

TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYLING (ISWR) ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2018

Members present, constituting a quorum: Lindsey Ehinger, Don Baker, Joe Kola (remotely), Lorie Cahn (remotely), Rani Carr, Jess Wireman.

Others Present: Paul Vogelheim, Teton County Commissioner; Mari Allan Hanna, ISWR Education and Outreach Coordinator; Nikki Kaufman, Teton County resident; Caroline Sheahan, ISWR Financial Accountant; Kent Jaspersen, ISWR Solid Waste and Operations Manager; Heather Overholser, ISWR Superintendent; Carrie Bell, ISWR Administrative Assistant; Bill Hensley, Peak Engineering; Tom Segerstrom, Teton Conservation District.

3:05- Meeting called to order by Don Baker at ISWR

Motion to approve June minutes, with corrections, Moved: Joe, Second: Lindsey, All in Favor, motion carried at 3:13.

Report from Board Chair, Don Baker

- I am sorry to report that Jim Van Vliet is resigning. We wish him the best, but we need to fill his position until he can reapply.
- We have updated the bylaws. Heather's title was updated, but the main reason to update them was to change the meetings to every other month. We will read through the bylaws.
- Heather- We made changes to the section "advisory board powers and duties." "Board can enter into contracts under \$5,000 dollars" was removed, not applicable to the board but to ISWR staff. The main thing is the meeting schedule. These months were selected because February is the month the board reviews the budget. Special meetings can also be called if needed.
- Don- we have the ability to change meeting dates as needed.
- Rani- the spring break date (April) will probably have to be moved.
- Don- There is a 30-day waiting period to vote on the bylaw changes. The next meeting is less than 30 days away, so the vote will be held in September.
- Lindsey- I have a concern about the 50% absentee for board members with the proposed schedule of meetings.
- Heather- Paul, do you know if that is a standard in the county?
- Paul- no, it varies.
- Heather- I agree, let's change the wording to make right.

Motion to approve change to the bylaws regarding board member absences: "absent from two regular meetings within a 12-month period", Moved: Jess, Second: Rani at 3:17.

- Heather- we will be sending out a staff report in the off-meeting months. If you have questions or would like to discuss something, please let staff know.

- Don- please help volunteer. The “ask a recycler” on Fridays is my recommendation. I had a great experience. People don’t understand the sorting process, and we need to be ambassadors and spend more time volunteering
- Mari Allan- we are prioritizing those lunch hours on Fridays, with the second priority being the waste station at the People’s Market. July 25th at the People’s Market is a critical date. The third priority will be Old Bill’s outreach, and during the giving period. There are some other “bonus” events coming up, one is the art fair.
- Heather- I want to introduce Bill Hensley, he’s the project manager on site, and when we get to the capital projects Bill will give us an update.
- Mari Allan- another person I’d like to introduce is Nikki Kaufman, we are so lucky and happy to have her here. Nikki is with Jackson Hole Stillworks.

Update from County Commission Liaison, Paul Vogelheim

- Paul- we had a workshop on sustainability with Mari Allan and Heather. They did a great job updating the commissioners. The zero-waste display is available as an education piece at the County Admin Building. Food waste composting was a big conversation piece that was well received. Thanks to this board for ongoing work. ISWR spends more capital funds than any other department, so thank you to the board for the good advising and professionalism. The board assists in making the budgeting process seamless.

Treasurer’s Report, Joe Kola

- Joe- we will be slightly ahead in our revenue expenses. Below in expenditures. Spent about half of what we allocated for capital expenditures. We are conscious of when we need to spend money and when we don’t. I had to make a few hand calculations here because I didn’t have the right files. Flat in tonnages, but no surprises in the impact to our financial position.
- Heather- we will have two more months added in here – June and July (for expenses accrued in June).
- Don- can you clarify where the extra \$200,000 is coming from?
- Caroline- scrap metal and cardboard. \$100,000 from scrap metal. Commodity prices have tanked.
- Heather- good news, even though commodity prices are down, at least we can still sell our materials.
- Caroline- there is a lot of landfilling of recyclables going on across the country. The big recovery facilities are putting in new sorting technology to improve their contamination rates. Mills are full. We have hit our allocation for the month with certain brokers. But, our contamination rates are so low brokers at least want our materials.
- Joe- thank you to the staff for keeping up the great work.

Committee and Staff Reports

- Mari Allan- I am passing the torch to Carrie for Old Bill’s.
- Heather- we’ve had board members reach out to past donors previously, maybe we can do that again.
- Lorie- can we have a shared spreadsheet and board members sign up so people don’t repeat call anyone?

- Lindsey- do we do any outreach about ISWR not taking money from general taxes?
- Heather- we do on an as-needed basis. It has been suggested that we do more of that kind of education. ISWR operates as a business within Teton County. We generate our own revenues. We are extra focused on our financials because we have to break even or be in the black at the end of every year. We receive no tax money from the general fund. We have the ability to generate revenue. Auditors determined that we can do that, whereas other departments don't have that opportunity.
- Don- so the money we receive from Old Bill's is not money we could raise by increasing tip fees?
- Heather- we could.
- Don- so why don't we?
- Heather- so we don't have to fund recycling by the money made by landfill-bound waste.
- Lorie- on the brochure for Old Bill's, are they still listing how the money is distributed?
- Heather- yes, we did, and that's a great idea for listing on the e-postcard.
- Caroline- we split the "match" with all the other county departments that are involved in Old Bill's.
- Heather- any County department can participate in Old Bill's, but they choose not to.
- Don- Search and Rescue doesn't have any income. What we do benefits the tax payer.... why don't we spread that cost amongst the disposers of garbage and not ask for non-profit money? We aren't going to change how we do things, but I'd like us to think about that.
- Lorie- every year when I go through the list of non-profits, there are certain ones that come to the top of my list. There are some things that I think "what is that?" and I don't want to question why we are on there, because we should be on there. I think it is appropriate that we are accepting Old Bill's money.
- Don- I'm not challenging this, I just want to make sure that we all know why we do this.
- Heather- We charge exactly what we need to recoup from the public for the disposal of landfill-bound waste to cover landfill-bound waste. We don't charge for recycling unless it's a specialized service. Old Bill's funds help cover the cost of the recycling service.
- Lindsey- this is a great discussion whether we finish it and pick it up later or not. My question would be if we aren't making enough money to cover our services, then why isn't ISWR taking tax dollars to cover it like other departments?
- Kent- we need to give the opportunity for the people that are able to give and donate to take the burden off the general public.
- Paul- when I look at RRR and the education element, even if you earmark the donations just for that, it would make everyone feel better. But this is a service the community needs. We can't continue to raise tip fees to the point that the working-class community members can't afford it. It's to the benefit to the entire community.
- Heather- first, you should think about it as two operations, recycling and solid waste. If it weren't for solid waste, we wouldn't be an enterprise fund. My second point is that you don't want to keep tacking on charges at the transfer station to cover losses on the diversion side of our programming... we are trying to increase trash diversion which ends up being less money made on landfill-bound waste. Think about ISWR as two separate programs - the "for-profit" side of ISWR, the solid-waste side, and the recycle side, which has to be funded by revenue or grants and donations.

- Mari Allan- the new issue of Green Matters is in this week's paper. We have an article in there and it's called "A Tour of Wild Waste." It is a collaboration with Margaret Wilson from Grand Teton National Park. We hope that visitors will recognize the bison *and* our recycling symbols, representing conservation and sustainability. ISWR contributes \$1,000 a year and lots of time into Green Matters. We had a RRR committee meeting this week, we talked about Old Bill's and the plan for the year. I want to be more organized this year. Creative Curiosity is helping us with getting our message polished and out in the community. I'll have it ready in the next couple months.

As long as the plastic bag ban progresses, we are tasked with community education. It looks like there is a tentative timeline in the works.

UWYO students looked at new commodity markets and researched current markets. They suggested cartons (or Tetra Pack) as a new market. There is a lot of good info in the executive summary that went out with the staff report.

We are still finalizing the Road to Zero Waste report. I've had great input from the zero-waste committee, and it should be completed by the end of August.

Please sign up to volunteer! There is a thank-you note going around for Hand Fire Pizza, it's a great fundraising/outreach program and we are so lucky to have been invited. Our night was a big success.

- Paul- going back to the plastic bag ban, the Town has the power to go through with the ban. The County doesn't have the power for that but could write a letter of support. Is there any market for plastic bags? Any info I can take back?
- Heather- right now, plastic bags are going to waste to energy
- Don- is the proposed charge set at 5 cents?
- Heather- I believe the Town's recommendation is 10 cents, which would be donated to ISWR for education and outreach, but the business can charge whatever they want beyond that.
- Don- we are on the Road to Zero Waste...we need to discourage any and all excess disposal bags. Maybe the charge should be a lot higher to really discourage people? 10 cents is nothing. Paper is the lesser of two evils, but we want people to use reusable bags.
- Heather- this is a political item, so we have taken a step back but have attended all meetings. This board could make a recommendation along those lines.
- Paul- the advisory board could help guide with solutions and answers. There has been some misinformation out there.
- Don- if we are going to make a change, we need to make a real change.
- Jess- based on the meetings you've attended, where is the background coming from?
- Heather- look to other communities. My recommendation is to start small, stay focused on the plastic bags and not expand too far too fast. Johnny Ziem, Mari Allan and I met and spoke about focusing on education. We had the idea of a reusable bag collection, in collaboration with High Country Linens in which we have a reusable bag drive, clean them, and stamp them with the Road to Zero Waste symbol. The people that will be paying the fee will be visitors.
- Rani- isn't that more reason to charge more?

- Mari Allan- we feel like the fee is minimal. It's the timing right now, the plastic-free movement is huge, and we are riding this wave. It will be easier to address these other plastic issues as we go.
- Don- as an organization, we want to encourage RRR, and I'm not seeing it as principled as I'd like to see.
- Heather- the plastic bag ban is the first step and will set an expectation to the community that everyone uses reusable bags. The fee is a mechanism for the person that forgets. The driving factor is to stop producing and putting plastic bags out in the community. I think if we start pushing too much to start, the plastic bag ordinance could fail.
- Jess- the tourists are going to pay regardless of the cost because they have no other option
- Don- should the board put together a motion or anything?
- Heather- I don't think so, yet. There are three readings. It would be great to have board members there to speak.
- Lorie- when it comes up before Council for the readings, do we need to say that we are not speaking as a board member but a member of the public?
- Paul- yes.
- Heather- Mari Allan and I will speak as staff, but not for or against but for information.

Compost planning

- Jess- we followed the food waste truck through Grand Teton recently. We are figuring out what to do as we collect more. It's messy.
- Heather- there have been two issues, it's been really contaminated. We've worked with the two sites that were really dirty, and it's almost back to no contamination. The other issue - the largest load in 2017 was 4 tons, they were usually more in the 2-3 tons, but this year it's been 9 tons. The goal for 2018 is to double what we collected last year. That's happening, but now we are overwhelming the West Yellowstone composting facility. Yellowstone is producing more too. We've had some meetings with the team, and we've approached Haderlie Farms about taking some of the food waste. Haderlie needs compostable bags though, while West Yellowstone Compost (WYCF) Facility needs non-compostable. We've arranged a plan to divide up the route - with half of the sites going to West Yellowstone and the other half going to Haderlie. The cost to haul to Haderlie is the same as to WYCF. The tip fee at Haderlie is \$50, so it is in the normal range for compost tip fees. Curtis Haderlie may raise it, but he'd have to raise it a lot to get anywhere close to the tip fee of \$350 per ton at WYCF.
- Paul- is Subaru helping to subsidize?
- Heather- yes, 33%, and the rest is covered between concessionaires, ISWR, TCD...
- Paul- what's the capacity of Haderlie?
- Heather- we aren't sure. It's another extension of the pilot, but not a long-term solution.
- Kent- he doesn't know that if he's using compostable plastic, those need to be completely buried or they don't break down.
- Heather- this is limited, its two businesses going to him. It's a good exercise for all involved.
- Kent- I have a problem with the compostable bags.
- Tom- he approached us for a grant. He doesn't live in our district, but he serves our district. We will probably be giving him a grant to expand his operation. We want to improve his capacity. We were concerned about the tip fee. We don't want to step on ISWR's toes.
- Don- is \$50 a ton what we are projecting for us?

- Heather- probably more like \$80 a ton, plus more for collection.
- Don- and what's downstream? Where is the West Yellowstone compost going?
- Heather- mine reclamation. It contains quite a bit of plastic. In our food waste program, we will have to leave the bag decision and marketing up to the contractor.

Landfill Closure Update, Heather Overholser and Bill Hensley

- Heather- moving on to Tuesday's commission meeting. I am submitting a change order #4 for the County's contract with Montana Civil. The main scope of work changes are a revised storm water improvement plan and additional waste excavation on the County property. It was not in the plan originally, but now we see that for many reasons it's important to excavate all the waste from the County's property. In the vicinity of the Transfer Station construction site, there were a lot of unsuitable soils that needed to come out, and the millings. We received a lot of free millings from WYDOT to create an operating surface, which will ultimately save us a lot of money. The other reason we are asking for a change order is that we need to move quickly. Montana Civil has given us competitive pricing. The landfill needs to be capped by December 2019, so we need to have the waste excavation finished in the next three months.
- Bill- The landfill closure needs to go back to design, so they need another 5 months.
- Heather- when we met with Patrick Troxel of WDEQ, he was here on site 3 weeks ago, he said that it's preferable to get all waste off County property. We have a waste transfer permit, that's what we use to operate the facility. The landfill permit is for county and forest service property at the moment. It's a grey area because the County has two permits for its property that don't usually go together. If we can have the landfill permit on the forest service property only, it will make the distinction between the two much clearer. By removing more waste, this also reduces the size of the cap. An estimated \$700,000 for capping 4 acres vs. \$288,000 for excavating waste on 4 acres. If we go this route, we will spend less in total. From pad 2 up to the landfill mass there is a slope. And that slope will have waste under it. The road has to go up the slope to the ridge. Initially we thought it would work to have the road cross the landfill cap, but now our plan is to use the ridge for composting operations. We will need to get large vehicles up the road. With this scenario, the road can't cross the landfill cap, so we have to get the waste out of the slope, and then we can steepen it and create a stable road. This all saves money. All of this work will be done by the end of October, we have funds available from the SPET and the SLIB fund, which is a 50/50 split with the state.
- Paul- this is a huge change order, \$700,000 is huge. There will be a lot of questions. It will take more education on Tuesday. You have done a nice job with providing the financial savings. But not putting it out to bid... timing, mobilization costs, fair and reasonable bids all need to be pointed out. We struggle with anything not going out to bid over \$10,000. It will be a bit of a sell to the Commissioners.
- Bill- the waste excavation is not a change order but a quantity change.
- Paul- it's an expanded quantity?
- Bill- it was bid competitively for that unit pricing for waste excavation and backfill.
- Caroline- and the extra acreage you gain.
- Bill- there are a lot of pluses, and the pluses far outweigh the negatives. The unknown of the amount of waste in this site has been the issue.
- Don- have the commissioners done a site visit?

- Kent- one point about the excavation for the old building. The hole we had to dig was enormous.
- Don- we are going to be done excavation by mid-August?
- Bill- yes
- Don- and six months for design time?
- Heather- We're planning to put it out to bid in January or February.
- Don- would it be helpful for the board if this was put in an easier-to-grasp format?
- Heather- yes, I can do that.
- Don- this has been a long haul, you've done a great job.
- Heather- as long as we get favorable bids for the landfill closure, we will be on target for the funding sources we have. If we are over, it will be a relatively small amount. That's still a big question- what kind of bids we will get for landfill closure?
- Bill- RSCI is on site, and we have our permit for the concrete batch plant. We will make our first batch next Thursday. We will do some sample runs early next week. They are currently forming the foundation for the load-out tunnel. I'm pleased with their performance so far, they are good communicators, and they have lots of people on site. As long as everyone plays nice, it's easy. So far, they are playing nice.
- Heather- the coordination is crazy out there. Between the County, Kent, Montana Civil, Bill, RSCI, and Yellow Iron.
- Bill- and completion next June?
- Heather- no its 14 months and they started in July.
- Joe- wasn't there an issue with water?
- Heather- in the scope of work, RSCI is required to provide electricity. We did look at our future needs for electricity but it's not easy. The County is supposed to provide water, but our water system isn't feasible to meet their needs. They are subbing with Terra Firma for water. TFO can provide water once a week or whatever is needed. We will be paying Terra Firma, but through RSCI. It has to be clean water, no silt. The batch plant is saving us \$750,000 to a million dollars. County facilities put out bids for consultants to look at the water supply. We need a system that has some redundancy. They selected Nelson Engineering, with a first meeting next week. We will have a report soon, and we will implement the plan within the next two years. We will eventually need water for composting, landscaping and general operations.

Recycling Center Phase 2 and Carcass Disposal Update, Heather Overholser

- Recycling Center Phase 2- Kent and I met with CTA architects yesterday. We think we can put this out to bid in January 2019.
- Carcass disposal- I've been searching for a contingency plan. Sublette said they will not take our carcasses. Lincoln County said no as well, although their response was that they don't want any wildlife carcasses, not just that they don't want Teton County carcasses. We can use our dead animal pit for about another year, otherwise we don't have much of a contingency plan. We may have to go to incineration...
- Don- our government has a contingency plan; the National Elk Refuge is building an incinerator. We should be piggy-backing on them. It's ridiculous to put in two incinerators in this valley.
- Heather- can this be elevated to a level of better collaboration between entities?
- Don- is it that they don't want to bump heads with state officials?

- Heather- one of the Elk Refuge biologists recommended that the Elk Refuge not take carcasses from outside of the refuge.
- Tom- they don't want to import other diseases. Unintended consequences, which has some ecological underpinnings.
- Heather- they could be brought in in a water-tight truck, into a contained facility.
- Rani- could it all come to the County facility and be subsidized? To me there will be community outcry.
- Don- my point is that we've got a refuge and a plan, and the rest of the organizations are excluded.
- Heather- the challenge of putting it somewhere else besides the refuge is that the majority of the carcasses come from the refuge- the rest is miniscule. The largest amount is expected to come from the refuge. It makes more sense to haul the smaller quantity to the larger.
- Lindsey- and if other counties start hauling up here?
- Kent- currently we are uninfected. They can't haul potentially-infected carcasses here yet. The fear is confining diseased animals in a small area, which is what we are doing.
- Heather- Tom made a good point, accept animals but they must be tested first. Like asbestos papers.

Other

- Tom- thank you to Heather, she came as a courtesy to our board meeting.
- Heather- We greatly appreciate TCD's support.

Motion to Adjourn, Moved: Lindsey, Second: Jess, All in favor. Meeting Adjourned 4:57.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Bell

ISWR Administrative Assistant

Approved on _____

Attest:

Don Baker, Board Chair

Jess Wireman, Secretary