Buffalo County Meeting Minutes

Committee/Board: Recycling Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday February 5, 2020

Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Jeannie Czaplewski, Marvin Meier, Bruce Kees, Brian Glass, Max Weiss, Don Black, Mary Lisowski, Calvin Loewenhagen, Ben Adank, Bob Traun.

Board Members Excused: Claire Waters, Brad Hanson.

Others present for all or part of the Meeting: Recycling Manager Randy Johnson and Interim Recycling Director Bruce Fuerbringer.

Minutes: Motion made by Marvin Meier and seconded by Bruce Kees to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2019 meeting. Motion Passed without opposition.

Public comments regarding posted agenda items: No comments were received.

Review/Discussion Action – Financial Report:

Mr. Fuerbringer reviewed the initial 2019 year-end fiscals as determined by the County Financial Advisor. It was noted that the 2019 books would not be officially closed until Mid-March to early April 2020. A question was brought forth regarding the line 224, ‘Garbage Disposal.’ It was noted that there was a budget over-run of approximately $3500, and the Committee would like to know where the expenditures occurred. Mr. Fuerbringer was directed to review the budget line with Finance to insure there was not any errors in the report, and to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Review/Discussion Action – Initial 2019 hauling statistics:

Mr. Fuerbringer reviewed the preliminary 2019 hauling statistics with the Committee. The overall trend for the numbers of loads hauled for 2019 showed an increase over 2018 by an average of 10%, with tonnage down about 20%. It was suggested that this occurred due to an increase in lighter commodities such as plastic containers (which also create dead air space in the loads) and cardboard, and fewer heavier and more compact items such as bottles.

Review/Discussion Action – Electronics Recycling To-Date:

The County did not hold dedicated electronics recycling events for 2019, as residents were able to drop off electronics recycling year-round at the BBC&M and Mondovi sites. The County vendor for electronics recycling, The Retrofit Companies, Inc., reported collecting 5,645 televisions/monitors, 580 lbs. of miscellaneous electronics, 62 lbs. of mixed dry cell batteries, 373 4’ and under florescent lamps, 89 over 4’ florescent lamps, and 49 lbs. of non-PCB ballasts.
The cost factor to the county was $1,788.25, which was offset by $2,688.07 in revenues collected on-site for the disposal of these electronics.

**Review/Discussion Action – Status of Capital Equipment Purchases**

The refurbishment of 6 roll-off containers and the purchase of a replacement custom-built trailer to carry the containers are the only two capital purchase projects that have been completed to date. Mr. Johnson felt that with the County going to single-stream recycling that fewer containers will be required. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the purchase of any new roll-off containers as previously approved be placed on hold pending an initial review of the single-stream process in late Spring or early Summer.

**Review/Discussion Action – Consideration of CIP Budget Line**

Mr. Fuerbringer recommended that the Committee consider creating a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget line so that the replacement of major capital items, such as trucks, roll-off containers and the compactor can be fiscally planned for, and how they will impact the annual recycling budget. The Committee requested that Mr. Fuerbringer draft a sample CIP budget and bring it back at a future meeting.

**Review/Discussion Action – Single Stream Preparation Update**

Mr. Johnson stated that he was in the process of changing the recycling footprint at the Mondovi site. As there will no longer be the need to keep cardboard and containers separate, the comingled loads can all be dumped in the rear area of the building, where the compactor is. The front of the building will be cleaned out and made available for parking the recycling trucks inside, which will be a first for the program. He will also be building a workbench and have a ‘repair area’ to help maintain program equipment. The front area will be kept locked, and general recycling drop-off will be shifted to the rear of the building. A storage room in that area will be remodeled to serve as an office area for the site attendant.

**Review/Discussion Action – Possible Sale of Skid Steer to BBC & M**

Through an arrangement that was agreed upon several decades ago, BBC was allowed the use of the on-site skid steer that the County owned, for their work needs on the property that the recycling center is located. The processing and baling of newspaper at the site has long since been stopped, and the County’s need for the skid steer has been significantly reduced to the point that County use of the skid steer only amounts to 6 hours/year. This does not make economical sense, and the County has considered removing the skid steer there and contracting to have the appliances loaded onto the semi. BBC & M expressed an interest in obtaining the skid steer and taking over the annual trade-in program that Lindstrom Equipment offers the County on skid steers. Being the original skid steer was purchased in the mid-1990’s, the depreciation factor is minimal when taking into consideration the annual trade-in program. Discussion led to the recommendation that the County transfer the ownership of the skid steer to BBC & M, with the condition that the County be allowed use of the skid steer as needed to
conduct the recycling program. Motion made by Don Black and seconded by Marvin Meier to support transferring the skid steer asset to the City of Buffalo City. Motion carried unanimously.

**Review/Discussion Action – Consideration of Committee oversight of Solid Waste**

Mr. Fuerbringer noted that there has not been any oversite or control of solid waste management in the County for many years. Committee discussion noted that in past years there was a separate Solid Waste Committee that would meet just prior to the Recycling Committee’s meeting. Members served on both committees as it was convenient and reduced travel costs associated with two committee meetings. There was general support for expanding the Recycling Committee to include Solid Waste oversight, but a concern about performing the duties of two committees at one meeting would extend the amount of time the meeting would take, with no additional per diem consideration for the members. The Committee asked Mr. Fuerbringer to check with Administration to see what consideration there would be to an increased per diem to cover the additional time commitment.

**Review/Discussion Action – Other Reports**

No other reports.

**Public Comments Unrelated to Agenda Items**

No public comments.

**Review/Discussion Action – Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

Mr. Fuerbringer stated that the Committee could expect the 2019 Annual Report to be ready for the next meeting agenda. The next meeting date was set as April 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Motion made by Brian Glass and seconded by Jeannie Czaplewski to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce Fuerbringer, Acting Recycling Director