

Cedar Rapids Linn County Solid Waste Agency

Regular Meeting, December 17, 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, Mike Duffy, Susie Weinacht

ABSENT: Marty Hoeger, Ben Rogers

STAFF: Joe Horaney, Garrett Prestegard, Zac Hornung, Tim Lukan, Celia Van Alst, Sam Eckes, Brad Godwin

OTHERS: Morgan Mays – HDR, Don McKendry – HDR

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. by Chair Oleson. Olson moved to approve the minutes from the November 19th, 2019, regular meeting. Chew seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: Weinacht moved to open public hearing on FY'21 operating and capital budget. Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing opened at 1:31 p.m. No public comment given or received. Weinacht moved to close public hearing. Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Public hearing closed at 1:32 p.m.

Public Input: None.

Engineer's Report: Prestegard asked the board to authorize Task Order 014 with HDR Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$136,950 for design, bidding, and construction phase services for the Site 2 – Phase 5 Bulk Excavation project. Prestegard described the nature of the work. Chew moved to approve Task Order 014 with HDR Engineering in the amount not to exceed \$136,950 for design, bidding and construction phase services for the Site 2 – Phase 5 Bulk Excavation project. Duffy seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Prestegard discussed the Mount Trashmore Recreational Facility Access Improvements Change Order 01 in the amount of \$30,463.62, explaining the need for the work and asked for approval. Weinacht moved to approve Mount Trashmore Recreational Facility Access Improvements – Change Order 01 in the amount of \$30,463.62. Olson seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS Update: Horaney presented Weinacht with a plaque thanking her for her years of service on the board. Horaney noted the Agency had an EMS audit and is awaiting the results. He then reviewed the year's activities at the Agency, including events, educational outreach, and operational changes.

Finance Report: Lukan recommended approval of the FY'21 operating and capital budget. Olson moved to approve FY'21 operating and capital budget. Chew seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

Lukan asked the board to approve the December 2019 accounts payables in the amount of \$670,151.05, noting no questions were received. Smith moved to approve December 2019 Accounts Payables in the amount of \$670,151.05. Duffy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Reports: Oleson said the personnel committee met and recommends the Executive Director

receive an 8.5% salary increase effective July 01, 2020. He noted the Executive Director had not received a pay adjustment in several years. Salaries of other solid waste agency executive directors were given for comparison. Olson noted the importance of keeping the salary competitive and the Executive Director's length of service. Weinacht discussed the growth the Agency has shown as an organization and supported the salary adjustment. Weinacht moved to approve Executive Director salary increase by 8.5% effective July 01, 2020. Duffy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Oleson noted the need to have a consistent Executive Director performance and salary review and recommended establishing a process for ensuring that occurs yearly. Smith moved to authorize the Accounting Manager at each August board meeting to request a personnel committee meeting, prior to each October board meeting, for the purpose of reviewing the Executive Director's annual job performance. The personnel committee will review the Executive Director's performance and make a recommendation to the full board at each October board meeting with the Executive Director's performance-based salary adjustment to be effective July 1st of the following fiscal year. Hershner seconded. Weinacht said she is glad the personnel committee is active again and working to support the Agency moving forward. Oleson noted that while there are Agency staff on the committee, the performance reviews will be done by the voting members of the board on the committee. Review forms and process were discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Oleson discussed the recreational aspects of Mount Trashmore, noting the Agency is not in the park business. He said the time is now to consider partnering with a group such as Linn County Conservation or City of Cedar Rapids Parks and Recreation Department as development in the area around Site 1 continues to grow. Such a partnership would help address access and maintenance needs and could come in the form of a 28E agreement. Olson noted the Agency's role as caretaker to the site and the long-term monitoring required of closed landfills. Oleson said he hopes a partnership will address all those issues.

Duffy asked about status of the flag proposal the Agency heard earlier in 2019. Discussion ensued. Hershner noted 99% of leaves have been collected and thanked the Agency for its cooperation in working with the City on access.

Chew informed the board he will be replaced on the Agency board in 2020. He read a prepared statement to the board for inclusion in the minutes stating, "I do not believe it is in the best interest of the Agency to make an expansion proposal to the City. The City is not just looking for the most cost effective way to dispose of waste, Marion is looking also for an environmentally efficient way to dispose of waste. The suggestion of a "host fee" will raise the question, why hasn't the Agency been collecting this fee since 2004 and putting the money aside to build some type of facility to dispose of waste without expanding the landfill and why not put the money you are proposing now along with the cost to expand the landfill towards building a disposal facility. The expansion proposal will only open old wounds and increase angst towards the Agency. I do not believe the proposal will even come to a vote of the City Council and if it does I see it being defeated 7 to 0. I believe it is a waste of staff's time and Agency resources to pursue this matter further. Therefore if I was voting to forward any proposal to expand the landfill to Marion, my vote would be NO. It has been a privilege and an honor to be Marion's representative and serve on the Agency board and I wish you all continued success. Thank you." Olson Thanked Chew for his service. He also said he has enjoyed his time on the board, learning more about the Agency and what's being done with educational efforts. Olson hopes the public will learn that the Agency is not just on the receiving end of things but is giving too. Weinacht said she appreciates the staff and the efforts made in the past year to make the Agency a stronger and better place, saying it got to this point together. She also thanked the board and the board chair for their work to help the entire region. Weinacht thanked Chew for his service. Olson noted new board members coming from the City of Cedar Rapids, pending final approval. Oleson noted the Agency's legal representative will be at the January board meeting to discuss each board members role as an Agency representative. Oleson said it is the role of board members to advocate for what is in the Agency's best interest first, not the City or County each member is appointed from, saying they wear a different hat when

on the board. Choices cannot be influenced by an outside entity.

Public Input: None.

Due to lack of further business, meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.