

MINUTES
St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Solid Waste Subcommittee
Northland Office Building,
1st Floor Environmental Services Conference Room #118
Virginia, Minnesota
January 21, 2016

Call to Order: Commissioner Steve Raukar called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m. Introductions followed.

Members Present: Commissioner Keith Nelson, Commissioner Steve Raukar, and Commissioner Tom Rukavina.

Others Present: Dave Fink, Diane Hildreth, Chip Lewis, JoAnn Newman, and Mark St. Lawrence Environmental Services Department; Jim Nephew, St. Louis County Attorney's Office; Chris Schlotec, Northern Minnesota Recycling

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Rukavina the minutes of the August 13, 2015, Solid Waste Subcommittee (SWSC) meeting were approved as presented.

Due to Commissioner Nelson having a prior commitment the public comment period of the agenda followed the Director's Update.

Ongoing Business:

Director's Update: Mark St. Lawrence distributed a copy of the Director's Report. Items from the Director's Report discussed by the group included: Having Department staff at the St. Louis County Fair and the Embarrass Fair in 2016. Utilization of Sentencing to Service (STS) program crews to pick up/clean up litter at County sites and illegal dumping sites. The Department will look into the license requirements to breakdown E-Waste before the items are shipped to reduce the amount of haulage and processing costs.

2016 Solid Waste Service Fees: Department staff reviewed the solid waste service fees on seasonal properties. Mark St. Lawrence gave a residential/seasonal service fee revenue evaluation to the SWSC, discussed the current fee structure and three alternative service fee options. Discussion from the SWSC followed. The consensus from the SWSC was there is justification for an increase due to the fact that the cost of operating the supporting system for recycling has increased. The Department will calculate the projected administrative costs needed to cover the increases and analyze which fee option will be able to accomplish this. At this time, Commissioner Rukavina made a motion to table this item until the cost analysis and fees are reviewed. This will be added as an agenda item at the next SWSC meeting. [This item was addressed via email between the SWSC and ESD and the recommended fee approved by the County Board in 2016.]

Public Comment Period: Chris Schlotec, Northern Minnesota Recycling addressed the SWSC members about the recyclable materials haulage and processing contract between Northern Minnesota Recycling, Inc. (NMR) and St. Louis County. Schlotec provided background information on the recycling facility, gave a brief overview of past contracts and discussed how the increase in minimum wage has had an impact on the current contract. Schlotec asked the SWSC for consideration to increase the amount of the current contract. Discussion from the group followed and this item will be added to the next SWSC agenda for further discussion.

Waste Management, Inc. Update: Mark St. Lawrence provided background information on Waste Management's plan to re-permit the demolition industrial waste landfill in Canyon to accept Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). St. Lawrence stated that the MPCA's policy has been for entities to work with the local unit of government before contacting the MPCA directly. The Department's Solid Waste Management Plan currently states that the Regional Landfill accommodates the needs of the County's Solid Waste Management Area and there would be no need for an additional MSW landfill within this service area. The last permitted MSW landfill in the state of Minnesota was the Regional Landfill in 1993. The Solid Waste Ordinance 45 requires a per ton fee be paid directly to St. Louis County to address future environmental issues.

Discussion by the SWSC followed regarding the County's involvement in the re-permitting of Waste Management's Voyageurs Landfill in Canyon. The consensus was that this is a regional issue and more information about long term options is needed. Department staff will evaluate this further and update the Commissioners at the next SWSC meeting.

At this time Commissioner Rukavina left the meeting.

Regional Landfill: Dave Fink discussed the Leachate/MSW handout he distributed to the SWSC. St. Louis County started using the Regional Landfill in November of 1993 and Fink discussed the amounts of MSW landfilled and leachate generated over the past 23 years. The average amount of leachate sprayed each year is approximately five million gallons. The Department continues to spray leachate in compliance with established MPCA rules and regulations. Nitrogen levels are being monitored closely by MPCA staff. Department staff have completed the MPCA Annual Landfill Report and have estimated there is approximately 25 years of permitted capacity remaining at the Regional Landfill. Discussion from the SWSC on developing a partnership with Minnesota Power to determine the feasibility of installing solar panels at the Regional Landfill followed. Department staff will also explore financial sources.

The Department continues to work on the mine land reclamation research project with the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI). NRRI has been developing the site as a replacement bio solids application area with funding from the state's Clean Water Fund. To date, 5000 cubic yards of dredge material has been trucked into the demonstration site. The replacement site is expected to be permitted by the end of 2016.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program Update: Chip Lewis provided the SWSC with background information on the HHW Program. Currently HHW is accepted from homeowners only. Businesses within the St. Louis County Environmental Services Management Area that generate less than 100 pounds of hazardous waste annually are classified as Minimal Quantity (MQ) generators. MQ generators are able to dispose of their hazardous waste through the St. Louis County Hazardous Waste Program. Businesses within the St. Louis County Environmental Services Management Area that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste monthly are classified as Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG). St. Louis County contracts with the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD) Clean Shop Program to hold three VSQG collections each year. Department staff are working with the MPCA to expand the HHW Program to accept VSQG business waste by appointment at the two HHW facilities. Discussion from the SWSC followed.

Lewis informed the SWSC that St. Louis County received approximately \$30,000 in 2015 from the PaintCare Program.

Director St. Lawrence stated that fluorescent bulbs are accepted at the Regional Landfill during regular hours of operation. Staff and the general public will be informed.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting is tentatively scheduled for April. Date and time to be determined later.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Raukar.