

**MINUTES**  
**CLAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**8:00 AM THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022**  
**THIRD FLOOR COMMUNITY ROOMS A/B**

**Members Present:** Kevin Campbell, Jenny Mongeau, Roger Richman, Wayne Lepper, Russ McDougall, Everett Nelson, Chuck Hendrickson, Heather Nesemeier, Cliff Bang, Joe Pederson, Russ Colson

**Others Present:** Steve Larson, Corey Bang, Julie Kennedy, Justin Sorum, Steve Iverson, Darren Brooke, Todd Bratlien, Aric Berg, Kathy Ihle

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

**On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Heather Nesemeier, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.**

**On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by Joe Peterson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from August 25, 2022.**

**Construction Engineers – Resource Recovery Facility Update, Leon Sevigny**

Leon Sevigny was unavailable for an update. Aric Berg updated SWAC on site work at the RR Facility.

**Sitework** – Inbound/outbound scale installation has begun. The scale house structure on the east side was set last week. Asphalt paving on the east side is complete. Perimeter fencing and seeding is complete on the east side. Backfilling of south retaining wall is being completed.

**Main Building/Structure** – The concrete walls have been poured. Tipping floor slab in Area C was complete last Wednesday. MEP rough-ins are ongoing in Areas A & B. Pre-engineered metal building erection in Area C has begun. Loading dock equipment has been installed. Masonry partition walls are complete. Drywall has begun in the office area. Transfer trailer bay scale pits are being installed. Garage foundations are being built. Epoxy flooring and permanent lighting will go in when the painting is done in the HHW area. Berg showed pictures and drone footage of the Resource Recovery Facility site.

**Comstock Construction – Landfill Project Update, Joe Johnson**

Joe Johnson was unavailable for an update. Corey Bang said the boiler is ready to be fired up.

### **SW Manager – Job Description/Questions – Roger Richman**

Roger Richman had questions about the hiring process of the SW manager job description and submitted three questions for discussion.

#### **Why did the County Commission do an internal search for Kirk's position?**

Richman said that Clay County has hired professionals with credentials in the past. Richman said he understood no one on the internal search had the qualifications or credentials for the position and wondered why an internal search was done. Campbell said the search to fill the SW Manager position wasn't an internal search. The position was offered to a person in Fergus Falls who turned it down because they wanted to work five days a week from their home.

Stephen Larson said the position was offered a second time to the same person and the County would have allowed for them to work "*sometime*" from home but they decided not to accept. Two other candidates (one external, one internal) submitted applications/resumes and were interviewed but it was felt they weren't right for the position. A Clay County employee was offered the position, accepted it, then declined the next day. The position was again advertised externally/internally. Corey Bang applied, was interviewed, and offered the position.

#### **Who will write the technical reports to the state?**

Richman asked if the technical reports will be done by consultants and has additional money been allocated for the reports to be done? Campbell answered that the reports are signed off on by the professional consultants.

#### **Why was the Solid Waste Advisory Committee not consulted?**

Richman asked whether it would have been beneficial to advise SWAC of what was going on with the interviews/hiring. Campbell answered that SWAC was informed when the first person was hired. Two people were offered the position and accepted but withdrew their acceptance.

Jenny Mongeau said the process of finding a new SW manager was reported at the previous SWAC meetings. If the SWAC board is telling us as a whole unit that they want more in-depth detail, that would be a policy shift from what was wanted in the past, and we have no problem doing that. The candidate/employee we ended up with is a great employee.

Richman thanked SWAC for taking the time for the discussion.

### **RR Facility Discussion/Update on Pollinator Space and Turf Alternative – Steve Iverson**

Steve Iverson wanted to discuss what took place at the Resource Recovery campus meeting the day after Labor Day when there was talk about the seed change order. Iverson said it was recommended to use the specified low-mow variety and not the bee garden mix that they have been working on. Native planting will be limited to one acre between the main building and the scale. The bee garden is in lieu of mowed grass for the bulk of the six-acre campus.

Jenny Mongeau thought the bee garden was going to be between the main building and the scale house. Mongeau expressed concerns about the invasive component and the amount of

time maintaining the bee lawn and said since it is only being maintained a certain amount of time during the year, it would be easy to overseed what is existing.

Heather Nesemeier said the bee lawn and the ¾ acre for the pollinator planting was approved at the June SWAC meeting. The city approved paying for the turf alternative and the low mow. The acreage stays within the footprint of the project. A change order caused the seeding change.

Stephen Larson said he understood at the last meeting the proposal was not to cover the area with grass. There was an additional cost and CE was asked to do the one-acre front portion. Steve Iverson suggested staying with what was specified on the west side. The area inside and south of the building will be bee lawn.

#### **Landfill Activities – Brett Rice**

Brett Rice was unavailable for presentation. Corey Bang said the landfill is experiencing an infestation of endangered ground squirrels. They are hibernating until spring. The landfill will look at a buffer zone to keep them out of the active portion of the landfill until receiving permission to transfer them elsewhere.

#### **Landfill Update – Corey Bang**

Corey Bang reports the landfill is still shorthanded. Two roster positions have been filled and they are willing to work where we need them. There are two truck driver positions open. The backup truck driver is currently out on medical leave. A parttime truck driver has been hired to work up to 16 hours a week. Leachate delivery is being contracted out. The forklift for the RR Facility was delivered and will be kept at the recycling shed until the facility opens. When the second truck driver position is filled, they will pick up the new walking floor trailers. Tipping fees will not be raised this year. Bang attended the SWAC conference last week and met with MPCA and other department heads.

#### **Perham Update – Kevin Campbell**

Kevin Campbell reports PRRF steam sales are doing well. During the fire a couple of months ago, the fire department had to cut out a thick wood door that was used for a push wall. Replacing the door with wood cost \$40,000. A quote to change to concrete in the amount of \$50,000 was authorized to come out of this year's budget. Discussions about PFAs continue.

Roger Richman made the motion to adjourn. Russell McDougall seconded the motion.