MEMBERS PRESENT: Leon Pfaff (La Crosse County), Maureen Freedland (La Crosse County), Mike Wobbe (Wabasha County), Judy Storlie (Houston County), Steve Hogden (Trempealeau County), David Eddy (Buffalo County), Patrick Barlow (La Crosse County), Jarrod Holter (City of Onalaska, left at 11:50), Dale Hexom (City of La Crosse)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch (left at 11:45), Nick Nichols, Randy Nedrelo, Linda Bettin (Solid Waste Department), Rick Frank (Houston County), Pennie Pierce (Hilltopper), Brian Korth (St. Joseph’s Construction, Brian Kent (SEH), Gary Harter (Harters).

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

INTRODUCTIONS
Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

CONSSENT AGENDA
• Approval of Minutes (October 21, 2015)
• Previous Meeting To Do List (Hank)

MOTION to approve previous minutes by David Eddy, SECOND by Dale Hexom. MOTION passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORTS
WIRM Conference will be February 24, 25 and 26th in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

HHM Program Discussion (Informational Only, No Action Requested at This Time)
Randy Nedrelo, Special Waste Manager provided a power point presentation, white paper and discussed the future of the HHM Program and need for sustainable funding.
Purpose of Discussion: Discuss the current funding situations for the HHM program; Look at options for funding beyond 2017; Get input from stakeholders on the Solid Waste Policy Board.

Current Funding for HHM: Intergovernmental agreement between La Crosse County and 18 municipalities; Municipalities contribute $1/capita; Matched by La Crosse County; Allows La Crosse County residents to use most HHM services without a fee – HHM currently charges for TVs and freon containing appliances; Agreement provides about ½ HHM’s funding; Clean Sweep grant up to ¼; VSQG, out-of-county users and other fees + recycling revenue provides rest.

Revenue for County and Municipal Contributions are $233,500 (55%), Clean Sweep Grant $100,000 (24%), Small Business Fees $59,000 (14%), Other Fees $19,000 (4%), Sale Recycled Product $11,500 (3%). Advantages of this Formula are: All Municipalities have “skin in the game”; Stable funding source (based on population); Fair (equal opportunity to all county residents). Disadvantages of this Formula are: Did not provide adequate funding for all 10 years of the contract - Deficit in funding final 5 years of contract and current agreement expires at end of 2017; Limited flexibility to increase funding through fees.

Need for Funding Discussion: Need to determine funding after 2017 budget (2018 budget discussions begin 6/2017); Future funding must be sustainable over the term of the agreement; Funding and services need to be aligned. What is the appropriate level of service?

Discussion Process: Gather information and begin discussions with stakeholders; Discussion groups; HHMAP3 (9/2016); County, municipalities, others (?) negotiate agreement; Board approvals of agreements; 2018 budget process (begins 6/2017).

Potentials Options:
Funding Option – Continue tax levy at a rate sufficient to fund the program; shared equally by La Crosse County and the municipalities. Likely Outcome - $233,480 in funding for 2015; this level of funding resulted in a funding deficit in 2013, 2014 and 2015. Contract between county and municipalities expires in 2017. The current agreement does not allow the County to reduce its contribution without allowing the municipalities to reduce there’s by the same amount.

Funding Option – Replace tax levy with per visit user fees for all HHW. Likely to reduce participation by people that will not or cannot pay the fees. TVs dropped off significantly following reinstition of fee on 7/1/15. Assuming no reduction in program participation; the fee would be $23/user to replace municipal and county contributions from the tax levy (based on 2015 user data). Since a reduction in participation is likely, the user fee would have to be estimated at a higher level to provide adequate funding.

Funding Option – Landfill support replaces tax levy. Support with tipping fees, revenue from sale of landfill gas or specific surcharge. Agreement with disposal system users from outside of La Crosse County does not allow tipping fees to be used for something that does not benefit these users. A $2/ton surcharge on landfill and Xcel tipping fees would be necessary to replace the current funding from municipal and county contributions.
Funding Option – Seek funding through area foundations, organizations and/or corporations. Would likely require annual reapplication for funding. This would not likely provide a stable, ongoing funding source. Area foundations expressed more interest in funding special events or capital purchases that would enhance or expand the program vs. funding of ongoing activities. The Brown County program receives a contribution from the Green Bay Wastewater Treatment Facility. Their HHW program supports the Cities mercury management requirements. Could additional funding be received from the City of La Crosse for the same purpose?

The White Paper covers Mission and Scope of the HHM Program; Positives of the Existing Program; Challenges; Intergovernmental Agreement; Funding; Funding Options; Goal of the HHM Program’s Services for Very Small Quantity Generators; Program Goals; HHM Timeline for Renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Stakeholder Commitment for Pending Xcel Contract Extension**

General discussion regarding level of commitment from stakeholders for a stakeholder contract concurrent with a contract extension to XCEL to the year 2030.

In 2015, a total of 76,000 tons were processed at the XCEL plant which is phenomenal, exceptional performance of the facility. Xcel processed 81% of the waste into fuel which was a sustained highest yield ever at the plant. Xcel’s performance from an environmental regulatory compliance also is equally good which will be discussed at the annual meeting.

There have been two to three meetings with XCEL basically laying out the issues that both parties have and focus on the ones that are of greatest importance. The La Crosse County Landfill made an offer on a discounted ash price and have asked XCEL for offers on how to handle oversized bulky waste and maintenance down times. If there is no agreement with these issues, both parties agreed this would not be a fatal issue, that the existing contract could be extended to 2030. The next meeting with XCEL the offers will be discussed. The La Crosse County Landfill and Xcel both are trying to negotiate some things that will both improve each other’s performance. In 2016, the La Crosse County Solid Waste Department will bring back to stakeholders and the La Crosse County Board a proposed contract extension for approval.

Discussion with other county community stakeholders on pros and cons of the Xcel Contract Extension were discussed. The other county stakeholders sound committed but they each have some problems and need more specifics about what would be in the contract extension. Discussions will continue at the next Solid Waste Policy Board meeting.

**2015 Project Updates and Work Plans for 2016**

Hank Koch, Director handed out a copy of the Final Report: Landfill Operations/Contract Review, La Crosse County Landfill, August 28, 2015 by Neil Bolton, Blue Ridge Services, Inc. Neil Bolton looked at the La Crosse County Landfill to whether the landfill should rebid, internalize operations or extend the contract.

Two articles in 2015 that appeared in the WasteAdvantage Magazine regarding the La Crosse County Landfill – “Boy Scouts Camp at a Landfill” and “La Crosse County Landfill: Changing Public Perception” were handouts.
A pamphlet “Trail to Eagle” was handed out that that lists advantages of being an Eagle Scout and selecting projects at the La Crosse County Landfill.

Hank Koch mentions magazines BioCycle, MSW Management, Renewable Energy from Waste, and C&D World to read that have tremendously good articles about what is going on in the waste industry.

Discussion of the Mattress Recycling program for 2016 regarding a $15 charge for mattresses and box springs delivered to the La Crosse County Landfill site. Each year the La Crosse County buries an average of 9,000 mattresses and box springs. Mattresses and box springs do not compact well, are bulky items that take up undue amount of space in landfills, present hazards to landfill compaction equipment and employees, contain valuable materials that can be recycled (such as steal, foam, and fabric, etc.) and prove to be a valuable resource when properly recycled. The $15 fee covers the cost of processing the mattress or box spring for recycling. It costs the La Crosse County landfill about $3 to get the mattress from the landfill to the recycler for a total cost of $18. For those mattresses or box springs that cannot be recycled the $15 fee covers the true cost of disposal in the landfill system. The Solid Waste Department would like a six month trial to see if the program is working and if not, discuss changes.

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department had their annual meeting with the Host Communities, Cities of La Crosse and Onalaska on 1/13/2016 - there were no outstanding issues.

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department had their annual meeting with the Waste Water Treatment Plant on 1/13/2016 – there were no outstanding issues.

On 1/28/16 the Solid Waste Department has a meeting with the WDNR, expect no outstanding issues.

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department had an audit by the Public Service Commission for the gas-to-energy pipeline system – there were no outstanding issues.

Revenues and operational costs are up for the Solid Waste Department due to larger amounts of waste coming into the landfill. The projected capacity site life is 23 years.

Gas-to-energy system is 6% to 7% under budget. Gas production is not quite there and Gundersen had some modest down time due to engine maintenance issues.

The La Crosse County Solid Waste Department’s Annual Meeting will be 6/17/16.

The new site entrance to the La Crosse County Landfill will take place in 2016, along with Highway 16 construction. The Solid Waste Department will have a new two scale system house and the main office will remain the same.

Randy Nedrelo, Special Waste Manager gave handouts regarding the 2016 Environmental Objectives and Targets for the La Crosse County Solid Waste Department. It lists the Significant Environmental Aspects for 2016. One objective is improve vector control at the landfill as the seagull population has grown. The La Crosse County Landfill’s permit allows
to kill 150 seagulls per year which will be asked to increase to 200. The target is to implement programs that improve the mitigation and control of nuisance birds at the landfill. There is also a problem with the Starlings population which will be discussed with the Fish & Wildlife Service.

**FUTURE MEETING DATE**
Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**MOTION** by Dale Hexom to adjourn the meeting. **SECOND** by Steve Hogden. **MOTION** passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 pm.