

Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency

Regular Meeting, November 19, 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 (via phone), Brent Oleson, Scott Olson, Greg Smith, Mike Duffy, Marty Hoeger, Ben Rogers

ABSENT: Susie Weinacht

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

OTHERS: Morgan Mays – HDR, Erik Miles – Marion resident, Grace King – The Gazette, Jason Moyer – KGAN, Bill Copper – Marion resident, Robin Kash – Neighborhood Network News

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Oleson. Chew moved to approve the minutes from the October 15th, 2019, regular meeting. Duffy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input: Bill Copper, Marion resident, addressed the board, noting he owns land around the Agency's Site 2 location, and attended the meeting for the cell modification discussion. He thinks it is in the best interest of Marion that the settlement agreement be followed and not changed. Copper suggested the board follow the section of the settlement that discussed finding alternative sites.

Erik Miles, Marion resident, addressed the board about the cell modification issue. He noted his role during the settlement agreement, when he served on the Linn-Mar School Board and helped form Waste Not Iowa, which looked at alternatives to landfilling. Miles said the settlement was a compromise that established the day the landfill will close. He said extending the closure date would impede the City of Marion's growth, and noted the development already around the landfill, Prospect Meadows, and the potential for more growth that an expanded cell could deter. Miles said it is good that the new cell is starting a conversation about what is next after the landfill closes, but thinks the settlement agreement should be honored. He said the Waste Not Iowa members still meet and he wants to reiterate their stance and hopes the Agency and City of Marion abide by the agreement.

Director's Report: Olson recommended the board table a discussion about cell modification and drafting a term sheet for City of Marion consideration. He suggested the board move to create a subcommittee of board members to create a proposal to take to the City of Marion about possible cell modification, pending approval by the full Agency board of directors. Oleson provided background about how the Agency has gotten to this point and sees the need for more information for the full board and its member and associate member communities. Olson and Oleson expressed the need to keep the process moving forward while providing the needed information. Oleson discussed the Agency's independent role and how board members must address the Agency's needs first, regardless of where they are appointed from. Rogers asked about the subcommittee's timeline. Smith said he supports the subcommittee and wants it to address future implications. Olson formally moved to table a discussion about cell modification and drafting a term sheet for City of Marion consideration, create a subcommittee with Oleson, Chew, Olson, and Hershner to create a draft letter and term sheet for full board consideration, that if approved by the board will be taken to the City of Marion. Smith seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS Update: Horaney reviewed winter hours of operation at the Agency's compost location, which will be open Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm, and the landfill location, which will open Monday – Friday,

7:00am – 4:00pm, Saturday 8:00 – 12:00pm. Winter hours go into effect on Monday, December 02, 2019. He also reviewed the recent public groundwater meeting, America Recycles Day event, tours at Site 1, and educational outreach and tours from local schools.

Finance Report: Lukan presented the FY'21 operating and capital budget. Programs, services and fees will remain steady, with landfill and compost tipping fees not changing. The Agency will provide recycling incentives to its member and associate member communities in FY'21. Lukan provided summary detail of the budget numbers, focusing on operating and non-operating revenues, operating expenses, capital expenditures, and cash reserves. Discussion amongst board ensued. Lukan reported the finance committee had reviewed the budget in detail and recommended the board place it on file for public review. Rogers moved to place FY'21 budget on file and set a public hearing for December 17, 2019. Chew seconded. Olson thanked Lukan and all staff for their work on the budget and hopes the public sees all the detailed information in the budget and can learn about all the services and programs available at the Agency. Motion carried unanimously.

Lukan asked the board to approve the November 2019 accounts payables in the amount of \$545,330.46, noting no questions were received from the finance committee. Olson moved to approve the November 2019 accounts payables in the amount of \$545,330.46 Rogers seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports: Chew thanked Horaney for speaking to the Marion Lions Club last week. He also said the board should make a point to schedule a review for the Executive Director and get it on a yearly schedule. Oleson thanked staff and the board for their work so far and the effort to keep things moving forward. He said the Agency will be taking garbage for another twenty-five years and will be monitoring the closed landfill for at least thirty years after that and although the board is discussing issues that will take place decades down the road, they need to be addressed now and are very important.

Public Input: Kash, citing comments from board members, noted how well managed the Agency is, as well as the City of Cedar Rapids water department. He encouraged both the City members and County members of the board to consider embracing more public utilities, such as electric, gas and internet. Kash says that would serve the public interest, not shareholders. He also said those initiatives could be financed through a public bank. He cited examples in other cities and states and asked that the City or County consider those as well. Kash said he is available to speak about that idea in further detail if wanted.

Due to lack of further business, meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.