

**SOLID WASTE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING
June 13, 2023
Public Service Auditorium
3:00 p.m.**

Members present:

**Aaron Lawhead, Chairman
David Hansel
Rick Finch
Devon Felsted**

**Eileen Macoll, Vice-Chair
Michele Beckmann
Isaiah Paine**

Others: David Nails, WC Landfill; Mark Storey, PW Director; Wyatt Armstrong, WC Environmental Health; Elizabeth Siler; Deb Olson, Elinor Huber, Clerk.

3:03 p.m. – Aaron Lawhead opened the meeting with introductions.

MOTION by Michele Beckmann and seconded by Eileen Macoll to approve the minutes from March 14, 2023. Motion passed.

The scale project began on April 17, 2023, with a 130-day contract. We are slightly ahead of schedule. It will be completed sometime in November-December. We have had a few days for field modification, so we might have 3-4 days added so far. This is probably the last large consumer-related project for the landfill.

David and Mark have been working on an ordinance for the Organics Management Law. This only applies to Pullman because of their population. The idea is to procure organics like compost and create a market.

The recycling prices are back up a little bit. We are shipping a couple of loads of cardboard and single stream each week. We continue to take recycling, but it is pretty tough with all the construction going on in front of the recycle facility.

Once a year we sample all the gas at the landfill and send it to Great West Engineering for their report. Great West actually calculated how much gas we were generating or could be generating. It was all below the threshold to require us to do more reporting or more sampling. Basically, it was good news for us to not have to do extra reporting. They will also perform the quarterly water samples the end of June.

We sprayed the weeds last Saturday and used a new technique, drone spraying. The drone is from a company in the Tri-Cities that sprays Ag land in hard-to-reach places. The drone is about 5-6 feet across with six different blades. The last several years we hired people to ground spray but it is too difficult because it is so steep and bouncy on the cap. The Ag sprayers declined because of the high-tension lines, so the drone was our alternative. This is new technology and it is more efficient than what we have done in the last few years.

If you receive any questions of where to dispose of ammo or explosives, direct them to the Sheriff's Department. The Landfill does not handle anything that is not household hazardous waste. We do not want anything that is not in a labeled container. They are considered, "Unknowns," and we would have

to have a chemist identify it and then pay for the disposal on top of that. There are commercial outfits that will come and pick up the container or you can deliver it to them. Once a year the USDA comes and sets up shop at our facility and they usually contact the farmers and let them know about the one-day event.

The Litter Crew is up and running. We have five members and they have been out there working since the beginning of June and it is going well.

We will be discussing this year's budget and that will include the Solid Waste Management Plan. We will present it to you for 2024 and we will work through the year to complete that. Those of you who have been on SWAC for a few years know that it takes a lot of time and effort working through the SWMP.

Waste Management is constructing a regional facility down by Washtucna, which would be good for Whitman County because our trucking costs would be far less. They are under full construction and they will open sometime in 2024. Our long-haul contract is good for another three and a half years so when that gets close to expiring, we will go out for bid on a new long haul and disposal services contract.

Mark Storey attended the Glass Summit on Zoom. People were talking about ways to use crushed glass in concrete and asphalt and other kinds of things, but they were ignoring some of the basic practical considerations for using it in a product, without considering the wear and tear on equipment and the longevity of the product.

Mark believes it is a choice. If you want to create a market for glass, it will not save you money. It will cost you money and your roads won't be quite as good. Whitman County has been using crushed glass on riprap in order to save other types of rock. We have successfully used it for years.

There is a company that is reaching out, like paint stewardship, to use crushed glass for their products. But it is only available in the heavily populated areas and the cost of transportation is a problem for us here in rural Whitman County. It is good news that people are beginning to create a market for glass. There are some positive uses, but not for us, yet.

Mark would like to have at least two hybrid SWAC meetings a year. Some meetings are more efficient if we aren't traveling all the time. An in-person meeting at least once a year is necessary to keep the human side of what we do.

The next meeting will be on **September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

MOTION by Rick Finch and seconded by Devon Felsted to adjourn. Motion passed.

Adjourned -3:35 p.m.