



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

March 1, 2012
MINUTES

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

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Vonk, Rolls, Byl, Groenleer, Koorndyk
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Vander Molen and Shroll
- 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; Steve Achram, Civil Engineer; Cal Brinks KC Purchasing; Linda Howell, KC Assistant Corporate Counsel; Eileen McNeil, MWIA; Matt Gryczan, Crain's Detroit Business; Javier Zamora, Zamora Disposal; Tami Zamora, Zamora Disposal; Randy Dozeman, Waste Management; Tom Horton, Michigan Waste Industries Association; Steve Essling, Michigan Waste Industries Association; Tom Mahoney, Republic Services; Cathy Mueller, Solid Waste Plan Committee; Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste; Stephanie Glysson, Republic Services; John VanTholen, Green Valley Disposal; Andy Johnston, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce

I. Call to Order

BPW Chair, Ted Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Vonk acknowledged that there were various members of the public in attendance. Commissioner Vonk encouraged attendees to give their comments at the upcoming Public Hearing on March 7, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. He gave a brief history of the Department of Public Works and the public comment format. He emphasized the fact that the County is not in the business of passing ordinances. The County has not passed one in many years. He stressed the legacy costs that the Department does have because of superfund landfills. This is why there is an amendment. He asked that in the interest of time one representative of the waste hauler community speak on behalf of the rest.

II. Public Comment

1. Tom Mahoney, Republic Services, 7924 Jonathan Woods Dr., Ada, MI 49301
Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste, 10222 Summer Wood Dr, Zeeland MI

Tom Mahoney, Republic Services and Russ Boersma, Arrowwaste gave a presentation on behalf of the waste haulers present. Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Boersma are also members of the Solid Waste Plan Committee. Mr. Mahoney expressed concerns with the proposed Plan

Amendment as written. He believes that the Plan as proposed will eliminate the ability to seek out solid waste and recycling services.

Russ Boersma added that the Plan gives the County all control of hauling solid waste which will cause local haulers to close operations. He stated that it also provides unlimited fee assessment. Mr. Mahoney asked why the County wanted to add facilities when there are already companies who handle the programs they are proposing. For example, the household hazardous waste program, there is a plan to build a permanent facility. He does not see a reason to add additional buildings and staff when companies already provide these services. He added that the enforcement mechanism makes it an open ended amendment. He stated that it would have been easier to support the amendment if the enforcement mechanism and the ordinance proposed were detailed. He believes it gives an opportunity for the DPW to limit the competition and to dictate where solid waste can be delivered.

Mr. Boersma believes a way to solve this problem is to have some clarity in the amendment. He believes that privatizing some services, adding small surcharges and bundling trash and recycling are alternative solutions. Mr. Mahoney added that one should consider limitations and the economic impact. What are the limitations to be put on local businesses and how many jobs could be lost. What is the higher cost of recycling for businesses and residents and will people be able to invest in Kent County in the future. Also Kent County's capacity for solid waste and recycling. He asked where the transparency in the process is, the business plan and the cost to the community. He wants the Department to show haulers that their businesses will not be affected.

2. Steve Essling, Michigan Waste Industries Association (MWIA), Eileen McNeil, MWIA presented written material for the Board to review.

Stated that what the hauler industry would like to see is the 'enforcement mechanism' taken out of the Plan.

3. Tom Horton, Waste Management/MWIA presented a written statement for the Board to review.

Chairman Vonk thanked the attendees for sharing their comments and for respecting the Board's time. He hopes they consider his comments and expects to see them at the Public Hearing on March 7.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and supported by Commissioner Byl to approve the minutes of the February 2012 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Administration

A. Employee Service Recognition

1. Elizabeth Porczynski – Account Clerk 15 years

Director Wood introduced Elizabeth Porczynski. Liz has been an Account Clerk in the Finance Division for 15 years. Liz's native country is Poland and is bilingual. She handles billing for the Department. Liz thanked the Director and said it was an honor to be here and have served the Department for the past 15 years.

Chair Vonk and Board members thanked Liz for her work and years of service.

V. Utility Services Division

A. NKSA Memorandum of Understanding

Director Wood requested approval to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the Board and the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA).

The Board of Public Works has been briefed on the ongoing discussions concerning the transfer of Utility Services to the NKSA. Department staff has had several meetings with NKSA staff regarding the transfer of Utility Services operation and maintenance to the North Kent Sewer Authority and its member communities. The existing agreement between the NKSA, its member communities and the Department of Public Works has a provision requiring a termination notification of one (1) year. In our discussions, DPW has suggested that the final service day would be December 31, 2012. After several additional meetings we agreed in principle to move that day forward to October 1, 2012.

Board members received a copy of the memorandum which outlines the desire of the parties to terminate the Utility Services Agreement on October 1, 2012.

The termination agreement still has to be written. It will be similar to what was written for Courtland Township so that there is an understanding of how the transfer will occur. NKSA is also developing a contract internally on how they will handle the transition.

Commissioner Groenleer asked that if it will be possible to execute the transfer within the next seven months. Director Wood believes that it will be possible especially since the process was started last year. There has been a tremendous amount of progress with the NKSA. The Commissioner was also curious about the direction they were going in terms of the maintenance and inspections. Director Wood responded that through the PARCC Side Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent is designing an organizational structure to integrate operation and maintenance into their existing structure. There has been discussion about hiring DPW employees for that system and this may even happen before the October 1 transition in order to be prepared.

Commissioner Vonk asked if there have been any issues with the early transition of Courtland Township. Staff replied that there have not been any we are aware.

Commissioner Rolls asked Linda Howell, Corporate Counsel whether terminology to release the Department of any liability is included in the termination contract. She will work with Director Wood to insure that it does.

Commissioner Byl asked if there are any areas in the system that are problematic or may need replacement or rehabilitation. There are some systems that have been in place for several years and have accumulated a lot of use. Is there an inventory of the system that we are

turning over to the NKSA? Director Wood stated that if there are any the NKSA will be notified immediately. Ron Landis added that staff is working on a Work Plans, which is submitted annually. These plans list any items of concern. Director Wood stated that the Department maintained the system to the level that the communities request and approve.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Groenleer and seconded by Commissioner Byl to authorize the Director to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the North Kent Sewer Authority whereby the parties agree to proceed in good faith toward termination of the Utility Services Agreement as of October 1, 2012.

VI. Solid Waste Operations

A. Mattress Disposal Fee

Director Wood presented a request to add a mattress and box spring disposal fee of \$10 per item at the North Kent Transfer Station and South Kent Landfill. The Board of Public Works usually reviews and approves disposal rates for items disposed at the facilities. Staff has researched the disposal of mattresses as a "special waste" for disposal.

Mattresses and box springs are more labor intensive to handle because they are bulky and do not compact well. The Department currently does not have a separate disposal fee for mattresses and box springs. Staff has investigated actual airspace cost to be approximately \$5.00 – 10.00 per mattress; however, our customers are currently paying approximately \$1.00 per mattress based on weight. This is based on reviewing average mattress weights and mattress compaction rates. A separate fee of \$10.00 per item is consistent with other area landfills and would be similar to our tire and appliance disposal fee. Central Sanitary Landfill in Pierson charges \$15.00 per mattress. Autumn Hills Landfill in Zeeland charges \$10.00 per mattress.

Director Wood added that staff met with a company from Gaylord about mattress recycling and will be meeting with Goodwill Industries who is interested in starting a mattress recycling business.

Commissioner Groenleer asked where mattresses are taken after new ones are delivered to consumers. Staff replied that they usually end up in a landfill. Larger companies like Art Van send the mattresses to a company to shred them. Smaller companies or residents who purchase mattresses will dispose of mattresses at the landfill.

Commissioner Rolls expressed his discomfort in adding a fee at the landfills and asked if there was an alternative solution. Is it possible to collect the mattresses and have a company haul them away for recycling or proper disposal?

Staff replied that this is possible, but the companies wanted to charge the Department for the mattress. Also the Department would have to supply staff to receive and sort the mattresses. Commissioner Byl added that we must consider the consequence of not adding the fee for the mattresses. If other landfills have a charge for the mattresses and our landfills do not, people will be more inclined to dispose of them there.

Chair Vonk recommended passing the fee with the stipulation of finding alternative ways to dispose of the mattresses and eliminating the fee in the future. Director Wood stated that staff will work with Goodwill Industries and other organizations that recycle mattresses and look forward to alternative methods of disposal for mattresses.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to approve the addition of a Mattress and Box Spring Disposal Fee of \$10 per Item.

Motion carried with the following vote:

YEA: Commissioners Vonk, Groenleer, Koorndyk, Byl
ABSENT: Commissioners Shroll, VanderMolen
NAYS: Commissioner Rolls

B. South Kent Landfill

1. Garage Roof Repair

Approval was requested to award Modern Roofing, Inc. to repair the maintenance garage roof at the South Kent Landfill.

Bids were solicited by Kent County Purchasing Division on February 17, 2012. The maintenance garage roof at South Kent Landfill is in poor condition with several leaks. The scope of work is to cover the existing metal roof with a waterproof membrane and to warranty the work for 20 years. Modern Roofing met the specifications and was the low bidder at \$16,991. Board members received the bid tabulation.

Commissioner Koorndyk asked where Modern Roofing was located. Cal Brinks, Purchasing Division stated that they are in Dorr, Michigan. Commissioner Rolls asked if there was a performance bond, Mr. Brinks replied that one isn't required because of the size.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Byl to award the bid to Modern Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$16,991.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Paving Contract

Approval was requested to select Superior Asphalt, Inc. for the Road Replacement Contract.

Staff prepared a bid package to replace the pavement for a portion of the South Kent Landfill's north main haul road. The work involves milling, fine grading, and placing base and wear courses.

Five contractors provided bids, of these bidders staff is recommending awarding the contract to the low bidder, Superior Asphalt Incorporated, in the amount of \$53,000. Superior is a well established contractor in the Grand Rapids area and provides a quality product. Board members received detailed unit cost information. Below is a bid summary.

Superior Asphalt, Inc.	\$53,000.00
Rieth-Riley Construction	\$58,854.17
Blackgold Paving	\$61,858.98
A-1 Asphalt	\$66,336.66
Michigan Paving & Materials	\$68,261.52

Commissioner Rolls asked what the Department knows about this company. Mr. Brinks stated that Superior Asphalt is a local company that the County has used before with good results. Commissioner Groenleer agreed that Superior Asphalt is a good company and the Road Commission has used them before.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Groenleer to award the unit price paving contract of the north haul road at South Kent Landfill to Superior Asphalt, Inc. in the amount of \$53,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Soil Borings

Approval was requested to award a unit price contract for completion of soil borings at South Kent Landfills in cell 35 and 37 to TriMedia Environmental and Engineering Services.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality requires soil borings to demonstrate that there is a minimum of 10 feet of clay beneath composite liner system for a type two landfill. To complete this effort for cells 35 and 37 staff, with assistance of the Purchasing Division, requested bids for obtaining soil samples at 20 meter intervals within cells 35 and 37. Ten bidders responded to the request. Based on our evaluation we recommend awarding the unit price contract to TriMedia Environmental & Engineering Services in the amount of \$ 15,718.20. Below is a summary of the bids.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Total price</u>
TriMedia Environmental & Engineering	\$ 15,718.20
MATECO	\$ 20,764.00
Soils & Structures	\$ 24,338.50
Environmental Drilling & Contracting	\$ 24,354.00
Stearns Drilling	\$ 26,914.00
Pearson Drilling Company	\$ 31,595.80
DLZ Michigan	\$ 33,250.00
PSI	\$ 36,409.00
GZA Geo Environmental	\$ 41,301.10
Enviro solutions	\$ 46,682.00

A detailed unit price breakdown was given to each Board member.

Commissioner Koorndyk noted that there was a large difference in the prices between the different contractors and wondered why. Mr. Landis replied that staff has verified that TriMedia has the proper equipment to complete the job. He also stated that they are completing a job nearby which could be a reason why it so much less. Cal Brinks added that their references have also been checked and they were good references. Commissioner Rolls also believes the Department should be a little careful with the contractor. Mr. Brinks

assured that if the job is not completed satisfactorily the contractor will not be paid. Staff will also be working along side the contractor.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to award a unit Price Contract to TriMedia Environmental & Engineering Services to complete the installation of Soil Borings in the amount of \$15,718.20.

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Kentwood Landfill

1. Well Replacement

Staff Requested quotes from qualified companies for the replacement of Extraction Well #5 (EW 5). To replace the well it requires drilling through approximately 30 feet of in-place waste and installation of a doubled cased extraction well approximately 70 feet deep. Based on the quotation received, staff is recommending Environmental Drilling and Contracting, Inc. (EDAC) in the amount of \$18,672. EDAC has completed similar work at Kentwood in the past with excellent results. Following are the bids received

Environmental Drilling and Contracting	\$ 18, 672
Stearns Drilling	\$ 19,892
MATECO	\$ 20,259

There was no further discussion on this item.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to authorize Environmental Drilling and Contracting, Inc. to install and replace extraction Well 5 at Kentwood Landfill in the amount of \$18,672.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Waste-to-Energy Facility

A. Extension of Household Battery Recycling/Disposal Contract

In 2009, Department and Purchasing staff bid a three-year contract for the recycling/disposal of household batteries. This program is funded under the WTE Budget with the purpose of keeping heavy metals (mercury, cadmium, lead, lithium, nickel, zinc, etc.) out of the Facility. Seven responses were received and the Board awarded a Contract (No. WTE09-03) to Batteries Unlimited at zero cost to the County. The existing Contract runs through April 30, 2012. Batteries Unlimited (owned by Orchard Energy Solutions LLC of Holland, Michigan) has offered in writing to extend the Contract. We have received good service from this vendor and are requesting, with the concurrence of Purchasing, that the Board extend the term of the Contract for another 3 years.

Commissioner Koorndyk asked if this service was bid out. Commissioner Rolls answered that it had be in the past and that Batteries Unlimited won the bid with no cost to the Department.

Commissioner Koorndyk asked if there were other companies who showed interest. Bill Allen replied that there had been, but it was at a large cost to the Department.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Rolls to extend the term of the Household Battery Collection and Disposal Contract (No. WTE09-03) with Batteries Unlimited through April 30, 2015 and to authorize the Director to execute a Contract Amendment for this purpose.

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Conference/Education Travels

A. Solid Waste Engineering Society

The Engineering Society of Detroit is hosting a two-day solid waste conference on March 27 and 28, 2012 in East Lansing Michigan. The training session and conference will focus on issues related to policy, new technologies, regulatory updates and the future of the solid waste industry. Please see attached information. The government rate for this conference is \$180 per person for a total of \$360.

There was no further discussion on this item.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Rolls and seconded by Commissioner Koorndyk to approve two staff attending the 22nd Annual Engineering Society of Detroit's Solid Waste Technical Conference at a cost of \$360.

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. 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>

X. Director's Report

A. Solid Waste Plan Amendment/Public Hearing and Comment

Director Wood gave a brief reminder of the upcoming Public Hearing on March 7, 2012 at 7 PM. Cathy Mueller, Solid Waste Plan Committee Chair will also attend. Because of the expected turn out, the Department has decided to hire a court reporter to get an official transcript of the hearing.

Commissioner Byl asked for clarification of the process after the Public Hearing. Director Wood and Linda Howell gave a brief overview of the process.

B. Carbon Credit and Renewable Energy Credit Update

The Department sold 2009 renewable energy credits. There are currently two sales pending approval after review of the contract. The Department received \$14,221 for the 2010 credits and \$11,000 for the 2012 credits. The price per credit is \$.45 for the 2010 credits and \$1.25 for the 2012 credits.

The carbon credit market has deteriorated. The Department is working diligently to see if it is possible to remarket them. The Department is in the process of getting the carbon credits verified. The Department sold several carbon credits to a company in the past. That company has since decided to get out of this business and bought us out.

C. West Michigan Take back Meds/MDEQ Grant Application

Staff and the coalition are in the process of applying for an MDEQ grant application. It will be for two areas. To have a permanent storage site for medications at the WTE facility so that when they are delivered they can be securely stored and disposed of on off hours. The main portion of the grant will be for advertisement of the program.

D. VMS Environmental Development LLC

The Department received an email from VMS Environmental Development, LLC in efforts to schedule a meeting with the Board to discuss their services. They claim to have over 35 years in the waste to energy industry with technology that was developed in Michigan. They call their technology 'clean coal'.

Director Wood believes they're system is pyrolysis which has been not proven to be successful in scale up. The Board stated they were not interested in meeting with this organization at this time.

E. Legislation/PA 185 of 1957 Amendment

Director Wood reported that the amendment received a hearing before the Senate Energy and Technology Committee. Senator Jansen introduced the amendment before the committee.

F. West Michigan Sports Commission/North Kent Landfill

Director Wood reported that he had a meeting with representatives from Benchmark Realty regarding the purchase of a home on 10 Mile Road. He explained that DPW does not have a need for this property but will assist acquisition of the property for the WM Sports Commission. DPW w will also pursue the acquisition of the property next door, too.

XI. Miscellaneous

XII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 a.m.



William Byl, Board Secretary