

Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency

Regular Meeting, October 15, 2019, 1:30 p.m.
Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency
Environmental Education Center
1954 County Home Road
Marion, IA, 52302

PRESENT: Terry Chew, Steve Hershner, Brent Oleson, Scott Olson, Greg Smith, Susie Weinacht (via phone)

ABSENT: Mike Duffy, Marty Hoeger, Ben Rogers

STAFF: Karmin McShane, Joe Horaney, Garrett Prestegard, Zac Hornung, Tim Lukan, Celia Van Alst, Shawn Obert, Jason Evans, Sam Eckes, Brad Godwin

OTHERS: John Nieland – Marion resident, Gina Wilming – Foth, Morgan Mays – HDR

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Oleson. Chew moved to approve the minutes from the September 17th, 2019, regular meeting. Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: John Nieland, Marion resident and former Marion City Council member and Mayor addressed the board about the settlement agreement signed in 2005 between the City of Marion and the Solid Waste Agency (then Bluestem). Nieland said he was a former Agency board member, on the board during the closure of Mount Trashmore and looking at a new landfill location. He reviewed the siting process then, the reason why the former County landfill was chosen for expansion, the City of Marion's opposition and resulting litigation and the agreement reached with the Agency's board chair, resulting in the settlement agreement. Nieland said he is aware Agency representatives are considering asking the current Marion Council to consider amending the settlement, but have not presented a formal request. He said Marion citizens do not know about the possibility of a change to the settlement agreement and he would like to see the information become more publicly known so residents can contact their city council representative and give their opinion. Nieland then talked about chapter seven of the settlement agreement which addresses waste diversion activities, siting a new landfill, waste transfer, and use of alternative waste disposal technologies. Nieland says in his opinion, the Agency has not looked at alternative technologies thoroughly enough. He cited a trip made to Minneapolis while he was on the board to view an incinerator as an option. Noting the population difference between Linn County and Minneapolis, Nieland said Iowa State has an incinerator it uses, and he cited the efforts being made at the University of Iowa to end coal use and burn waste instead. Nieland also said the City of Marion reached out to those living along Highway 13 and County Home Road during expansion talks in 2005 and noted the issues farmers had with trash in their fields. He said Prospect Meadows is now a neighbor to the Agency and added landfill life will impact their operation. He said it could also affect Marion's north expansion and that operating as a transfer site is a bad idea. Nieland suggested the Agency look at a small incinerator as an alternative or look at operating a waste transfer station at a different location. He also said maybe the Agency should consider contracting with a private waste hauler and let them handle the garbage, likely transferring it out of the county. Nieland said he will address the Marion City Council this week and remind them about the settlement agreement and the need to let residents know so they can make their opinion heard. Nieland feels the agreement reached was good, valid then, and is still good now. He suggests the Agency look for alternative landfilling sites now.

Director's Report: McShane gave operations update and recommended Board approval of Addendum #9 in the board packet. Smith moved to authorize Addendum #9 to the Professional Service's Agreement with Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$161,000 for onsite operations management services, including observation, heavy equipment certification and preventative maintenance

stand operating procedures. Hershner seconded. Discussion ensued. McShane clarified Addendum #9 will be executed as a time and material contract not a lump sum basis. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS Update: Horaney provided the board with information about the Agency seeking an EMS grant for a bioreactor and wetlands project on Agency property along Indian Creek in partnership with Linn County, Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Linn Soil and Water Conservation District, Coe College Water Quality Lab, and the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.

The Agency, Republic Services, and Marion Hy-Vee are partnering for an event on America Recycles Day, Friday, November 15th, in the Resource Recovery building to educate and inform residents about the proper way to recycle and offering donuts, coffee and reusable mugs. The Agency has also developed a new jingle that will be used in ads in the future and the Communications Director will have a monthly segment on a local radio station discussing landfilling and recycling starting in November called Talking Trash.

Engineer's Report: Hornung discussed the 2019 season at the Trashmore Trails and Overlook, noting the trails will close for the year on Friday, October 18th. He said more than 4,200 people used the trails this year and provided a breakdown of users and when the most traffic was on-site. He also highlighted the many events held on Trashmore in 2019, including EcoFest, Meet Me at the Market, and the Trashmore 5K. Staff looks forward to site improvement work beginning this month and providing increased access to users next year with better amenities, as well as the Mount Trashmore Challenge.

Prestegard noted the Site 1 public meeting being held at on Thursday, October 17th at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Agency staff and members of the Site's consulting engineering firm will be available to answer questions from residents about Site 1, what is next for the closed landfill, and post-closure maintenance work at the regulated site. Wilming reviewed the information that will be used during the public meeting and gave an overview

Finance Report: Lukan asked for approval of the October 2019 account payables, noting no questions or comments were received. Hershner moved to approve October 2019 account payables in the amount of \$518,575.07. Chew seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports: Chew noted hearing Agency commercials on the local radio stations. Hershner noted arriving at 1:33pm and said he was coming from a meeting about a City of Cedar Rapids project that will affect Site 1 and encouraged the Agency to be part of the effort. Oleson said he and Olson will work with staff to put together a proposal for the board to consider that the Agency can present to the City of Marion about the settlement agreement and possible cell modification. Olson said the time to ask is now, noting the cell construction being scheduled, and to get an answer, yes or no, and move forward. Olson discussed the implications for local industry and the domino effect it could have in the community. Hershner asked about the history of the agreement and noted he is opposed to any technology that could exacerbate air quality reports and he feels there is no greater advocate for diversion than the Agency. Chew said if the Agency does not ask the question, it already knows the answer. The rest of the board concurred. Oleson said if the board approves a proposal, he will work with staff to bring it to the City of Marion and to engage the public on the reasoning behind the request and get their feedback and opinions.

Public Input: None.

Due to lack of further business, meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.