

**MINUTES**  
**ADA COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**October 27, 2021**  
**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**WEBEX**

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Rollcall:**

<b>X</b> Peter McCullough	<b>X</b> Richard Llewellyn
<b>X</b> Steve Cory	<b>X</b> David Hershey
<b>X</b> James Pavelek	

**Ex-Officio Members**

Mark Fulwiler	Bob Bennett
Chad Gordon	David Dean
<b>X</b> Mike Murgioitio	

**III. Action Items**

- a. Agenda Approval:** Peter McCullough motion to approve agenda. Steve Cory second.
- b. Approval of Minutes:** Peter McCullough motion to approve minutes from July 2021 meeting. James Pavelek second.

**IV. New Business**

**a. New landfill rate structure-Tom Otte**

- i.** We are looking to make a rate structure that will have a net negative effect on air space. Items that cannot compact will cost more to dispose of at the landfill, and items that can compact or produce beneficial gas will cost less to dispose of. We have found that having one price for all materials is difficult to entice people to divert their material. We would like to get some feedback on this during the January meeting.
  - 1.** Steve Cory: Is the intention for this to become effective beginning in FY2023?
    - a.** Tom Otte: Yes, we want to give all the municipalities plenty of time to look it over, make changes, and get commissioner approval.
  - 2.** Sayard Schultz: Is the rate for tiered items going to be based on weight? Since metal is recyclable, will there be a weight rate as well?
    - a.** Tom Otte: In this iteration, metal is a recycled product so there would be no price per ton to drop it off. But if they brought in MSW their rate would be the price per ton.
    - b.** Sayard Schultz: When you separate out the recycling items, is that based on certain materials that already have a robust market?
    - c.** Tom Otte: Yes, it's based on items that we can recycle or already recycle.
    - d.** Sayard Schultz: Would this change each year depending on the market?
    - e.** Tom Otte: We are hoping to keep this pricing for 5 years. We want to review every 5 years so we don't cause confusion to the public.
    - f.** Sayard Schultz: Will you still accept bio-solids and will the rate change on that?
    - g.** Tom Otte: We will continue to accept bio-solids but the rate per ton would likely change because bio-solids contain a lot of PFAS. We are doing what we can to mitigate the cost of removing the PFAS but because it does have a net negative effect, it would cost more to landfill.
  - 3.** Peter McCullough: I think what might help the group is a short timeline of the implementation of this proposed structure so we can plan ahead and let our elected officials know what our timing is on that.

- a. Tom Otte: Absolutely. Our goal for today is to get this presented to our stakeholders. We would like to get our first round of feedback at our meeting in January. Then we would take that feedback and re-present it in the March meeting where we would try to finalize what we want to present to the commissioners. We would like to have that back to everyone before our July meeting so everyone can take it back to their elected officials. We would like to take that rate proposal to the commissioners in April. Then have the public hearing for that in either August or September and have it go into effect October 1, 2022.
- 4. Richard Llewellyn: If I'm understanding this correctly, the landfill is looking to implement their own composting program at the landfill, is that correct?
  - a. Tom Otte: That is correct. Our goal is to explore the ability and acceptability to do that.
- 5. Peter McCullough: Can you please explain the difference in rate between compacted and non-compacted MSW? Why is non-compacted less per ton?
  - a. Tom Otte: Non-compacted material tends to be easier to compact on the working face. Compacted material is more condensed and has more air and liquid removed so we can't get quite as good compaction. These numbers are just placeholders to show the relationship we'd like to have between material types. These are by no means set in stone.
- b. New citizen representative to fill absent seat – Open discussion**
  - i. Tom Otte: Ideally, we would like someone who has knowledge of the industry or at least a large interest in what is going on with the waste industry. We would love to hear nominations. There is no timeline because we will still meet quorum with the citizen position remaining open. It's just spot that is open for anyone who can fit the position.
- c. Expanded contractor hours at the landfill – Tom Otte**
  - i. Tom Otte: Both Hardin and Republic Services have been receiving more material than usual. About 6 months ago we started opening the landfill at 5am to these contractors, and after further discussion, we are now opening for transfer trucks at 6:30am.
  - ii. Richard Llewellyn: We are noticing the increase in the early hour noise. Because we do haul on these dedicated routes in our neighborhood, there is an impact and we're expecting that impact to increase.
    - 1. Tom Otte: So far we have had zero complaints.
    - 2. Mike Murgotio: I'd like more feedback on this. If it's noticed that there is a safer time period for the trucks to travel.
      - a. Richard Llewellyn: I won't comment on that right now. Thank you.
  - iii. Sayard Schultz: Does Ada County have a noise ordinance?
    - 1. Tom Otte: There is a noise ordinance, but trucks driving on the road doesn't violate it.
- d. Goose Creek fire – Tom Otte**
  - i. Tom Otte: About three weeks ago there was a fire that occurred in the Eagle Bike Park area. The total area burned was 450 acres and the landfill property burn area was 311 acres. No structures were damaged, and no people were at risk. We are working on mitigation and replanting efforts. We are looking into what we can do for improvement. We would like to be able to implement a notification plan to be able to contact stakeholders and contractors in case we need to shut down the landfill.
  - ii. Sayard Schultz: Will the messaging be an email that is sent out to the city representatives and will you verify that you have the correct stakeholder information?
    - 1. Tom Otte: Our goal was just to be able to have a candid email with the reason and timeframe for re-opening. We would like to have 2-3 contacts for each location in case one contact is unavailable.

iii. Richard Llewellyn: I am glad to hear that you are starting some restoration efforts. We lost about 30 acres of land that we have been managing for wildlife habitat. We are having a hard time running down resources for restoration on our property. The neighborhood got together to discuss a few topics. We were curious as to what would happen if a fire did get into the Hidden Hollow Cell. Bob West was concerned that the gates that BLM would have accessed were now locked and slowed down their response.

1. Tom Otte: We would shut down the vacuums to the system so it wouldn't be pulling the fire in. With it being a capped landfill, what usually happens in other capped landfills is it usually burns the top layer of material and then there is a little bit of residual fire from gas that is escaping due to the system being shut down. Most of the time they burn out in a day or two right over the cell.

a. Peter McCullough: Was the vacuum shut down in this fire?

i. Tom Otte: It was not shut down. We want to make sure we are capturing as much gas as possible. We also don't want the gas to migrate so it would be our goal to keep the vacuum on and only shut it off as a last resort.

**e. Courthouse booked, possible venues for SWAC meetings – Open discussion**

i. Tom Otte: Kimberly Parker checked with the courthouse about reserving the public hearing room for our SWAC meetings for the next year and every date is booked. We were wondering if meeting virtually was something that we want to continue or see if any of the SWAC members have any location suggestions.

1. Peter McCullough: From the City of Boise's perspective with the ongoing pandemic issues, we'd like to keep it to online meetings for now, but happy to look at in-person areas in the future.

2. Steve Cory: We are okay with continuing the WebEx meetings.

3. Commissioner Ryan Davidson: If you want to use the courthouse, the commissioners hearing room is large enough for social distancing, so I thought I'd just throw that out there.

4. Peter McCullough: I think we can just keep the meetings as they are now and keep the commissioners hearing room in mind if need be. How would people feel about moving the time of the meeting so we don't interfere with people's lunch time?

a. Richard Llewellyn: I'm fine with the time change and doing online meetings but it would be nice to have a yearly in-person meeting.

b. Steve Cory: I'm comfortable with moving earlier in the day.

c. Tom Otte: 10:30am would work great for this.

d. Peter McCullough: Motion to move the SWAC meeting time to 10:30am. Richard Llewellyn second.

**V. Old Business**

**VI. Other Business**

**a. City Updates**

**i. Boise**

1. Peter McCullough: Our compost expansion is underway and hoping to be complete by January 2022. We are also looking into doing USCC certification for our compost. We have drop-off locations for leaves in Boise. We are looking at implementing a waste reduction policy to help prevent so much waste from being generated at events in the city of Boise. The demolition waste ordinance is going well. We have diverted almost 900 tons of waste with that ordinance. The waste that is diverted is concrete, wood, metal and appliances.

**ii. Meridian**

1. **Introduction of new Meridian Solid Waste Manager-Steve Cory**

- a. Steve Cory: Two months ago we brought Sayard Schultz into the City of Meridian. She has a lot of ideas that have been done in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area.
- b. Sayard Schultz: I started in August and I'm learning the ropes about Meridian, Boise, and the landfill. Just working on doing more projects and outreach. I am working on our waste management plan. Are any of the cities doing any outreach on leaf recycling? We are also doing leaf recycling and have 9 roll offs and have a minimal amount of contamination. We have noticed that the bags have been taped and wanted to get feedback on if others are having this issue.
  - i. Mike Murgotio: We have seen this in the past as well as people putting their leaves in plastic bags. We do have a system in place to manage that material right now, but the more outreach the better.
  - ii. Tom Otte: The City of Meridian has a video that was created about not securing the bags with anything.
  - iii. Peter McCullough: We have had some outreach in our newsletters and social media. Informing people what to do and what not to do. Maybe next year we will add "no tape" in the instructions.

### **iii. Garden City**

- 1. James Pavelek: We have our leaf recycling bin on 38<sup>th</sup> street. We do social media to do outreach to our citizens. We also tell them the leaf pickup range on social media.

### **iv. Eagle-No Representative**

### **v. Star-No Representative**

### **vi. Kuna**

- 1. Chad Gordon: We are also doing leaf pickup and we are trying to do everything curbside, so we have more control of what people are disposing. Our electric truck project is going extremely well. They've been in service since February, and they collect about 800 homes a day. Hopefully by the end of next year we will have a couple more trucks to get all our residential homes picked up by electric trucks.
  - a. Peter McCullough: Have you noticed any decline on the range of those trucks due to the colder weather?
    - i. Chad Gordon: We got the trucks in January and the thing we see the most is that the heating system inside the truck does consume a large amount of energy compared to the air conditioning in the summer. The trucks are leaving our station in the morning at 100% battery and return at the end of the day with 30%-40% battery.

## **b. Contractor Updates**

### **i. Republic Services-No Representative**

### **ii. Hardin Sanitation**

- 1. Mike Doyle: We'll be doing leaf pickup through November. Our leaf packet was sent out with bills and on social media.
  - a. Peter McCullough: I am curious if Hardin is fully staffed right now.
  - b. Mike Doyle: We've been fairly fortunate, but we are looking for a few drivers.

### **iii. Timber Creek Recycling**

- 1. Mike Murgotio: We've had some good site tours since our last meeting. We are still doing tours until Thanksgiving. Concrete is still doing good. We have not started advertising the sale of material yet since we don't think we have enough to

meet demand yet. Once we have a stockpile, we will advertise it. We are going to expand on our food waste for animal feed.

**iv. Western Recycling-No Representative**

**c. Other Updates**

**i. Ada County landfill**

1. Tom Otte: I would like to introduce our Finance Manager, Barbie Cogan. She has been helping with the Cost of Service Study and we will be using that as part of our rate discussion.

a. Sayard Schultz: Did you hire a new specialist?

i. Tom Otte: No, we did not hire a new Education and Outreach Specialist yet. If you know of anyone who'd be interested, please have them apply.

**ii. Ada County Commissioner**

1. Commissioner Ryan Davidson: We are meeting with the parks department and they are asking for a waiver for the landfill. The Commissioners previously denied a request from the City of Eagle because we didn't have a policy in place about charitable waivers of fees. Perhaps we can work on some policies or guidelines on when landfill fees can be waived for charitable or public uses.

a. Tom Otte: The only guidelines that we found were that we could make a recommendation to the Commissioners on whether or not fees are waived. As far as the Barber Park project, the landfill would recommend to the Commissioners that the fees be waived for this project due to the amount of waste that cannot be recycled is negligible compared to what we are taking in.

b. Commissioner Ryan Davidson: We are looking for long-term guidelines for how we would make a decision on these requests so it's not arbitrary on a case-by-case basis. It would be helpful for Commissioners to have a policy started.

c. Tom Otte: I would love to take the lead on that, Commissioner.

**VII. Next Meeting Date: January 26, 2022**

**VIII. Adjournment: 12:50pm**

*Any person needing special accommodations to participate in the above noticed meeting should contact the Ada County Solid Waste Department at 208-577-4725.*

*If you would like to listen to the SWAC meeting, email Tom Otte at [totte@adacounty.id.gov](mailto:totte@adacounty.id.gov) for the link.*

Material type	Rate/Ton	Justification	Included wastes	Future considerations
Mixed CD	\$160	Largest negative effect on airspace without beneficial gas generation or settling	Concrete, asphalt, shingles, painted wood, drywall, PVC, gravel, paving stones, landscape rock, land fill	
Segregated CD	\$15	Material will be diverted. This fee will cover processing and handling.	single stream of any of the above material that can be diverted (will depend on diversion programs)	
Non-compacted MSW	\$25	This can be compacted and will often produce some beneficial gas	Non-compacted general home or commercial waste. Includes food, small food containers, yard waste,	
Compacted MSW	\$29	This material cannot be as compacted but may produce beneficial gas	Same as above but generally speaking material would come in from route trash trucks.	
Transfer trucks waste	\$25	This material is excellent for flow control and reduces daily truck	Transfer trucks from any hauler	
Biosolids	\$50	This material is difficult to control and may increase PFAS. Can assist in beneficial gas generation.	Waste usually generated from wastewater treatment plants	
Segregated metal	\$0	Taken to recycle area	Metal for metal recycle box only, no other waste	
Segregated Cardboard/fiber products	\$0	Taken to recycle area	Clean cardboard and paper	
Asbestos	\$160	Regulated and classified. Requires individual staff time and GPS data	Asbestos	
Green Waste	\$25	Material will compact and create beneficial gas	Grass clippings, garden waste, kitchen scraps, leaves, yard debris, fruit	Material may be diverted in the future
Tires	\$15	Must be taken offsite for processing	Tires	May move processing onsite
Mortality	\$29	Required classified waste paperwork	Animal carcasses	