



COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

**August 1, 2013
8:00 AM**

**Earl G. Woodworth Building
Second Floor Conference Room
1500 Scribner Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Vonk, Shroll, Bulkowski, Groenleer, Vander Molen, Byl

ABSENT: Commissioners Rolls

OTHERS PRESENT: Douglas G. Wood, Director; Dennis Kmiecik, Solid Waste Division Director; Ron Landis, Director of Engineering; Dan Kendall, Finance Division Director; Elissa Soto, Office Manager; Molly Sherwood, Environmental Compliance Manager; Joni Laming, Purchasing Division;

I. Call to Order

Chair Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Groenleer and supported by Commissioner Bulkowski to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2013 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Solid Waste Operations

A. South Kent Landfill

1. Approval of Engineering Services Contract

Director Wood asked for the review and approval of Engineering Services contract to complete the design of a mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) wall. He reported that the remaining disposal volume for the ash cells will last approximately 5.5 years. The current Waste-to-Energy power purchase contract term between Consumers Energy and the County goes through 2022. In order to make sure enough ash disposal capacity

is available, either the existing disposal site needs to be expanded or permit and construct a new ash monofill in Allegan County. Staff is pursuing the most favorable option of increasing the outside slopes of the ash fill more vertical resulting in additional capacity. We believe this can be completed by installing a Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall around a portion of the fill area. Based on preliminary calculations this modification could add between seven and nine years to the life of the disposal area.

To provide technical support in designing and permitting the installation of a MSE wall staff requested four qualified engineering companies to submit proposals. Based on the proposals and depth of experience staff is recommending awarding an engineering services contract to Soils and Materials Engineers, Inc. (SME). For any liner design work SME has partnered with SCS Engineers. During the proposal stage SME took the time to study and critique this project to show they have an excellent approach and understanding of what needs to be done. In the past SME has completed soils investigations for South Kent and SCS completed the design of the landfill gas collection system.

Ron Landis has been working on this project and is a professional services project therefore the low bid is not always the preferred choice.

Mr. Groenleer asked if SME was a local company. Mr. Landis stated that SME has a local office and its corporate offices are in the east side of the state.

Commissioner Bulkowski wonder about the agreement with Consumers Energy and whether this project would extend the amount of time the WTE is in operation. Mr. Wood responded that the Department is taking measures to avoid running out of ash space at South Kent before the end of the Power Purchase Agreement with Consumers Energy. The Department is also trying to avoid sighting a landfill which can be difficult and time consuming. In order for the Waste to Energy facility to continue operating past 20 years is viable, but would need some sort of extension to the power purchase agreement. The facility is very well maintained and as an infrastructure can last past the agreement date

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to award Soils and Materials Engineers, Inc. an unit cost engineering services contract in the amount of \$64,500, further, authorizing the Director to execute the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Cell 35 Leachate Collection Pumps

Director Wood presented a request for the approval to complete a purchase requisition for four leachate collection pumps. Staff prepared a specification and a request for quotes to supply and install four leachate collection pumps. These side slope riser pumps will be used to remove leachate from the cell area and the secondary collection system. Previous cells utilized gravity and penetrations through the liner system to remove leachate. These pumping systems include pumps, flow meter, transducers, control panels, and installation. Based on evaluated quotes staff is recommending awarding a purchase order to Environmental Pump Solutions (EPS) in the amount of \$36,915.52. The other quote was provided by EPG Companies in the amount of \$36,118 without installation and a less quality flow meter. Reference

checks indicated that EPS's service is much better than EPG.

There was no further discussion on this item.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to authorize a request for purchase order in the amount of \$36,915.52 to Environmental Pump Solutions.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Conservation Easement Approval

Staff asked for the review and recommendation to Board of Commissioners, for final approval of Agreement for Conservation Easement. Staff with the assistance of Corporate Consul prepared the Agreement for Conservation of Easement for the 0.66 acres of wetlands mitigation. The area to be mitigated is north of 108th east of Clyde Park and south of South Kent Landfill. The easement is required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to protect the wetlands mitigation site. It also provides an access route to the mitigation area for MDEQ personnel. Once this agreement is approved we will be required to provide suitable markings along the easement premises. The construction of the wetlands will either be later in 2013 or early 2014.

The wetlands mitigation is part of the project to establish a stockpile for unsuitable soil on the north side of 108th Street.

Commissioner Groenleer asked if the Department was required to monitor the site. Staff affirmed that we do.

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and seconded by Commissioner Shroll to forward the Agreement for Conservation Easement to the Kent County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Material Recycling Facility

1. Recycling Facility Recap

During the past six weeks the Recycle Facility experienced three weeks of down time due to mechanical failure of the baler. The baler was inoperable from June 10 through June 21 and from July 8 to July 12. During this down time staff experienced difficulty obtaining parts and service from the baler manufacturer. The manufacturer no longer recognizes Speed Tech, Inc., a local company who has performed service on the baler for the past three years. They were also the company who assisted Excel in the installation of the baler.

Both times the baler broke were due to the hydraulics that operates the main ram which compresses the bales. It is staff's belief that both occasions are related. We spent several hours talking on the phone with Excel trying to alleviate the problems to no avail. We are still waiting for a response from the owner of Excel.

During this down time the facility lost approximately \$272,187. Total repairs amount to \$105,687 and lost revenue \$166,500.

Staff has and will implement several measures to avoid these costly delays. We now have local vendors to obtain parts and service. Staff is in the process of setting up ways to continue processing material without the baler.

The MRF is also taking in a higher than anticipated volume and is looking for alternative methods of keeping up with the increasing volume. Though the volume does not call for the addition of a full second shift, it is possible that an evening or Saturday schedule be created. Staff is working with the Court systems and Goodwill Industries to explore staffing for these options.

V. Approval of Monetary Outlays

MOTION

It was moved by Commissioner Byl and supported by Commissioner Vander Molen to approve the monetary outlays for the month of August 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Director's Report

A. Re-Organization Plan Implementation

Director Wood gave a brief update of the re-organization plan. The plan is being implemented starting with Mr. Kmiecik's new position which will be effective within the next week. Next begin the changes to the management positions under the Solid Waste Operations Director. New positions have been advertised.

B. WTE Automatic Scale System

The scales at the WTE had to be replaced because the platform scales were falling apart. Staff is investigating the possibility of using an RFID system at the WTE similar to the one used at the MRF. Staff will be making a decision within the next week.

C. Performance Reports

Reports for each site were given to the Board members for review. Staff was available to answer any questions.

VII. Miscellaneous

A. Solid Waste Plan

Commissioner Shroll asked whether staff has heard back from the State about approval of the Solid Waste Plan. Mr. Kmiecik stated that he does not anticipate hearing back until sometime in September.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.