SOLID WASTE POLICY BOARD MEETING

January 16, 2013
Solid Waste Department
9:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:  David Eddy, Dale Hexom, Steve Hogden, Leon Pfaff, Jarrod Holter, Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County), Teresa Walter (Houston County)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:  Maureen Freedland, Chuck Spiker

MEMBERS ABSENT:  Marilyn Pedretti, Ray Ebert (La Crosse County Board), Hank Koch, Randy Nedrelo, Nick Nichols, Debbie Henriksen, Orin Wiseman (Solid Waste Department), Rick Frank (Houston County), Larry Hougom, Gary Hougom, Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper Refuse & Recycling), Gary Harter, Bill Ties (Harter’s Quick Clean-Up), Brian Kent (SEH), Gary Meinking (Waste Management), Brian Korth (St. Joseph Construction Company), Gene Edwards (Vernon County), George Dreckmann (City of Madison)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Chairman, Leon Pfaff, called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

INTRODUCTIONS
Pfaff introduced Pedretti and Ebert as La Crosse County Board members replacing Freedland and Spiker during this meeting to insure a quorum is present. Others in attendance introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA
• Approval of Minutes (September 19, 2012)
• Previous Meeting To Do List
• Last Director’s Report

MOTION by Eddy/Walter to approve the Consent Agenda. MOTION passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Comments and questions were welcomed throughout the meeting. Gene Edwards, Vernon County, asked to provide an update to information he had presented to the committee last year regarding the Vernon County landfill. They are going forward with plans to manage wastewater from the landfill on their own land and have submittals into the WDNR. Indications are that this will be approved and will allow construction of a storage lagoon. It is expected that it will then take a year or so to demonstrate that the wastewater from the landfill can be used for irrigation.

Brian Kent, SEH, advised that SEH intends to have a roundtable discussion at the upcoming WIRMC regarding a new recycling study prepared by John Katers, UW-Green Bay. Anyone interested in receiving an invitation to this event should let him know.

REVIEW OF MEMBERS TERMS
Pfaff reviewed the Solid Waste Policy Board members and their terms and noted that three members terms are set to expire on 4-30-13. Pfaff, Holter and Hogden are the three members and he noted that the County Chair is responsible for assignments to the committee.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS
There were no committee reports.
DIRECTOR’S PERSONAL REPORT
Koch provided information to the board about his recent illness which caused him to miss several weeks of work. He was diagnosed with Guillain Barre Syndrome and is expected to make a full recovery. He noted that the illness took him out of work with no notice and praised the Solid Waste Department, in particular Randy Nedrelo the Deputy Director, for continuing in his absence.

COLLECTION AND RECYCLING IMPROVEMENT UPDATE
Holter and Hexom provided an update on this Committee. Onalaska is working on their RFP and hope to take it to their Public Works Committee in February. They intend to keep refuse and yard waste collection the same, but change recycling.

Hexom reported that in November the City of La Crosse had a preliminary meeting with haulers and expect bids to come back in March. This would allow them to go to Committee in April. They have separated out refuse/recycling service for the City, parks, bus stops, etc. into another contract.

There was discussion about RIF chips that can be implanted into each cart. Depending on how far the City wants to go and what equipment a hauler has, the chips can help provide a lot of information about a cart and its whereabouts. In the least, it helps with inventory control and the carts will be the property of the City at the end of the 7 year contract. It is expensive to retrofit the chips, so they expect to have them installed and will determine later how they will be used. The vendor they will purchase carts from is still undecided.

CURRENT REBATES AND OUT OF SYSTEM WASTE
Koch provided background information on rebates. Since flow control cannot be regulated, rebates are used to provide incentive to haulers to keep waste in the area. Rebates were simplified and if the hauler agrees to bring waste here for one year, they receive a 7% rebate and if they agree to a 3 year commitment, there is a 9% rebate. At this time, Waste Management is considering signing this agreement, but have expressed concern that the Rebate Agreement does not specify that the rebate is based on all waste they bring in, even if it has originated outside of the service area. The group discussed this at length. They reviewed transfer station records providing tonnage information for 2012, discussed the effect on landfill capacity and revenue and potential rebate payment amounts. Since some of the waste may come from Winona, which is out of our service area and is not part of the group tied into Xcel retrofit payments, there was discussion about whether this was appropriate. After reviewing various options to satisfy Waste Management’s clarification needs, MOTION by Eddy/Walter to refer the Rebate Agreement to Corporation Counsel to draft language clarifying that all waste brought to the La Crosse County Disposal System, regardless of origination, is paid a rebate. MOTION passed unanimously.

INCREASED SHINGLE RECYCLING THROUGH ORDINANCE BAN ON SHINGLE DISPOSAL IN THE LANDFILL
Koch briefly discussed how we continue to try to keep items out of the landfill. Along those lines, Nichols introduced George Dreckmann from the City of Madison, as a guest speaker. Dreckmann made a presentation to the group regarding how Madison adopted an ordinance requiring specific recycling requirements when permits are issued for new construction, remodeling over $20,000 or roof replacements. Their program has been successful by concentrating on specific materials. He also works individually with project owners and contractors to establish reasonable requirements for recycling on individual projects.

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
Nedrelo updated the group on the Environmental Management System (EMS). The WDNR has determined that the EMS is functionally equivalent to their standards and an internal audit has taken place. Objectives for 2012 are being met and will be updated for 2013. Discussions have also begun regarding Green Tier 2 certification.
AG BAG UPDATE
Nichols advised that there has not been progress regarding Ag bag disposal. Currently, there is no market for this product and, therefore, there is little to no interest in recycling the material. Nichols continues to investigate leads as he becomes aware of them.

XCEL CONTRACT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT
Koch advised that he and Wiseman are meeting with Xcel on a regular basis regarding a 5 to 7 year extension on the current contract. At this time, there is no obvious alternative to using Xcel so this extension would provide extra time to determine any alternatives. When the current ash monofill cell is full, ash from Xcel will go elsewhere. This will result in a loss of approximately $500,000 per year. This committee will be updated as meetings continue.

PROJECT UPDATES
Koch advised on current projects including Gas to Energy had a run time of 99.7% in December, a SCADA system has been developed to help remote monitoring of leachate, preliminary work is being done regarding the next cell to be built, long term care and closure costs were reevaluated, we are looking at refinancing bonds and the County Highway Department has taken over concrete and asphalt processing on a pad in the landfill.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Items suggested for next/future agenda include:
- Waste Security (Buffalo and Trempealeau counties in particular)
- Annual Meeting
- Disposal costs/rates comparisons to other sites/facilities
- Eliminate unnecessary rebates/incentives
- Future waste processing technologies
- How to increase recycling and diversion
- Update on shingle recycling
- Education of public/customers
- Future planning/Solid Waste Management Plan

FUTURE MEETING DATE – The group discussed scheduling the next meeting. The consensus of the group was to have the next meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2013.

MOTION by Hogden/Ebert to adjourn the meeting. MOTION passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Approved, April 10, 2013, Debbie Henriksen, Recorder