

PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT



2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

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DEAN R. HAEN

DIRECTOR

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY SOLID WASTE BOARD

A regular meeting was held on **Monday, October 17th, 2022**
at the Resource Recovery Office, 2561 South Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304

1) Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Solid Waste Board Chair John Katers at 2:30 pm.

2) Roll Call:

Present: John Katers, Chair
 Mark VandenBusch, Vice Chair
 Bill Seleen
 Michael Lefebvre
 Dave Landwehr
 John Myers
 Norb Dantine
 Mike VanLanen

Excused:

Also Present: Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR
 Chad Doverspike, Brown County P&RR
 Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR
 Benjamin Hintz, Brown County P&RR
 Jon Logan, Brown County P&RR
 Derek Tess, Brown County P&RR
 Katie Platten, Brown County P&RR
 Mike Geiger, Town of Holland
 Brian Rickert, Village of Ashwaubenon
 Sean Gehin, Village of Allouez
 Chris Anderson, Forth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike VanLanen and seconded by Bill Seleen. Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of August 22nd, 2022 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 22nd, 2022 meeting was made by Norb Dantine and seconded by Michael Lefebvre. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen shared that Norb Dantine and Mike VanLanen each have agreed to another three-year term as Solid Waste Board members. Mr. Haen also commented that the open position left by the departure of Doug Martin on the Solid Waste Board is to be filled by Sean Gehin, Public Works Director for the Village of Allouez. Mr. Gehin's nomination will be voted on at the County Board meeting in October.

6) Approval/Modification – East Landfill Blower Flare Replacement Project #2534 RFB

A new blower flare system is needed at the closed East Landfill as the original flare stacks, which have over the years received modification, are no longer feasible for the low volume of methane gas that is being produced. Peak methane gas production occurs roughly one year after a landfill closure, and steadily declines over a number of decades. Large flare skids are installed as a Best Management Practice (BMP) to collect and burn off methane gas. As the volume of landfill gas decreases the flare begins to shut down. Shutdowns require manual restarts and require staff to travel to the site to start up the flare. Mr. Haen and Chad Doverspike explained that an identical project was required and installed at the West Landfill in previous years. This was completed by Advance One Development for \$260,000 at that time. The RFB for Project #2534 was returned and Advance One Development was the low bidder again at \$359,500. Equipment specifications mirrored the project at the East Landfill so parts and maintenance will be identical to the skid at the West Landfill.

A discussion regarding the price hike occurred. Mr. Haen explained that the consideration to wait for prices to come down was discussed, but the amount of staff hours being utilized and the amount of shutdowns occurring deemed a delay in hopes of better pricing is not optimal.

A motion to approve the East Landfill Blower Flare Replacement Project #2534 RFB for \$359,500 was made by John Katers and seconded by Dave Landwehr. Unanimously approved.

7) East Landfill Leachate Metering Tank Project - Update

Mr. Haen provided an update on the leachate metering tank project at the East Landfill. This included an explanation of the retracement of the parcel with the Department of Natural Resources and a discussion and agreement regarding the catch basin with the Town of Ledgeview.

8) 2023 Budget - Update

Mr. Haen discussed further developments regarding the table of organization resolution for the Brown County 2023 Budget. The resolution, which was discussed at length at the previous Solid Waste Board meetings, is to replace the table of organization of the Port & Resource Recovery Department with a new table that moves each employee to the mid to high end of the pay scale. This is proposed to better hire new employees and retain

current employees. The resolution is to be voted on by the Planning, Development, and Transportation Committee on October 17th, and if passed will move to the County Board for voting.

Several Solid Waste Board members such as Chair John Katers, Mike VanLanen, Norb Dantine, Bill Seleen, and Dave Landwehr discussed the state of the job market and how difficult it is currently to find and keep good employees. Mr. Haen and Mark Walter explained the frustration of sourcing, interviewing, hiring, and subsequently losing employees due to higher competitive wages.

9) South Landfill – Update

Mr. Doverspike shared several images and aerial video of the South Landfill with the Solid Waste Board and attendees, from the first truckload in January to the previous week's progress in October. In 9 months of operation, the South Landfill had accepted 281,000 tons of waste. The budgeted amount of 308,000 tons will be realized and the actual amount will likely be just shy of 400,000 tons.

Mr. Doverspike continued by discussing the DNR inspection that was held on October 7th. The inspector found no compliance issues and was impressed with the operation and the site cleanliness. Mr. Doverspike gave kudos to the staff and management of the Department for their work.

An update on the Waste Transfer Station tip floor replacement was discussed. Mr. Doverspike explained that the redirection of around 450 tons per day of waste to the South Landfill has been very effective. The rate adjustment from \$53 to \$43/ton has incentivized haulers enough to haul directly to the South Landfill.

There was a large amount of seagulls observed in the aerial video that was shared. This prompted a discussion between Board members and Mr. Doverspike and Mr. Hintz regarding current pest control and other options that have been looked at. Mr. Hintz explained that the department is licensed through US Fish & Wildlife that up to 500 birds per year can be depopulated, and are working with Brown County Risk Management in order to review the depredation policy and acquire a firearm.

10) Director's Report - Update

Mr. Walter explained the recent market crashes in the recycling world. Within the last three months, the pricing sheets for mixed paper and cardboard has drastically changed. Michael Lefebvre asked for further clarification on how drastic of a change and Mr. Walter explained that in August 2022 the market for mixed paper was at \$60 and at the time of the meeting it was at \$0. Several factors may have contributed to this such as the war in Ukraine and oil prices, which caused international markets to dry up, therefore recycling companies are buying domestically. The warehouses are full as the market is saturated. The steep decline from record highs to near-record lows in six months has been reported.

Brown County municipalities are updated monthly regarding the market changes. During the times of high markets, amounts were set aside to pay for improvements to the MRF

facility in Appleton due to ongoing staffing issues. Mr. Katers inquired if a similar rate stabilization fund could be considered to what was created for the solid waste customers, which Mr. Haen responded that this has not been discussed. Recycling moves with the market and the department ties the recycling tip fee to market changes.

Mr. Lefebvre asked if storing materials on site would be an option until the market improves. Mr. Walter explained that the organic materials such as paper have a maximum storage time of about six weeks before it begins to break down and mold, leading it to be sent to landfill.

11) Such other Matters as Authorized by Law
None.

12) Adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Norb Dantine and seconded by Michael Lefebvre. Unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 3:18PM..

John Katers, Chairman
Solid Waste Board

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department