

**Scratch Gravel Solid Waste Management District**

Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors

January 25, 2017

City County Building, Room 309

316 North Park, Helena, Montana

**Members Present**

Bill Michalson (Chairman)

Loran Frazier

David Knoepke

Melanie Reynolds

**Staff Present**

Audra Zacherl

Eric Griffin

Jade Huckins

Pete Anderson

Jacki Pierson

**Guest**

Dave Duffy

**Call to Order**

Chairman Bill Michalson called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner McCormick is not present.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from June 21, 2016 were approved unanimously. David Knoepke found two discrepancies. The first on page 1 states "Melanie Reynolds asked since this since this was not" strike out the second since this. The second discrepancy is on page 4, paragraph 3, 7<sup>th</sup> line down with the word City being omitted after Silver.

**Comments From the Public:**

There were no comments from the public.

**Action Items:**

There were no action items.

**Staff Reports:**

**Landfill Manager Report-** Pete Anderson (Solid Waste Superintendent) asked for questions from the board. David Knoepke (Board Member)-asked if anything has been done with the Marysville site hours, as per the discussion last meeting. Mr. Anderson stated a Marysville survey was done and the resident input weighed in favor of the schedule remaining the same. It is recommended at this time no changes be made to the Marysville transfer site schedule. Audra Zacherl (Assistant Director, Lewis & Clark

County Public Works) explained the rates went to \$79.00 from \$58.00. Rates were raised to keep the service the same.

Loren Frazier (Board Member) asked the status on the tire mono-fill. Mr. Anderson explained the contract with Great West Engineering was completed last fall and we are planning on filling, weather pending, February 22, 2017. A 30 day work period is targeted. There are approximately 1100 bales and 120,000 loose tires.

**Mid-Year Financial Report** (Audra Zacherl) – Loran Frazier asked if we were 50%? Ms. Zacherl stated the budget is at 52% due to extra pay period.

Melanie Reynolds noticed we are down 1% from the previous year and said this isn't a lot but Marysville is down 11%. Ms. Zacherl responded that staff has been analyzing the issue but we do not have an answer. Mr. Anderson explained we are looking at policy changes that impact fee items coming into the transfer station at no additional cost. This may increase the Scratch Gravel waste coming into the transfer station which may lead to a decrease at Marysville waste.

Ms. Zacherl explained if waste goes to Marysville it is under Marysville if it goes to the Transfer Station it is then Scratch Gravel. (Melanie left briefly)

**Blue Ridge Services Efficiency Study Update** (Pete Anderson) – The Blue Ridge Services Efficiency Study was conducted in 2014. Mr. Anderson asked to note the status column on the efficiency study was added by staff. Chairman Michalson asked to just highlight topics vs. going line by line.

Mr. Anderson highlighted merging the City of Helena and Lewis & Clark County into one entity through an inter-local agreement set in place 2016 continuing through to 2023.

There is also a combine shop operations recommendation which would consist of the Lewis & Clark County Landfill servicing the City of Helena mechanical needs when time and employee availability allows. Eric Griffin (Director, Lewis and Clark County Public Works) stated he was hesitant a year ago in regard to the inter-local agreement but it has worked out really well and Pete and Jacki have done great. Mr. Griffin, in regard to the Scratch Gravel permits being issued through the transfer station, believes the public appreciates the convenience with the permits being located at the transfer station.

At this time regarding compost operation recommendations Pete Anderson said there is a scheduled meeting in early February about the future of composting. Composting is at a standstill and capital outlay will be needed to get us to where we need to be.

Purchasing a new compactor for the landfill is a work in progress.

Mr. Anderson, in regard to the Lewis & Clark County Landfill's Alternative Daily Cover, explained the extended 6 month trial duration of the tarp placement through DEQ was approved for 14 days as it is in the best interest of the operations. Closing the Landfill on Saturday was not in the best interest of the Transfer Station due to waste coming in.

Mr. Anderson, in regard to recycling- (Melanie back in) the City of Helena and Lewis & Clark County implemented residential funding for City and Scratch Gravel residents previously funded by tipping fees. Tipping fees were able to be reduced by \$10.50/ton.

In regard to expanding recycling drop off sites, two were added but one must be withdrawn due to the owners request and in regard to eliminating the practice of separating plastics 1 and 2, this has been completed. Mr. Anderson also explained the bluebag curbside recycling program was eliminated and is now being subsidized by Helena Recycling curbside. There were 468 residents taking part in the blue bag program. On the last invoice from Helena Recycling there were 684 full year residents

utilizing curbside service through Helena Recycling. The cost is \$10.95 per month of which the City of Helena pays \$4.00 of that and additionally covers \$11.00 per bin. Melanie Reynolds (Board member) asked how money is collected. Mr. Anderson stated it is collected through utility billing. There was a recommendation for the City of Helena to develop a recycling center, however

Mr. Anderson explained currently the City of Helena utilizes Pacific Steel and Recycling for bulk recycling. Mr. Anderson stated Helena Recycling has opened their own facility which we were able to tour.

Bill Michalson (Chairman of the Board) commented on the compactor recommendation which was to rebuild not buy new however, he does not think the consultant had best interest of the operation in mind and he is in support of the purchase of a new compactor. Mr. Anderson stated he did research early on and the seven other larger cities in Montana all have two or more compactors on site. Mr. Anderson recommends buying new and keeping the old to reduce hours on new machine. New compactors compared to what we have now can use 2.5 gal less of fuel per hour compared to the older machines. Chairman Michalson asked Dave Duffy if Tri County Disposal has a backup, to which he responded they did. Chairman Michalson suggested we have two landfills with two backups so potentially the Lewis & Clark County Landfill would not need to retain a backup compactor and rent from Tri County when needed. Mr. Anderson explained the primary compactor would be for Class II MSW waste and the backup compactor would be used in the Class IV Construction & Demolition cell. There is a daily need for two compactors within the operation. Mr. Griffin stated it is a good idea from Chairman Michalson but asked who would get priority if Tri-County and the City of Helena are sharing a compactor.

### **Discussion:**

Chairman Michalson said he is moving and therefore will more than likely be out of Lewis & Clark County. He officially submitted his resignation from the Scratch Gravel Solid Waste Management District board.

Ms. Zacherl stated the next meeting is the budget meeting. Chairman Michalson stated he will be in attendance for the budget meeting in late March early April.

Mrs. Reynolds would like to be on record stating to Chairman Michalson "Your expertise and background has been really helpful, asking the questions that you do, so thank you."

Ms. Zacherl scheduled the next Scratch Gravel Solid Waste Management board meeting on Thursday April 6, 2017 at noon with a consensus from the board.

Mrs. Reynolds asked when the budget hearings would be. Ms. Zacherl explained usually the first part of May however with Nancy Everson as the interim for the Chief Administrative Officer it may be later.

Motion to adjourn by Chairman Michalson with the motion seconded by Mrs. Reynolds.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.