

Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee Meeting
October 22, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.
Carlton County Boardroom

Members Present

Voting Members	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Ezell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Crestik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Proulx
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Lindell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Hagen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Schulstrom
	<input type="checkbox"/> Del Prevost	<input type="checkbox"/> Julie Salmon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> H. Merrill Loy
Non-Voting Members	<input type="checkbox"/> Shannon Judd		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karola Dalen

Carlton County Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, October 22, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. New appointments and re-appointments

The Carlton County Board of Commissioners approved new SWARA committee appointments for H. Merrill Loy (At-Large), Maggie Schulstrom (Student), and re-appointments for Del Provost (District1) and Jack Ezell (District 3). The committee members introduced themselves for the new members.

2. Review and approve 4-23-13 meeting minutes

April 23, 2013 meeting minutes approved. Proulx moved to approve the minutes. Crestik seconded and supported by all yea votes.

3. Appliance/electronic advertising update

Dalen informed the committee that two rounds of newspaper ads have been submitted along with a 30 second radio ad on WKLK/WMOZ stations 96.5 Legends Rock and 106.9 The Moose. The ads are in regards to the low disposal fees for electronics and appliances at the transfer station. Poster ads in public places could also be done. \$1500 is budgeted for a similar advertising campaign for 2014. This money was formerly spent on the appliance coupon which has been discontinued. No negative feedback has been received from customers inquiring about the coupon to date. Crestik mentioned Cloquet Riverside Recycling charges \$.30 per pound. He often refers people to the transfer station when they grumbled about this rate. The committee agreed the continuation of the ad campaign is important because the misconception of high disposal costs for electronics and appliances still exists. This leads to illegal dumping. Ezell referred to a recent large dumping of electronics near Hay Lake.

4. Review of Hartel tour

Committee members who attended the tour agreed it was an interesting and beneficial tour. Dalen shared some facts given by Dan Hartel during the tour. Other tours suggested were WLSSD, Shamrock landfill, and an electronics contractor if practical.

5. School Recycling

Dalen is working with the superintendent of Moose Lake. It had been challenge getting information from the hauler and then communicating it with the superintendent. The school currently does not have a head custodian. Heather drafted a very nice policy for the school in the past. The challenge is getting it implemented. Dalen met with Shannon Judd. Judd suggested having students make recycling bins and assist in waste sorts to be involved and have ownership in a improved recycling program.

6. Proposed new gate fees for MMSW and IND/DEMO at transfer station

Per Cunningham's memo, the committee reviewed and discussed the current gate fees verses the proposed gate fees. The committee agreed the visual format of the proposed gate fees is more understandable than the current format. The committee agreed the proposed gate fees would allow more transparency and understanding in pricing for customers. It will also be an improvement for the transfer station cashier, and for the office staff assisting customers on pricing questions. Crestik questioned if the rate of increase for fees per pound is the same as it is required for commercial hauler's pricing (tipping fees). Ezell made a motion to recommend the Carlton County Board of Commissioners approve the proposed gate fees. Lindell seconded and supported by all yea votes.

8. Survey at transfer station

Per Cunningham's memo, the committee discussed conducting a survey at the transfer station to assist in the possible decision to eliminate cash transactions. The committee agreed the survey is an excellent idea. The questions should be changed to multiple choice questions. As many surveys as practical should be collected during this one week time frame of November 18 to November 23 for a good sample. Schulstrom and Proulx suggested the survey also be posted to the county's website. Ezell commented eliminating cash eliminates a convenience, and therefore may lead to increase in illegal dumping. Ezell explained WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center uses cash. The cashier is responsible for returning a balanced cash box at the end of day. A junior accountant does random audits. All transactions once rung up on the register are automatically sent via radio signal through the phone line to a computer at the accounting office. Crestik mentioned a statistic he heard on public radio stated 50% of people still prefer cash over other forms of payment. Dalen will look for more information on this topic and provide it to Cunningham. Schulstrom made a motion to recommend to the Carlton County Board of Commissioners that a survey be conducted at the transfer station. Hagen seconded and supported by all yeas votes.

9. Sharing time

Lindell described how she transported over 20 bags of food scraps from her church's harvest dinner. WLSSD's collection site was closed so she brought it to Chester Creek Café. The committee discussed the potential of having public compost collection at the Carlton County transfer station in the future. Dalen shared how she collected toilet paper rolls by shoving them into an empty tissue box. This keeps them neat and tidy for transporting them to a bag or bin for recycling.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting date is Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the Carlton County Courthouse, County Board Room – 1st Floor.

Submitted by,
Karola Dalen
Resource and Recycling Coordinator