

Vernon County Solid Waste/Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 by Chairman Richardson. Those present included Brian Richardson, Ole Yttri, Dennis Brault, John Mitchell, Jerry Johnson, Hooshang Zeyghami, Bill Meeks, and Gene Edwards.

Proper Public Meeting Notice was confirmed.

A motion was made by Mitchell, with a second by Brault, to approve minutes of the November 5th meeting. Motion carried.

November Material Volume/Revenue Report

The report was distributed at the meeting. Waste volume was down quite a bit from last November, especially C/D waste. The unusually cold weather was likely part of the reason. Overall waste volume was down 13% from last November and tipping fees were down by 10%. Year to date tipping fees are still 3% above this point last year. Edwards still expected to receive a little over 17,000 tons for the year.

Recycling is still pretty slow but not quite as slow as the report indicates. We have three loads of material (about 65 tons) that have not been paid for and 3 or 4 loads in storage ready to be shipped. We should end up fairly close to where we were last year.

Leachate volume for November was down 30% from last year and should also be down significantly for December. Edwards indicated 2014 was still going to be the highest volume and highest cost year for leachate since he has been here (2009). The City of Viroqua has agreed to accept some of our leachate but the amount may be very limited, at least initially. With the exception of leachate volume and cost, the year has gone pretty much as expected.

Follow-up Discussion of Meeting with La Crosse Solid Waste Representatives

Edwards had met with Hank Koch once, and talked with him on the telephone a couple of times, since our November 5th meeting to clarify a couple of details. One thing that had not been discussed at the November meeting is that use of the Excel Waste to Energy facility would not be feasible in the near future. La Crosse's current contract with Excel (which runs through 2023) limits waste volume to 73,000 tons per year and the La Crosse system already provides that amount. It is unclear whether Excel would accept additional waste under a renewed contract. Hank believes La Crosse County would accept Vernon County waste at their county landfill (current tipping fee is \$59/ton) if we are interested in doing that.

Koch and Edwards had also discussed the possibility of sending most MSW to La Crosse County prior to the Vernon County landfill reaching capacity while C/D waste and other difficult to compact and transport materials (mattresses, upholstered furniture, and other bulky items)

continued to go into our landfill. This approach could save money, simplify the waste transfer process, and keep the Vernon County landfill open for several additional years.

The Committee discussed beginning the process of evaluating future waste management options early next year. Future cost will probably be a major concern regardless of the waste management option used.

Interim Cover Placed on Part of the C/D Waste Area

The need to cover as much of the C/D Waste area as possible was discussed at the October meeting. Fortunately, the work was completed before it turned cold in early November. Edwards estimated that less than 3 acres of the landfill remained open—the least amount of open area since 2007. An aerial photograph was distributed that indicated the closed and open areas of the landfill.

Approximately \$11,300 had been spent on the work but a good deal more money than that should be saved during next spring's rains. During 2015, one inch of rainfall should generate only about 60% as much leachate as one inch generated during 2014.

The south third of the landfill should reach final grade in 18 to 24 months. A survey of the area will be completed this summer to get a better estimate of the timeframe. Final cover could be placed on this portion of the landfill as soon as it reaches final grade.

UW Stevens Point Involvement in Leachate Project

Hooshang was on-hand to report on his meeting with UW Stevens Point on November 21st. Professors from five different areas of expertise had been present and the Project was discussed in detail. The University is very interested in pursuing the Project but their assistance will focus on the operation and analysis of results after the Project has been placed in operation. Hooshang felt the Project could be ready to construct during 2015.

Edwards asked whether the University was also looking into possible grants to fund Project construction. At this time, the Solid Waste Department does not have the money necessary for Project construction. Edwards will contact Professor Michitsch to discuss Project construction prior to the Committee's January meeting.

Review/Approve Vouchers

Vouchers totaling \$57,510.87 were presented for review. Major expenses included: C&C Landscaping \$14,676.60 (C/D waste covering, seeding and matting, and gravel to resurface landfill road); CWE \$12,018.40 (groundwater sampling and repair/replace groundwater pump); Southwest Sanitation \$7,853.75 (leachate hauling for October and November); Highway Department \$7,739.55 (Landfill south slope work and installing culverts); Liberty Tire \$3,338.13 (waste tire recycling /2 loads); Chaseburg Coop \$3,119.63 (diesel and propane); and City of Sparta \$2,337.63 (leachate treatment).

There were also nine vouchers Chairman Richardson had approved on November 19th totaling

\$18,736.95. Major expenses included: Poynette Iron Works \$6,650.00 (two new recycling containers); Chaseburg Coop \$4,699.82 (diesel and propane—from October); CWE \$3,316.18 (landfill construction surveying/staking); Liberty Tire \$1,738.83 (October waste tire recycling); and Vernon Electric \$1,502.84 (October Utility bill).

Following review, a motion was made by Brault, with a second by Mitchell, to approve paying the vouchers. Motion approved.

November Financial Report

The report was distributed at the meeting. November was a slow revenue month but expenses had also been lower than usual. Year to date the Department is in good financial shape, having taken in about \$140,000 more than it spent (not including vouchers approved today). Barring major unexpected expenses in December, the Department should end the year in the black by over \$100,000.

There are two negative aspects to the 2014 budget: 1) we ended 2013 about \$209,000 in debt to the County General Fund (due to higher than expected Cell#6 construction cost); and 2) we did not budget anything toward future landfill closure cost. The Committee will need to decide how to distribute net revenue from 2014 after the budget has been closed out for the year. Committee members encouraged Edwards to attend the upcoming Finance Committee meeting to request that funds (about \$103,900.) removed from the 2009 Department budget be returned to the Department.

A motion was made by Yttri, with a second by Brault, to approve the Report. Motion carried.

Department Update

Edwards had talked to Jim Holfelder at Viroqua Bank about the Escrow Account. Additional municipal bonds had been assigned to secure the \$150,000 that was not secured last year. Jim also assured Edwards that more municipal bonds would be used as needed to secure future deposits into the Escrow Account. The Bank has also reissued the Letter of Credit for landfill closure as part of the Bank purchase by People's Bank of Prairie du Chien.

Vernon County is now a State certified asbestos company—for asbestos inspections only. Edwards was pleased with the work done by the Highway Department. It was a good job at a reasonable cost.

The next Solid Waste/Recycling Committee meeting will be January 14th at 9:30am.

A motion was made by Johnson, with a second by Mitchell, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:45am. Motion carried.