SOLID WASTE
POLICY BOARD MEETING

October 21, 2015
Solid Waste Department
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leon Pfaff (La Crosse County), Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County), Judy Storlie (Houston County), Steve Hogden (Trempealeau County), David Eddy (Buffalo County), Patrick Barlow (La Crosse County), Ralph Geary (La Crosse County) for Maureen Freedland (La Crosse County), Brandon Shea (City of Onalaska) for Jarrod Holter (City of Onalaska), Kevin Schubert (City of La Crosse) for Dale Hexom (City of La Crosse)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Maureen Freedland (La Crosse County), Dale Hexom (City of La Crosse), Jarrod Holter (City of Onalaska)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Nick Nichols, Danielle Meiners, Linda Bettin (Solid Waste Department), Rick Frank (Houston County), Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper), Brian Korth (St. Joseph’s Construction), NASA Group: Randy Moore, Matt Moore, Randy Hanson, Denny Hass and Jerry Denboar, Brian Kent (SEH), Matt Trautlein (Harters).

Call to Order/Roll Call
Chairman, Leon Pfaff, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

INTRODUCTIONS
Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA
- Approval of Minutes (July 15, 2015)
- Previous Meeting To Do List (Hank)

MOTION to approve previous minutes by Mike Wobbe, SECOND by David Eddy. MOTION passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
NASA Group present to discuss problem with deer herd on the La Crosse County Solid Waste site. NASA Group previously controlled deer herds at Goose Island and Hixton Forest by disabled people with mentors. An excellent idea that was put into the Master Land Use Plan and NASA Group wanted to show their support and let the Solid Waste Board know that they would like to be part of it in the future.
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Patrick Barlow discussed the Ribbon Cutting for the Snake Hibernaculum and Boardwalk that took place at the La Crosse County Solid Waste site on October 17th. Patrick stated it was a great event and partnership with the Eagle Scouts which is the key to success for the Solid Waste Department.

Pennie Pierce thanked La Crosse County for opening up to the Eagle Scouts, as a mother of an Eagle Scout herself she appreciates the fact that La Crosse County gives them opportunities.

David Eddy discussed that in Buffalo County, the city of Mondovi is talking about pulling out of the system and using private haulers which may be more economical.

UPDATE OF 2008 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Solid Waste Department is asking for recommendation to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee to approve and La Crosse County Board to adopt the 2015 Solid Waste Management Plan and then submit to WDNR for approval.

Over the last year and a half the Solid Waste Management Plan has been updated with input from stakeholders, the Solid Waste Board, Citizens and others. The 2015 Solid Waste Management Plan is an update of the 2008 Solid Waste Management Plan. Background information has been updated regarding populations, waste generation, and accomplishments. Information has been included indicating issues important to our stakeholders. From such discussions initiatives have been developed and recommendations formed to guide the Solid Waste Department over the next five years.

Henry Koch provided a power point presentation and discussed Financial Stability, Xcel Waste-to-energy, Waste Stream Security, Regional Cooperation, Moving from Public Relations to Community Outreach, Operational Effectiveness and Efficiency, Succession Planning and Institutional Knowledge, Land Use.

Implementing the Plan: Some of the recommendations provided in the report fall under the purview of the Solid Waste Policy Board, while other are staff level responsibilities which can be executed directly by the Solid Waste Department. Some actions will require the approval of the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee or the County Board. The Department will develop specific initiatives to satisfy the requirements of this Plan on an annual basis.

MOTION by Rick Frank for recommendation to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, SECOND by Ralph Geary. MOTION passed unanimously.

UPDATE OF 2011 LANDFILL MASTER LAND USE PLAN

The Solid Waste Department is asking for recommendation to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee to approve and La Crosse County Board to adopt the 2015 Landfill Master Land Use Plan.

The 2015 Landfill Master Land Use Plan is an update to the 2011 Landfill Master Land Use Plan. Stakeholder input involving neighbors, environmental groups, the Outdoor Recreational Alliance and the Solid Waste Policy Board have been included in the updated Plan. In addition, a detailed Natural Resource Management Plan, a Master Conceptual Trails
Plan and an Ecological Monitoring Plan have been developed and incorporated into the Master Land Use Plan. Accomplishments since the initiation of this work in 2011 are included. Goals to guide the Solid Waste Department over the next five years and beyond have been identified and listed in the 2015 Landfill Master Land Use Plan.

Henry Koch provided a power point presentation and discussed Key Recommendations for 2016-2020, Short Term Goals: Current Projects (0 to 5 years), Medium Term Goals: Life of the Landfill (5 to 30 years), Long Term Goals: Landfill Closed (30 to 90 years), Ecological Restoration Objectives, Trail and Recreation Objectives, Landfill Operations Objectives.


MOTION by David Eddy for recommendation to Public Works & Infrastructure Committee, SECOND by Ralph Geary. MOTION passed unanimously.

BLUE RIDGE OPERATIONS REPORT ON THE LANDFILL
This report was developed to determine how best the Solid Waste Department should proceed regarding landfill operations. The basic question asked of Blue Ridge was whether the landfill operations should be rebid, internalized or extended. In addition to that basic question, the overall operations of the site were reviewed and various suggestions were made for improvements. The report indicates that the landfill is in very good condition.

Hank Koch presented a Power Point presentation and discussed Commendations, Initial Observations, Additional Observations, Benchmarks and Key Recommendations.

Commendations: Blue Ridge Operations commended the landfill management team for working with other community organizations. The landfill is doing a great job in regard to community involvement, without over complying and wasting resources. The facility has struck a good balance between efficiency, financial responsibility, and community relations.

Initial Observations: The landfill presents a very positive first impression. It is obvious that considerable thought and effort has gone into creating a facility that is clean and customer-oriented. There are many examples of excellence at the landfill, including: clean and well-maintained equipment, good site maintenance and organization, excellent public relations/community engagement.

Additional Observations: The current entrance/scale area is congested, creating some customer wait times. The congestion also introduces some potential risk. An expansion plan (new site entrance) is an important priority. The office and household hazardous waste facility are both very clean and efficient facilities.
Benchmarks: In terms of operational performance, the landfill ranks well with industry standard in many areas. The facility is clean, well-maintained, properly signed, and user-friendly. The contractor has more than adequate equipment on-site to perform the necessary work. The Contractor has a pool of off-site equipment that provides quick response.

Key Recommendations: Blue Ridge recommends the four separate fill areas be consolidated to two fill areas. If a cost-effective opportunity to spray leachate on the active face becomes available, Blue Ridge expects the overall waste density could be increased significantly. It is Blue Ridge’s opinion that St. Joe is providing good value to the County and they recommend that the County negotiate an extension of the current agreement. Blue Ridge believes that the current operating agreement between La Crosse County and St. Joseph Construction Company is a win-win arrangement. St. Joe’s provides the benefit of a large pool of equipment and skilled workers that can provide machine backup and/or perform special projects on short notice. Blue Ridge strongly suggests that La Crosse County and St. Joe’s stick to what they are doing best: St. Joe operates the landfill, and the County works an overall planning, site maintenance, and on-going community relations.

**SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT UPDATE**
The Household Hazardous Materials is operating in a deficit. A report has been prepared and given to the La Crosse County Administrator that has a half dozen alternatives to what can be done.

The Household Hazardous Program is funded by contracts with the 18 municipalities in La Crosse County that gives HHM $1.00 per person, the County matches that with $1.00 per person. This is the only tax monies that comes into the Solid Waste Department, it all goes to the HHM facility. The population is about 115,000, so the Solid Waste Department gets $230,000 roughly. HHM does clean sweeps in Vernon County, Adams County, Monroe, Crawford, Jackson and Trempealeau County and HHM gets a grant from the DNR, about $100,000 a year that helps offsets some of the costs at HHM. Also, some fees are charged which are small business users, TV’s from citizens and any freon items. All other items that citizens bring in there is no charge.

HHM went from 700,000 lbs. a year to over 1,000,000 lbs. a year of household hazardous materials received. Users have increased from 5,000-7,000 to 10,000 users per year. Due to having more product to be disposed of or recycled has raised these costs. Disposal costs for some toxic and hazardous waste have increased significantly. 40,000 lbs. of usable materials are distributed through the reuse room at no charge. All electronics accepted at the HHM facility then goes to Dynamic Recycling which eliminates anyone having to go to another location for drop off and La Crosse County is experienced in the handling of electronics. La Crosse County wants to make it convenient for people to drop off garbage, mattresses, tires, household hazardous, electronics etc. off, all at one location. Also, the Habitat Restore is next door if anyone would like to drop anything off there which is convenient.

Discussion about Minnesota and Wisconsin Electronic Laws.
Mattress recycling is going well with Hilltoppers. The Solid Waste Department is planning on extending the recycling program with Hilltoppers in 2016. To help fund that program there will be a $15.00 charge to citizens that put their mattresses in the recycle container. Haulers will be charged $15.00 per mattress that comes in on their trucks that goes into the landfill. The program will get started this way and hoping with time people will take them to Hilltoppers for recycling and not put it in the trash stream at all.

**FUTURE MEETING DATE**
Wednesday, January 27, 2015 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**MOTION** by Brandon Shea to adjourn the meeting. **SECOND** by Steve Hogden. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.