

MINUTES
CLAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017
ROOM B, 3RD FLOOR, CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Grant Weyland, Roger Richman, Joe Pederson, Wayne Lepper, Russ McDougall, Everett Nelson, Chuck Hendrickson, Russ Colson, DiAnn Streifel, Sara Watson Curry.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kirk Rosenberger, Shannon Thompson, Julie Kennedy, Larry Henry, Stephanie Reynolds, Brian Berg, Maggie Gruber, Karl Meyer, Bob Craigs and Lynne Spaeth

Commissioner Kevin Campbell introduced Sara Watson Curry and she informed the committee about herself and her background.

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Everett Nelson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.

On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by Chuck Hendrickson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from December 8, 2016.

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

Heartland Industries – “Message in a Bottle” and “Recycling Your Holidays”

Rosenberger praised Heartland Industries for their involvement and contribution to our projects.

Karl Meyer, director of employment services for Heartland Industries, briefed the committee about the non-profit’s purpose and employment services for adults with disabilities. Heartland has been involved with “Message in A Bottle” and “Recycling Your Holidays” for about 3 years.

Meyer explained that his job is to look for employment for their people, while upholding the Department of Labor requirements. Some of the work their clients perform are light assembly and bulk mailings for various companies. Meyers voiced his appreciation to Shannon Thompson for her involvement.

Shannon Thompson approached the committee stating that the “Message in a Bottle” project is State-wide and that some locations are closing because the partners are not working out. She added that Heartland has been fantastic to work with and thanked Karl for all that they do.

Rosenberger announced that Meyer had been chosen as “Recycler of the year,” and Commissioner Campbell presented the award to Meyer.

Update - Shannon Thompson

Thompson explained that Rollag sold its shop and the new owner’s insurance would not cover the recycling containers so they need to be relocated. Thompson states they are working on moving the bins to the Parke Township Hall.

Thompson informed the committee that Solid Waste has created a Facebook page. The page has been very successful and contains about 30-50 pictures of the new building, staff meetings, etc. The website has been updated with new rates for the landfill, battery recycling and other news.

Thompson informed the Committee that they have been working for about 1 ½ years to get credit card service at the landfill so customers could pay by card instead of cash. They plan to go through the same company as the Recorder and Highway Department. She expressed that they would need a checking account for the deposits and Bell Bank could provide a free account without fees. Moreover, Thompson would need a resolution in the Minutes before the account could be opened and requested a motion.

Commissioner Campbell explained that the County Board has to open the account. He suggested visiting with Lori Johnson before opening the account.

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Chuck Hendrickson, and unanimously carried, the Committee recommended approval of a landfill checking account to the County Board.

Update - Larry Henry

Henry said they had purchased a BOMAG compacter and it will take about 90 days for it to arrive. He stated that everything was going well in the new building. There have been minor issues with computers but they are being worked out.

Update - Julie Kennedy

Kennedy had no updates.

Resource Recovery Campus – Bob Craigs

Bob Craigs, who leads the solid waste recycling group at Burns and McDonnell and works closely with Matt Evans, presented handouts and a slideshow of the most recent activities as follows:

- Study on the impacts on traffic.
- Houston Engineering topography survey.
- Soil boring requirements.
- Funding at the State level.
- Preferred option result.
- The project schedule was reviewed and provided to the Committee as follows:
 - Complete the schematic design phase.
 - Identify a preferred option by mid-February.
 - Draft construction documents complete by the end of March.
 - Complete MPCA permitting in conjunction with the bonding approval.
 - Prepare to enter into a contract by the end of August.
 - Commence Construction by September.

Rosenberger mentioned the 2 critical points in keeping the September timeline. The first is obtaining the permit from MPCA and the second is the bonding matter. If funding is not obtained this year, there is a project next year that already has a permit.

Commissioner Campbell brought up the discussion of renewable energy and possibly putting up solar panels. Craigs stated that the State has a set of sustainable bonding requirements for buildings. Renewable energy could be considered, as it is included in those requirements.

Rosenberger does not anticipate any problems as far as zoning matters.

Craigs closed by informing the Committee that they were holding a design workshop next week, specifically to discuss the alternatives. They will determine the preferred option and a cost estimate. Subsequent to that, they will meet with county and city officials to discuss the preferred option. At next month's meeting, they will return and report their findings and status to the committee before producing the detailed design.

Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste (PLMSW) discussion - Kevin Campbell

Commissioner Campbell recapped Clay County's relationship with PLMSW. A budget committee was formed to analyze the situation and review charges/funds. Tipping fees were increased. Nevertheless, Commissioner Campbell reported that at the end of December 2016, the expenditures over revenues was at (\$177,000). However, with depreciation factored in, the end result was \$711,000 to the good cash flow. We received a letter from the Otter Tail County Auditor, who is the fiscal agent for this, conveying how pleased they were with how this has turned around.

Additionally, he stated they are progressing closer to remedying the problems with the super heater through as a result of failure on the part of the contractor.

Commissioner Campbell was not pleased with the results of a study on a regional Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Despite the vast majority of the materials coming from Clay County, the locations chosen was Fergus Falls.

Commissioner Campbell stressed it was important to leave our options open. An anticipated 18 tons of recycling will go through this facility with Clay County accounting for 1/3 of it.

Campbell added that a Steam Agreement with Bogart's was renewed. Steam sales are key to keeping tipping fees stable.

General Updates – Kirk Rosenberger

Rosenberger stated that the House will talk about the Governors Bonding bill at the end of the session. Testimony will take place in March or April.

Furthermore, Rosenberger indicated that last month Concordia presented the food waste initiative they are undertaking. They have invited Jonathon Bloom to discuss the presentation which is open to the public. Food waste comprises a significant amount of materials going to the landfill.

Lastly, Rosenberger reported that they have a new intern from Concordia. She will visit each and every township to try and persuade more townships to allocate more drop-off sites for recyclables.

On motion by Russ McDougall, seconded by Everett Nelson, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.