



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**February 2, 2012
MINUTES**

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Board Chambers
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Rolls, Byl, Groenleer, Shroll, Koorndyk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioners Vonk & Vander Molen

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Bill Allen, Waste-to-Energy Division Director; Ron Landis, Engineering/Utility Services Director; Gary Segar, Utility Services Superintendent; Steve Achram, Civil Engineer; Phil VanDyke, Risk Coordinator – Risk Management, Fiscal Services; Steve Marshall, Clerk Typist II

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Rolls called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Public Comment - None

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and supported by Commissioner Groenleer to approve the minutes of the January 2012 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Administration

A. Service Award

Director Wood introduced Gary Seger, Utility Services Superintendent, and presented a 10-Year Service Award. Mr. Seger has been with the Department since 2001 and began as a Utility Operations Worker. In 2006 he was promoted to Senior Utility Worker, and then was promoted again to Superintendent of Utility Services. Mr. Seger also has a farming background which has helped the Department in the field with repairs. He is also a veteran. Mr. Seger and staff have also received compliments from Steve Grimm, Cannon Township Supervisor about the great job done after a force main break. Commissioner Rolls thanked

Mr. Seger for his dedication and service.

B. Department Goals and Objectives Review

Director Wood presented the Department Goals and Objectives for the Board's review. He stated that the Department prepares the annual budget and related goals and objectives for submittal to County Administration in the middle of the prior year. Board Chair Vonk requested that staff provide an overview of the goals and objectives. The following overviews are broken down by division by the Division Directors.

Waste-To-Energy Bill Allen began by focusing on projects that are happening this year. One of them is the feasibility of the Commercial Recycling Facility discussed with the Board. The feasibility will look at the waste stream received to determine what is recoverable. Staff and the consultant will also determine if a processing facility will fit on the site. The Department is researching the possibility of acquiring railroad property in back of the Waste-To-Energy site. Staff will provide the Board progress reports on this project.

We have an ongoing stormwater remediation project on the WTE site. The site has a stormwater outfall to the Grand River. The Department is working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on this project. The Department has constructed and installed a retention pond on the site which collects the water and allows the particulates to settle out. Testing has shown that it has done a really good job and those numbers are very low now. Another issue at the site has to do with B.O.D. (Biological Oxygen Demand) loading in the pond. The Department's focus is the best way to proceed to isolate this problem. Director Wood commented that the plant has been there for twenty-one years. This issue only surfaced early last year. Mr. Allen added that the B.O.D., and there's also E. coli limit for the Grand River which as he understands is related to using the river for swimming. It's The EPA standard that flows through the state to WTE.

Solid Waste Division

Recycling and Education Center Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Operations Director stated after the first year of operation there is a better idea of how the facility runs and what to expect. The Department is evaluating the use of with Goodwill Industries transitional workers. The overall objective is to increase tons processed.

Resource Recovery The Resource Recovery/Household Hazardous Waste Program is the educational portion staffed by three people. The goal is to update all the material in 2012 and continue to make improvements to the West Michigan Take Back Meds Program which started this year and has proven to be successful.

Solid Waste Plan The goal is to complete the Plan amendments for approval in April. Following that process the Plan is submitted to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Commissioner Byl stated one of the things he continues to hear from people who are either in condos or apartments that they would like recycling opportunities. Further, Commissioner Byl asked the Department staff to prepare a report on the impediments of dealing with recycling at apartment, condo complexes and multi-unit sites to see if there are ways they can be addressed. Director Wood stated that the staff will prepare a report.

Commissioner Rolls stated that he had a couple school groups take a tour of the Recycling Facility and thanked Director Wood and Mr. Kmiecik for putting that together. He received a lot of feedback from a lot of the kids that stated of all the field trips, of all the places they had to go the tour of the facility was the absolute highlight of their entire week.

Commissioner Rolls stated that he received feedback from a couple constituents that commented that it seems cumbersome and difficult for them to be able to unload to the Household Hazardous Waste. The current procedure is to call and make an appointment to bring in household hazardous waste. He asked if that was the way it's normally done and if there was any way to make that easier or streamline. Director Wood said the reason it is done by appointment is for safety. The Department also has only three full time staff members that rotate through collection times, the educational portion and the various other programs that come out of the Household Hazardous Waste Program. Mr. Kmiecik added that there are 8-10 Saturday collection days per year, two at each site, throughout the year. It is advertised and open to try to accommodate people that cannot make it by a phone call. There is a Kentwood site, a Wyoming site and one in Rockford. It is staffed with about ten people in order to regulate what residents bring because items must be sorted carefully. Commissioner Byl asked if latex paint accepted. Mr. Kmiecik said latex paints are not accepted.

Engineering/Utility Services Division

South Kent landfill Ron Landis, Engineering/Utility Services Director stated that the first goal for the South Kent Landfill is to maintain all the permits and notice of violations.

Second goal is the design of cell 35. This cell is encroaching on the ground water table. There is also a new paving project for about one third of the road around the site.

Mr. Landis also added that he has started the process of preparing documents for the expansion at the South Kent Landfill into Dorr Township, Allegan. He added that the Department is planning on three to four years for that project to permit a new landfill.

Closed Landfills Sparta Landfill is a Superfund Site in Sparta and preparation is underway for the EPA and DEQ visits to the site this year for a five-year review.

At the Kentwood Landfill we will be implementing a gas extraction system for mitigation.

Utility Services The Department is moving forward with the transfer of operations and maintenance of the North Kent Sewer System to the North Kent Sewer Authority and its member communities. The target date is October 1, 2012.

Finance and Accounting

Dan Kendall, Finance and Accounting Director said one of the goals compare the proforma developed at the time bonds were sold for the Recycling and Education Center with the actual results of 2011.

Administration

Director Wood stated one of the Department goals is to prepare a reorganization and succession plan.

Vice-Chair thanked staff for the reports.

C. Travel Request-WASTECON 2012

Director Wood presented a request to attend this year's WASTECON 2012. They are celebrating their 50th anniversary. WASTECON is SWANA's premier event which allows networking with executives in the waste industry from across the country, training courses, technical sessions, and various exhibits. Staff received notification of an early registration savings of \$200 for Solid Waste Association of North America members. This year WASTECON 2012 will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Gaylord National Harbor Hotel on August 14-16, 2012.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to authorize the Director and any Board member to attend WASTECON 2012 on August 14-16, 2012 in Washington D.C. at an estimated cost of \$2,284.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Solid Waste Operations

A. South Kent Landfill

1. Roll-Off Truck Bids

Director Wood introduced bids for a new Roll-Off Truck solicited on December 19, 2011 by the Purchasing Division. Thirteen bids and 3 alternate bids were received and evaluated.

The Department has an approved 2012 Capital Improvement Project for the purchase of a new Roll-Off Truck for South Kent Landfill. The Department is replacing the 2001 Volvo. The low bidder proposed is a 2013 Freightliner M2-114 SD with an Ampliroll hoist for \$147,311. The three alternate bidders proposed trucks with a Compressed Natural Gas propulsion system. The low bid for the alternates was \$183,570. Staff is recommended the low bid submitted by Marrel Corporation for a 2013 Freightliner M2-112 SD with an Ampliroll hoist at a total purchase price of \$147,311.

Commissioner Rolls commended staff for their product knowledge and professionalism.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to award the purchase of a Roll-Off Truck to Marrel Corporation of Grand Rapids in the amount of \$147,311.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Waste-to-Energy Facility

A. Waste-To-Energy Insurance Coverage

Director Wood presented the WTE property and liability insurance renewals. Staff, through the Kent County Risk Coordinator, Phil VanDyke, solicited proposals from two insurance agencies. The effective date of the insurance policies is March 1, 2012.

Director Wood introduced Phil VanDyke and Bill Allen, WTE Division Director to review the insurance coverage. Mr. Allen said this is something that is done annually. As part of the review they always try and attract new bidders to this renewal process for the liability and property side, this is done so that the Department gets competitive pricing. Mr. VanDyke explained property insurance is through Arthur J. Gallagher, it is recommended to go with ACE, the same carrier as 2011, for a total cost of \$202,171. This is an increase of \$13,500 from the 2011 property premium. For general liability insurance, through IBEX Insurance Agency of Farmington Hills, it is recommended to renew with Chubb along with excess liability from Chubb and Scottsdale Insurance. This premium for liability coverage is an increase from last year of \$7,303 to a total of \$131,994.25. The combined 2012 property and liability premium cost of \$334,165.25 is \$115,834.75 less then the WTE budget of \$450,000.

Commissioner Koorndyk asked if quotes with a higher deductible were received. Mr. VanDyke said the price variance wasn't much different. Commissioner Rolls asked Mr. Allen if there were any claims problems either on the property or with liability at the WTE in the last five years. Mr. Allen said there were not.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Byl to authorize the Director to acquire insurance coverage for the WTE through Arthur J. Gallagher for property at a premium of \$202,171 and through IBEX Insurance Agency for liability at a premium of \$131,994.25.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Groenleer to approve the Monetary Outlays for February 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Director's Report

A. North Kent Landfill Property/W M Sports Commission

Director Wood had a conversation with both Mike Guswiler and Dick VanderMolen who is on the Sport's Commission (WMSC). There is an agreement to sell the property. In December 2011 the WMSC paid \$5,000 to extend that purchase agreement option. Further, they asked if the Board would consider a lease agreement so that they would pay over time. Mr. Groenleer clarified "lease - purchase" agreement. Director Wood confirmed, Commissioner Rolls added he tried to work with this concept early on to try to get something done and stated anything that can be done to help the process would be great as long as legal counsel doesn't have any problem with it and anything that can be done to help that process and to help it to be successful.

B. Solid Waste Plan Amendment/Presentations

Director Wood invited all the township supervisors to the Recycling & Education Center to present the Solid Waste Plan Amendment overview and lunch on February 13th. On February 23rd he will give the same presentation to the entire Board of Commissioners.

C. SWANA/Senior Executive Seminar Overview

Director Wood gave an overview on the seminar. One of the most important things was that the general counsel for SWANA gave a presentation on legal issues related particularly to solid waste management. Director Wood met with the counsel representative after the meeting for an hour related to the Solid Waste Plan amendments. Director Wood stated that the Department has contracts with six cities and those contracts require them to deliver the waste to the Waste-To-Energy Facility (WTE). These agreements may be defined as "flow control" of solid waste. Since 1995 the Department has had contracts with solid waste companies for delivery to the WTE. These agreements expire at the end of 2012. At that time we will revert back to the city agreements and "flow control". Commissioner Byl asked if opposition was expected from the private haulers to go back to the flow control. Director Wood isn't sure and hasn't discussed it with them yet and would like to get the amendments passed.

Director Wood stated that they had an excellent presentation on conversion technologies. Conversion technologies are the non-traditional conversion technologies. Some things discussed in the session were anaerobic digestion, composting technologies, converting plastics to oil, and others.

IX. Miscellaneous

Commissioner Rolls commented on the landfill methane gas system improvements. Commissioner Rolls further asked how many homes would be using the electricity generated. Mr. Landis said about 2,700 homes. Commissioner Byl asked what volume proportion that output was compared to the WTE. Mr. Allen said the WTE sells on average about 13 megawatts to the grid while the landfill system is 3.2. Commissioner Byl then suggested it is about 25 percent of what the WTE is. Commissioner Rolls expressed a good job done by Mr. Allen and Mr. Landis. Further, he said there should be a way to capture that information in a newsletter or something and let the public know. Commissioner Byl said it's remarkable that the Department has completely integrated a system, landfill, landfill gas, waste-to-energy, recycling, household hazardous waste, all operating under

one system. That's the real benefit of that system. Director Wood added he is impressed with Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. They're adding wind power at their landfill site. Director Wood further stated that the Department is researching solar and windpower alternatives, as well.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

