

MINUTES
CLAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2016
ROOM B, 3RD FLOOR, CLAY COUNTY COURHOUSE

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Grant Weyland, DiAnn Streifel, Roger Richman, Everett Nelson, Wayne Lepper, Russ McDougall, Chuck Hendrickson, Jim Haney, Joe Pederson

Members Absent: Russ Colson

Others Present: Kirk Rosenberger, Shannon Thompson, Julie Kennedy, Larry Henry, Rachael Michaud, Hanna Wallmow, Tim Magnusson, Brian Berg, Steve Moore, Dave Olek, Mary Aldrich, Paul Kalibabky, Todd Bratlien, Stephanie Ahlfeldt, Jen Pickett

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Jim Haney, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.

On motion by Joe Pederson, seconded by Everett Nelson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from March 24, 2016.

Commissioner Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and initiated introductions.

Solid Waste Marketing-Rachael Michaud

Rachael Michaud, Concordia College Intern, reported she has been working with Kirk Rosenberger and Shannon Thompson to identify Clay County Solid Waste with a new bold energetic look with colors and fonts for promotional materials. Michaud said she used material supplied by Shannon that had previously been used for promotional purposes. The colors chosen were bright blues, greens, and gray, with stark lines and two standard fonts. Michaud handed out examples of the flier she created for Cleanup Week to the Committee members.

Single-Use Plastic Bags-Hanna Wallmow

Hanna Wallmow, Concordia College Intern, presented Committee members with options and recommendations regarding the use of plastic bags. Wallmow said she was in favor of banning plastic bags and requiring stores to charge a fee for each plastic bag provided. Wallmow thought an initial campaign providing reusable bags free or at a low cost would be an excellent idea. Wallmow said adding plastic bags to curbside pickup may make it easier for the consumer to recycle bags, and added only a few local stores have drop-off sites within their stores to recycle the bags.

Roger Richman asked about the field near the 40th Street South Recycling Center and questioned whether anything could be done about all the plastic bags littering the area.

Steve Moore, City of Moorhead, replied, the City would like to see volunteers organize an “Adopt a Park” campaign, to help clean up some of the sites. Moore said there is only one person monitoring and cleaning the four recycling centers and the job is difficult to do alone.

Kirk Rosenberger said big box stores such as Sam’s Club and Costco sell merchandise without the use of plastic bags, he doesn’t know why other stores can’t, and added that it only takes one plastic bag to cause significant damage.

Mary Aldrich, of Minn-Kota Recycling said her company accepts plastic bags from local retailers and the bags are shipped out in truckload quantities to recycle furniture, lumber, and other products.

Shannon Thompson said there are still many people who don’t know you can bring the plastic bags back to the stores.

Commissioner Campbell said more education needs to be done to convince consumers to recycle plastic bags and/or implement reusable bags.

Single Sort Regional Material Resource Facility-Dan Krivit of Foth

Dan Krivit of Foth, began with a PowerPoint presentation of the Phase I Preliminary Report which focused on two scenarios of a MRF (Material Resource Facility). Krivit reported the West-Central Minnesota Regional Recycling Coalition decided the first option would be to consolidate material from eight counties into one regional, publicly-owned, single sort MRF. The second option was to use an existing private MRF. Krivit said the coalition came to the conclusion (when adding all counties with curbside, drop off, redemption, and commercial), that 12,000 “Secure Tons” per year could be designated to a regional facility with potential for growth up to 18,000 tons plus. A market price graph for Otter Tail County showed a decline over the past five years, while the Wadena County market price graph showed transferring single-sort recyclables showing a slight incline.

Preliminary plans for the Clay County Transfer Station are in coordination with the City of Moorhead, with an 18,000-20,000 square foot transfer station to be built in the next two years, a plan for separate bays for trash, single-sort recyclables, and a separate trailer dedicated to recyclables. The Moorhead Transfer Station could be the regional system and the MRF site.

The second scenario Krivit presented was the private MRF. Hauling would be a huge cost if the material was marketed to an existing private MRF, tons-per-load, cost of diesel fuel, round-trip vs. one-way mileage costs, licensing, insurance, labor, etc. The regional MRF scenario may be the viable option for the coalition. Specific alternative sites are Moorhead, Becker, Otter Tail, Polk, and/or Douglas Counties.

Earth Day-Shannon Thompson

Shannon Thompson reported Solid Waste staff has been in and out of the office, staying busy with Earth Week and Cleanup Week activities.

Thompson said they had 130 cars in four hours at the Electronic and HHW collections in Barnesville. They collected over 13,000 pounds of electronics. Barnesville City staff were on hand to help out, and the residents said they really appreciate the programs.

Thompson visited the libraries in Barnesville, Hawley, and Moorhead for Earth Week and had a good turnout with kids and adults participating in making t-shirt bags and crocheting plastic bags. The art contest at the Moorhead Library went well. Cleanup week starts May 2nd and ends May 6th. Thompson mentioned the hours advertised through the media for the Electronics Garage and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs have varied and that has been frustrating. Thompson brought Solid Waste recyclable bags with the new logo and asked everyone to take one before they left.

Rosenberger mentioned the bulldozer at the landfill is being repaired, and with the busiest week coming up a bulldozer will be rented.

Commissioner Campbell said the Prairie Lake arbitration hearing will be heard next week.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.