

ADAMS COUNTY LANDFILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008, 7:00 P.M.
STRONGS PRAIRIE TOWN HALL

Members Present: Dennis Erickson, St. Pr. Town Chair
Myrna Diemert, Solid Waste Director
Nancy Wical, Town Supervisor/Citizen Member

Members Excused: Bernie Bays, Preston Township Representative

Others Present: Hank Koch, Foth Infrastructures
Florence Johnson, PW Committee Member
Dave Renner, PW Committee Member
Larry Babcock
Everett Johnson

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL & APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The meeting of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairperson, Dennis Erickson at 7:03 P.M.. All Committee members present except Bays who was excused. There were no additions or changes to the agenda. *Motion by Wical, second by Diemert, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.*

MINUTES: Ms. Diemert presented the minutes of the December 17, 2007 Advisory Committee Meeting. *Motion by Diemert, second by Wical, to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2007 Advisory Committee Meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.*

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS/SITE REPORT: Ms. Diemert then reported on the following items for the period December 2007 through May 2008:

RECYCLING: Recycling markets remained fairly stable with some fluctuation in the cardboard markets. Materials were shipped regularly through the year. Scrap metals, tires, appliances, fluorescent bulbs, sharps, glass aggregate, batteries, and waste oil/antifreeze are being also shipped regularly. Recycling volumes are still exceeding required amounts and the reject materials are still very low.

REVENUES & TIPPAGE: Garbage tippage for 2008 is 3,793.77 tons and is approximately 47 tons

lower than last year at this time. The excess snow this winter is probably the cause of the lower volume, since our busy season starts when the snow is gone.

Of this, the “free” tippage to Strongs Prairie for the first 4 months in 2008 is \$8,847.73 from 187.85 tons of garbage. Last year at this time Strongs Prairie had brought in 390.32 tons. Strongs Prairie’s portion is 4% of the total, (last year it was 9.8% of the total). Population is 5.84% of total.

Over the past year we had 315 new over-the-scale customers. Last year we had 285 new over-the-scale customers for the same period.

The business/residential dumpster service is still going very well and we are getting new customers each month. Waste Management pulled out of the area and we took over most of their customers. Over the past year we’ve added 317 new customers, including some large businesses, and this adds an additional \$136,294 in revenues. Last year we had 333, however, most of these were residential. We did need to purchase many small dumpsters and large containers to serve these new customers.

The Town of Jackson, Village of Friendship, and City of Adams contracted curbside pickup is going very well. This assures that these tippage revenues come to the Adams County Landfill.

Since our last report in December, there were 434 large roll-off containers delivered to residential & business customers (1,022 last year, again, probably caused by late snow cover). Revenues seen from this service was \$43,205 (\$96,750 in 2007). This figure does not count the trash & garbage in these containers **that were previously being taken out of county.**

INSPECTIONS: All landfill related inspections passed without violations or citations issued. Groundwater monitoring again showed road salts in some wells, some of which are not down-gradient to the landfill and were present prior to the landfill being built. This could be caused by normal groundwater fluctuations and/or road run-off. None of the wells showed hazardous chemicals from the landfill.

All mandatory inspections including fire department, scale, and fuel systems passed without any violations, problems or citations. No other areas of concern were found or violations noted.

LANDFILL IMPROVEMENTS: No major improvements were made to landfill buildings or grounds.

LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: No additional construction has been done other than excavation of the soils for cell #4. Ayres Associates was asked to put prices together to study our options when this existing 14 acre site is filled in about 8-10 years. Since it takes several years to site and build a new landfill we should start now to plan for the future.

Some options include:

1. Vertical and Horizontal Expansion of cells #3 and #4. Since #1 and #2 do not have a composite liner we will not be able to expand those sites under current Subtitle D Regulations. This would make the most sense since the infrastructure is already here (roads, leachate tank, monitoring wells).
2. Site and build a completely new landfill. If we went with this option we would need to build a large regional landfill to serve more than one county. Siting this facility in the County may be difficult due to the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) philosophy. This would not be an option if we would only allow Adams County waste as the cost of siting and building a whole new landfill elsewhere would be cost prohibitive.
3. Build a transfer site at our current location and take to another site.
4. Close down and let the private haulers take our materials. This would probably cost the customers more than if the County retained control. This option would make it difficult to offer the special services such as tire & appliance roundups, sharps, fluorescent, hazardous waste collections, etc. The County would remain responsible for all recyclables within the County per state law.

CONSIDERATIONS TO STRONGS PRAIRIE: Over the past one year period, the citizens of Strongs Prairie have received the following at no charge:

921.37 tons of garbage worth \$43,396.52 (previous year was 1,369.51 tons of garbage, worth \$54,780).

189.46 tons of Brush/Yard Waste worth \$5,304. (93.92 tons in the previous year).

Total consideration since the past year to Strongs Prairie was \$48,700.52.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS: A Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, ½ price Appliance & Tire Roundup, and a Pharmaceutical collection will be held on Saturday, June 14th, 2008. This will be funded by a grant in conjunction with LaCrosse County who is also the contractor.

OTHER: Chair Erickson asked that a notice be sent to members at least one month in advance to remind them of the next meeting.

PRESENTATION ON REGIONALIZED PUBLIC LANDFILLS & PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: Hank Koch, Foth Infrastructures, gave a presentation on how important it is to keep public landfills operating. He said it was becoming increasingly more difficult for small public facilities to stay in business because of the economies of scale. Most of them have, or are considering, becoming regional facilities serving more than their county geographical boundaries. The large private landfills can operate more cost effectively because of the economies of scale, however, they don't offer all the special services that a public facility does such as hazardous waste and pharmaceutical collections, disposal options for recycling, tires, waste oil, appliances, scrap metals, sharps, computers, fluorescent bulbs, yard waste, and other items that are hard to dispose. These special programs also cost more so

part of the tip fee goes to the operation of these special items, which increases tip fees at public facilities, also making it a struggle in the existing market. Mr. Koch also pointed out that the DNR is promoting regionalization of the smaller landfills. He presented maps and discussed how Juneau and Adams County would be a logical partnership because of the geography, road systems, and similar waste patterns. He explained that if the two Counties sit down and discuss these options it would be in the best interest of both Counties. Strongs Prairie would be a part of these discussions.

Mr. Koch continued that putting in a privately owned transfer station would not be good for Strongs Prairie as they could lose the control, revenues, and/or free tippage that they currently are receiving. Citizens would have to pay more for construction/demolition dumpsters, as well as yard waste and brush disposal options. Transportation costs also make it more expensive to sent our waste to a landfill out of our county. He next discussed how Bioreactors and incinerators will not work in a rural setting because of the lack of a population base, and it's garbage, to support it.

IDENTIFY POSSIBLE UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS: Continued discussions on regionalizing.

NEXT MEETING & ADJOURN: The next meeting date was set for December 15, 2008 for the regular Advisory Committee meeting. *Motion by Wical, second by Diemert, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M..*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MYRNA DIEMERT, SW DIRECTOR/RECYCLING COORDINATOR