

**Updated and Approved Minutes**  
**ADA COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 25, 2023**

**In attendance:** Steve Cory, Richard Llewellyn, Peter McCullough, James Pavelek, Sayard Schultz

**Also attending:** Holly Thorne (for Tracy Osborn), Mark Fulwiler, Mike Murgoitio, Bob Bennett, Bruce Krisko, Tom Otte, Debbie Scott, Rebecca Weeks, Robert Avieva, Rachele Klein, Catherine Chertudi, Jennifer Lightfoot, Konrad McDannel, Steve Rutherford, and Commissioner Ryan Davidson

**Action Item: Landfill Rate Structure**

**Bruce Krisko, Director: Intro**

Requesting support and understanding. Major positive transitions at landfill in past year- reorganization, culture-building, financial reviews. Now running with qualified staff to make this a successful department.

When the landfill was switching from volume-based tipping fees to weight based, a calculated conversion rate of \$33.00/ton from the \$11.00/CY rate was questioned. Led to cost-of-service survey by Great West Engineering in early 2020 that set the tipping fee rate to \$29.00/ton. GWE Excel workbook showed \$34.69/ton in 2019. Cost of Service study erroneously removed the ongoing fund balance requirements as a one-time expense from the closure cross section of the budget. The labor was from capital improvements and valued at 2.7 million. This line was removed from the \$34.69 per ton calculation. Tipping fees should have been set at min of \$33/ton. \$29/ton is a price reduction from the previous landfill management.

Covid, supply chain, hyperinflation, and growth not considered. General fund has been infused with tax dollars from increased property values and population growth. Landfill not benefitted from this growth but only the burden of taking the increased waste stream.

The second important issue concerns funds 117 NRC cell development, 126 cap and closure of the NRC, and 127 future landfill development.

Fund 117 future NRC cell development. Balance is approximately 12.7 million dollars that will go to near zero by this fall. Funds will need to be recharged to cover costs of NRC Phase 5 construction -up to 20 million dollars including lead remediation.

Fund 126 NRC cap and closure fund set at 3.9 million dollars. Required to be funded by state statute in the Idaho Solid Waste Facilities Act of 1995. Should have started in FY 1996. Estimated by Great West Engineering to be 138 million and Jacobs Engineering figures put it close to 155 million needed by 2065. Largest project ever taken on by Ada County.

Fund 127 is for the next landfill development -1.3 million. Actual estimate depends on location, specific construction requirements, and permitting. Needs to be in place prior to the cap and closure of the NRC. Estimated fund balance up to 65 to 70 million prior 2065.

Environmental Protection Agencies PFAS and PFOS requirements for landfills. Scheduled to come out in August. Hoping ARPA Leachate Pond project will help mitigate. Charging considerations for biosolids from municipal treatment plants.

### **Debbie Scott, Budget and Finance Officer: Rate Increase Presentation**

New at ACLF, 30 years in industry, 8-9 at county in AP, Assets. Established more stringent procurement policy than Co required. Track every dollar spent. All requests go through her.

2020 Cost of Service study reviewed. 2.6 million removed from 2020 analysis. Assumed that it was accrued- should not be one time cost. No accrual found. Removed to bring it back to \$29/ton. Difference from \$29/ton and \$34.69 as amount assumes \$2.69 million cost was accrued over prior periods and was paid out of fund balances. Should not be recognized as a onetime annual cost. Arbitrarily removed to bring it back to \$29/ton. Need to meet Title 40 requirement.

Jacobs Engineering estimates Stage 4 to be 11 million. 68.7 million for stages 5-9 into 2049. 14.4 million spent in FY18. Estimated 155 million for future landfill. 7.5 million as conservative cost. Need to save 224.8 million (6.4 annually). In FY19-21 no adjustments were made in the budget to plan for this.

Need to adjust for inflation, get costs in order, estimate future needs and competitive wages. Need to update and review current Cost of Services study.

### **Steve Cory, SWAC Chairman: Questions and Comments**

Discussion of increase- 25% too large, too soon?

\$29 to \$36.25/ton

Immediate need- 5 years to capture needed funds.

Concern about changing rates now after budgeting done. Take time with reviewing numbers...

Actual need is 30% increase.

Incentives for diversion...change rates in tandem...need to cover diversion costs, not subsidize

Need more time...

New software will help

Need to agree before we discuss with community

Annual auditing in place

Need stopgap

Compromise? Round to \$31.50?

Rediscover FY25 w/diversion, review time, etc.

\$32.77 (CPI increase)?

Split difference- \$32/ton?

More discussion and info requested.

Motion made to go to \$32/ton for FY24. Seconded. 2 - yes. 1 - no. 1 - abstain.

Motion passes.

### **Adjournment**