - Fred will share the info on the program.

Grant is a big project, working with Megan on it and will go to meetings throughout the state.
- Enforcement – Garrett Masin
 - From Jan 1st to March 31st – 24 complaints - 5 asbestos complaints, 11 solid wastes.

❖ Other Items

- Legislative Updates – Rick Thompson
 - House Bill 477 – banning Styrofoam, limited ban with exemptions (meat, construction) banning it from restaurants. Starts in 2028, 2030 no Styrofoam. Made it through the floor and the house, making it to the Senate floor with the start date of 2035. Will have to figure out SW's role with enforcing it.
 - No bills that impact Junk Vehicles.
- PFAS Updates – Madeline Marchiafava
 - No federal or EPA regulations for PFAS.
 - Some landfills have refused leachates in case of PFAS.

- Uncertainty with the EPA for the next year.
- More updates with the DEQ at the next meeting.
- Lithium-ion batteries – all
 - Legislative updates?
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 - Hazardous Waste Program
 - Presupposing batteries are coming from households, also presupposed to not end up in the landfills.
 - Universal waste requirements – lithium-ion batteries are considered Hazardous Waste.
 - Most landfills in Montana are small quantity handlers of Universal Waste.
 - Can't have more than 11,000lbs of waste on hand.
 - Can't accumulate for more than one year.
 - Must inform employees of Universal Waste handling.
 - Can only ship to other Universal Waste handlers.
 - Must be contained.
 - Containers must be labeled as – *Used Batteries* etc. with date.
 - Try to remove batteries from vapes or else vapes would be considered Large Quantity Waste Generator.
 - No vapes with THC or else they'll have to be transported out of the state of Montana.
- General discussion
 - Jacki – Battery collection has been going well, started in October 2024 with barrels. From Oct-March, 4 barrels filled. Patty Howard (Logan Landfill) got in touch with Recycle Boise, working with them with e-waste.
 - Dusti – Started out helping sites that are having issues with collection. Working with Andrew at Green Technology Solutions making sure batteries are going to responsible recycling facilities within the US in Nevada. Vapes that contain THC are handled within the FBI/DOJ due to laws. Green Montana Program

❖ Round Robin

- Jim- Gallatin County is busy as ever, waiting for QA/QC on Cell 5. Working through building public disposal area at the landfill – facility is for anyone with a smaller vehicle to unload waste. Covered aerated static waste pile – looking to bid for construction. Septage ponds are in preliminary stages, a lot of interest from septage haulers. Partnering with Recycle Boise with battery and e-waste management.
 - Barry – lateral expansion of the Class II and Class IV in Glendive. Preliminary design on pits. Lined cell in Class III and Class IV pits.
 - Fred – should have the license for Powell County site out on Monday or Tuesday.
 - Candi – Happy to be on her first SWAC Meeting. Concentrating on recycling in small town Montana. Earth Day Event in Miles City. May 6th event in Havre. Third event in July in Harlowton. Grant money for composting.
 - Jacki –working on Phase III landfill closure as weather and staffing allows. Southwest berm runs into the south 160 acres. Hydroseed before June. Leachate pond – Phase IV A leachate pump system produced more leachate than used to. Looking into an aerated fountain in 2026.
 - Jeremy – Not a whole lot going on other than taking waste and burying it.
 - Joe- a lot of demolition. Lots of tin from military hangars etc. Recycling almost 100% of asphalt coming in.
 - Mark – Recycle Montana is in the best shape it's been in! Has some grants to give out to schools etc. Would like to help DEQ especially Dusti and Megan to do whatever they need to.
- ❖ Call for agenda items – Nominations will happen at next meeting in July.
 - ❖ Set Next Meeting Date – new chair
 - Tentative – July 17th, 2025 (BBQ, hybrid)
 - ❖ Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm.