

MINUTES
St. Louis County Board of Commissioners Solid Waste Subcommittee
Northland Office Building,
1st Floor Environmental Services Conference Room #118
Virginia, Minnesota
August 13, 2015

Call to Order: Steve Raukar called the meeting to order at 11 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves.

Members Present: Commissioner Keith Nelson, Commissioner Steve Raukar, and Commissioner Tom Rukavina. Commissioner Pete Stauber (absent)

Others Present: Kevin Gray, St. Louis County Administrator; Dave Fink, Diane Hildreth, JoAnn Newman, Mark St. Lawrence and John Strukel Environmental Services Department (Department); Tom Lucas, Northeast Technical Services and Chris Schlotec, Northern Minnesota Recycling.

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion by Commissioner Nelson and second by Commissioner Rukavina the minutes of the April 8, 2015, Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting were approved as presented.

Director's Update: St. Lawrence handed out a copy of the Director's Report. Items from the Director's report discussed by the group included: The Department will look into the feasibility of a building for storage of recyclable materials at the Regional Landfill Recycling Facility.

Ongoing Business:

Regional Landfill: After providing a brief background, Dave Fink updated the group on the leachate spray irrigation system expansion project at the Regional Landfill. The Department amended the landfill permit to include the new spray area and received temporary Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) approval in 2014. The MPCA engineer overseeing the Regional Landfill permit informed the Department that the permit would be issued by the end of 2015. This year leachate spraying was not limited by the nitrogen levels based on the chemistry of the leachate in the storage ponds and the ponds are anticipated to be at minimal levels going into next year. Fink stated that closure of Phase 1/1A of the Regional Landfill, approximately eleven acres, will take place in 2017.

Kangas Contract Extension: Mark St. Lawrence gave a summary of the work history, past contracts and the current contract the Department has with Kangas Excavating. The Department has opened up this contract for review and is negotiating with Kangas Excavating. Department personnel will work closely with Administration and the Attorney's Office during this process. Discussion from the group followed. St. Lawrence will present the SWSC members with proposed recommendations at the next SWSC meeting. The recommendations will be brought forward to the County Board for final approval.

Electronics Recycling Program: John Strukel gave a brief overview of the Department's electronics recycling program. The current contract ended in June. Department staff worked with the Purchasing Department on bids for a new contract. Electronic Manufacturers Recycling Management Company, LLC (MRM) was the lowest bidder. MRM will collect the first 200,000 pounds of electronics for free. Last year the Department collected 640,000 pounds of electronics. The Department will incur an additional \$100,000 in costs under the new contract. The Department presented the increased costs of this contract to the County Board for approval.

Scrap Metal Recycling Program: Mark St. Lawrence reviewed the scrap metal program and contract with the group. The Department entered into an agreement with Quad City Recycling in 2011. The Department receives an estimated \$40,000 per year in revenue when the contract is fully executed. The Department has not received any payments since July, 2014. Quad City Recycling has restructured and stated they would make good with their obligations with the county on the monies owed. Department staff are currently working with County Purchasing and the Attorney's office to enforce the terms of the contract. The contract will expire December 31, 2015 and the Purchasing Department issued a request for proposals.

Lakehead Environmental/St. Louis County Cedar Ridge Lease: Mark St. Lawrence gave an overview of the lease. The Department is currently not using soil from the Cedar Ridge site as cover material at the Regional Landfill. Lakehead has contacted the Department about extending the lease which expires August, 2016. Department staff along with the County Attorney and Property Management staff are working to make minor amendments to the contract and extend the lease to August, 2018. Department staff will review the final contract language with Lakehead Environment and once reviewed, the Department intends to move forward with the amended agreement to the County Board for approval. Commissioner Nelson made a motion in favor of the amendment. Motion to support by Commissioner Rukavina. Motion passed.

2016 Proposed fee schedule adjustments: Mark St. Lawrence gave a handout and reviewed the proposed fee increases with the Commissioners. The Department is looking to increase the demolition waste fees from \$40 per ton to \$42 per ton; increase the out of county demolition waste fees from \$54 per ton to \$56 per ton; increase the fees for televisions and computer monitors less than 19 inches from \$1.50 to \$3, and from \$3 to \$6 for televisions and computer monitors larger than 19 inches; increase the out of county fees for televisions and computer monitors less than 19 inches from \$6 to \$12 and from \$12 to \$18 for televisions and computer monitors larger than 19 inches; and establish a fee of \$30 per ton or \$7.50 per cubic yard for brush, branches and trees from commercial haulers. Motion to recommend the fees to the County Board was made by Commissioner Rukavina and supported by Commissioner Nelson.

Service Fees: Mark St. Lawrence gave a handout and reviewed the proposed fee increases with the Commissioners. City of Virginia staff sent a letter to the Environmental Services Department asking to change the service fees to incorporate apartments by the number of units in a building rather than by real estate value. Department staff analyzed the service fee information and at this time, the Department does not plan on increasing the service fees for residential customers. The Department is proposing an increase to the commercial service fees and St. Lawrence reviewed the amount of units affected and the increase in cost. The current commercial fees range from \$60 to \$180 and the proposed commercial fees would be \$90 to \$608 based on current market values. The proposed amount in revenue collected from commercial properties would increase from \$453,570 to \$610,110. Discussion from the group followed. Department staff will work with Administration to review the proposed fee structure, compare the proposed fees with WLSSD and Itasca County; and add future escalators to the service fee structure. The updated information will be given to the Commissioners for review. Commissioner Rukavina would like the Department to review the Residential and Seasonal Recreation service fees.

Public Comment Period: There were no comments from the general public at this meeting.

Scheduling Next Meeting: The next Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting was not set at this meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Commissioner Nelson and supported by Commissioner Rukavina to adjourn.