

## TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2017

Members Present: Don Baker; Jim Van Vliet; Bob Arndt; Joe Kola; Phil Cameron; Andi Psmithe; and, Lorie Cahn (via phone).

Others Present: Commissioner Paul Vogelheim; Heather Overholser, ISWR Superintendent; Caroline Sheahan, ISWR Financial Accountant; Kent Jasperson, ISWR Solid Waste and Recycling Manager; Mac Dukart, ISWR Waste Diversion Outreach Coordinator; Mari Allan Hanna, ISWR Admin Assistant; Chris Finley, Grand Teton National Park Ex-Officio; Margaret Wilson, Grand Teton National Park; Herb Brooks, JH Mountain Resort Ex-Officio; Johnny Ziem, Town of Jackson Ex-Officio; Ted Van Holland, Teton County resident; Rani Carr, Teton County resident; Jennifer Boysen, Westbank Sanitation; Sarah Steinwand, Straw Free Jackson Hole; Julie Ice Rainey, Teton County visitor

3:09pm: Meeting called to order by Phil Cameron at ISWR.

### Introductions

#### Discussion of Minutes from December 2016

- Correction to December minutes:
  - Todd Graus – Anaerobic digestion fermentation of green waste to livestock silage is proven.
  - Ken – Yes, but not of MSW.
  - Todd's company, BioPac'r™ offers solutions for diversion of grass clippings from landfill, offering compactors, generating silage from clippings and is working with a waste management company on a large project. Phil will share additional info with meeting attendees.

Motion to approve December Minutes with changes, Moved: Joe, Second: Katie, All in favor, motion carried.

#### Report from Board Chairman: Phil Cameron

- Welcome Jim. Excited for your expertise and addition to the board. Anything to share?
  - Jim – Teton County resident for 15+ years; Naval Academy alumnus; Expertise in nuclear submarine operations, radioactive waste disposal at Idaho National Laboratory and in Texas; Worked with ISWR board member, Lorie Cahn, on contamination remediation project Long Island, NY; Interested in discovering and participating in ISWR board business.
- Did everyone receive the Building Better Boards workshop information? Heather sent an email to board members with additional information. The workshop is intended for government board

participants. Phil will attend. Board attendance can positively influence certain grant applications submitted by ISWR.

- Phil will circulate current ISWR board committee rosters. The goal is to make sure these committees are meeting the needs of both ISWR staff and board members. Any questions?
  - Heather – Let Mari Allan know which committee(s) you would like to be on.
  - Andi – When are committee meetings?
    - Heather – some are ad hoc. Some are regularly scheduled.
    - Andi – Where does staff need most help?
    - Heather – Dead animals (Facilities); Composting will expand in coming months; Zero Waste needs will pick up again soon.
  - Phil – The expectation is that board members participate in at least 2 committees, but anyone is welcome to attend any/all.

**Report from County Commissioner, Paul Vogelheim:**

- Congratulations on newly remodeled ISWR office.
- Welcome Jim Van Vliet. The caliber of ISWR board candidates is always high. This is a reflection of the importance of the work that this board does.
- Changes in BCC leadership – Mark Newcomb chair; Natalia Macker vice-chair; liaison decisions to be made next month.
- Report on recent Chronic Wasting Disease Forum
  - It is inevitable that the disease will enter Teton County.
  - The topic of carcass handling is important.
  - ISWR will play a role in determining solutions, which will require collaboration with state and federal organizations. Heather is in conversations with Wyoming Game and Fish and others.
  - An incinerator was considered but not approved as a SPET ballot item.
  - High publicity - the article about the forum was featured on the front page of the News and Guide and picked up by AP.
- Thank you, Heather, for excellent BCC communication. Workshops are very effective in keeping the BCC informed of ISWR information.
- Recommends participation in the upcoming Building Better Boards workshop. The workshop will address best practices and will include a wide spectrum of expertise. Scheduled presenters include Keith Gingery, Donna Baur and Sherry Daigle from Teton County.
- Commends efforts in zero waste by Hole Food Rescue. Ali Dunford and Hole Food Rescue are operating successfully (i.e. Jackson Cupboard program) and moving toward expansion. Advantageous for ISWR to initiate/continue collaboration toward zero waste.
- Questions?
  - Johnny – Cost of incinerator?
    - Heather - \$600,000 is best estimate, but still exploring options.
  - Commissioner Vogelheim - Dead animal pit closure date?

- Heather – Requesting extension to fall 2019. Internal deadline is spring of 2018 to coincide with landfill capping completion.
- Commissioner Vogelheim - Is it possible to transport CWD animals across state lines?
- Heather – It’s possible, but Idaho does not want infected animals coming into areas where the disease does not already exist. Additional challenges: transport is not cost effective. Refrigerated transport may be necessary even with incineration.
- Phil – Any additional considerations for ISWR as budget season approaches?
  - PV – Budget discussions have not yet begun, but it is helpful to have ISWR CIP to understand the details of upcoming capital projects.
  - Heather – Regarding CIP, initially, Phase 2 of the Recycling Center improvement plan was included in the 2018 CIP. ISWR would like to push this project back until 2019. The need is not as immediate, and this rescheduling will allow increased attention to landfill capping and the Road to Zero Waste plan.

### **Additional Introductions**

*(Phil paused the meeting to allow some additional meeting attendees to introduce themselves)*

- Julie Ice Rainey – a Teton County visitor and flight attendant who travels frequently through JH Airport. She is an avid recycler and came to the meeting in search of more information and access to recycling for incoming flight crews for the materials they are unloading from aircraft.
- Andi – Now working at United Airlines and has not encountered information for internal recycling. It appears that the only recycling services are intended for airport visitors, not staff.
- Margaret – Received a call from a JH Airport board member who noticed recycling issues. She has a meeting planned and will let ISWR know about the discussion. Margaret also mentioned a conversation with two airport employees at Eco-Fair who were frustrated with the lack of recycling at the airport.
- Mac – JH Airport delivers a recycling trailer regularly and is an RRR member.
- Heather – Plan to stay in contact with Margaret regarding further discussion.

### **Waste To Energy (WTE) Follow Up from December meeting, Phil Cameron:**

- Ken Small and Paul Hansen presented on WTE at the ISWR board meeting last month. They are requesting a feasibility study of WTE technology for Teton County.
- ISWR board and staff to discuss whether to pursue.
- Additional information provided to the board via email from Heather, “Questions to Ask When Evaluating a Waste to Energy Incinerator Project of Proposal” – *Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA)*.
- Do we want to pursue this and when?
  - Heather:

- Current projects - landfill capping and the Road to Zero Waste – are separate and necessary, regardless of WTE technology consideration.
  - Past research by prior ISWR board members and staff has shown that WTE is not the right fit for Teton County.
  - Time and resources are of concern due to the number and scope of current projects underway at ISWR.
- Don – Several concerns:
  - Lack of information/understanding regarding WTE economics.
  - Air quality
  - Conflicts with Road to Zero Waste ideology.
- Heather – Met with Doug Sobey yesterday. He is a former ISWR board member who has professional experience in the WTE industry and WTE facility implementation. He feels that permitting for air quality and ash are difficult. He also feels WTE conflicts with R2ZW. For WTE, the cost effectiveness comes from high volume. High volume of waste is anti-zero waste. Doug’s suggestion is to let Paul/Ken identify a WTE company that can complete a feasibility study for Teton County and then present this info to the board.
- Phil and Heather – Finding property in Teton county that could be permitted for composting was problematic. Anticipate similar or increased difficulty for WTE permitting.
- Don – Seems like operators and staffing would be a problem here too.
- Bob – Go back to ISWR mission statement. Does WTE fit? If not, move on.
- Kent – The scale of the community should match the scale of the technology. The scale of WTE doesn’t make sense for Teton County. Should be constructed in a location that generates higher volumes of trash and can easily accept additional volume from surrounding communities.
- Andi – It’s possible that people value this location for this technology because of the potential for investment capital.
- Johnny – Are there any of these facilities in the US that are successful? Mostly hear about them in Europe.
  - Heather – Some are successful in the U.S., and some are not. One in Harrisburg, PA caused the city to go bankrupt. The facilities in Europe are most commonly used to produce steam for heat. The infrastructure exists in Europe to deliver steam directly.
  - Johnny – How bad are emissions?
    - Heather – Emissions controls exist and can eliminate 98% of particulates, but the more controls required, the higher the cost. And if the remaining 2% contains dioxins or other carcinogens, it is still dangerous. The Gaia information (article referenced above) states that WTE emits more harmful materials than coal burning plants.
- Heather – There is no harm in further consideration of the advancing technology. However, to date, the response from solid waste consultants has been that it would be a waste of time for Teton County to complete a feasibility study.

- Katie – Should we provide our questions and concerns to Paul/Ken?
- Phil – We have provided that in the past and received limited/no response. It would be helpful to update this feedback with input from sitting ISWR board members.
- Commissioner Vogelheim – ISWR bandwidth is limited. Analysis of WTE could be all consuming. Going back to Don’s comment about economics and Bob’s comment about the mission are both important. Being a public servant is difficult because these community members are well intentioned. This board should decide whether it is worthy of consideration at this time. If not, move on with more urgent projects.
- Ted – can staff circulate Paul/Ken’s slideshows?
  - Heather/Mari Allan – Yes, will post on advisory board page on ISWR website.
- Commissioner Vogelheim – Also consider whether this issue make sense with ISWR’s position as a County enterprise fund.
- Margaret – This community has focused on getting people to look at their resource use and their consumption. Feeding an incinerator does not make sense based on past messaging.
- Chris – WTE seems like a 180 shift from the mission of this organization. This idea would be met with intense controversy in this community. Is this the best use of time and energy in Teton County and in this organization?
- Joe – What do Paul/Ken want?
  - Phil – For this board to recommend a feasibility study or further consideration of this technology to the Commissioners.
- Mac – We are on the Road to Zero Waste. Incineration is not part of zero waste. A fraction of this money put into the R2ZW effort could, in time, nearly eliminate any materials left to burn. Go back to our mission.
- Phil – The bottom line he hears for energy conservation is to charge more for energy. WTE does work in this equation.
- Don – Little difference between burning and burying. Neither is good.
- Heather – Landfill gas to energy (methane capture from landfills) is a much cheaper way to get energy from waste. Bonneville will have to put in methane collection once they are a certain size. They are considering ways to utilize this energy capture, but not sure at this point if it would be cost effective.
- Commissioner Vogelheim - is the \$100,000 to pay a consultant the issue on the table?
  - Phil – Informally, not officially.
- Johnny Z – WTE not worth it right now.
- Joe – If we are hiring a consultant, it should be for dead animals.
- Lorie – Does Heather want us to vote? What is it that the board can provide?
  - Phil – would a motion not to consider this issue be helpful in putting this issue to rest for now?
    - Heather – asked PV what would be best.
      - PV – Does ISWR want to continue having this as a discussion item or not? Closure on this issue could come in the form of a

vote by this board to delay discussion until a later date, pending advancements in the technology.

- Katie – We should provide our comments/concerns to Paul/Ken so that there is some closure.
- Joe – We need more information (specifically economics) from Ken/Paul before we can make any kind of recommendation.
- Bob – We should not waste their time if we do not intend to pursue.
- Herb – This is the third time this issue has come up for discussion in his experience with the ISWR board. Ken/Paul should come up with the economics and information before this board can seriously consider it further. If this technology was a viable solution, it would be more prevalent.
- Herb – Mari Allan could draft a letter for the board to approve.
  - Phil – I can work on it with Mari Allan. Not enough bandwidth to pursue. Not a technology we wish to consider at this time.
  - Andi – Environmental concerns are significant.
  - Phil – we will work on a response and circulate to the board.

Motion to write a response to these parties regarding the position of the ISWR board against current consideration of WTE technology for Teton County. It will be circulated electronically to the board for approval, Moved: Don, Second: Katie. All in favor, motion carried.

#### **Finance Committee Report, Caroline Sheahan and Joe Kola:**

##### **Caroline**

- Finance committee met last week.
- We still reported a significant amount of AR that we did not exhibit in November last year. This has subsequently been paid. Majority billed to Westbank.
- Other than that, expenses are in line.
- Recyclable commodity year-to-date activity is up by 548 tons. The majority of the increase is due to the timing of scrap metal sales in 2016.
- Recycling commodity prices are up a tick compared to recent years.
- Tonnages (and diversion) are down for concrete and clean fill, but up for other materials. Large clean fill tonnages from the Marriott project are still skewing the comparison.
- The Finance committee is considering removing clean fill and tires from diversion tonnage. Updates to come.
  - Kent – Clean fill will not be accepted at TTS once construction is complete.

##### **Joe**

- The finance report shows that Recycling Center construction is 76% complete, yet the office is open and operating?

- Heather – The budget for the recycling center is on target. The force account will be reconciled soon.
- Next handout – Summary 2011-2016. Total assets have grown (see sheet). Liabilities have increased some but not nearly as much as assets. Net pension liability is on balance sheet to reflect if ISWR closed the doors today, what it would cost to pay all that is owed.
  - Commissioner Vogelheim – this reporting is a requirement from the state.
- Third page – ISWR continues to operate in the black. Net operating income is \$260,000.
  - Heather – Any profit becomes part of ISWR capital reserves.
  - Joe – ISWR typically maintains 2.5 months of operating costs in reserve.
- Comments
  - Heather – six-year comparison is awesome.

#### **Outreach and Education Committee Report - Mac Dukart:**

- Fall yard waste collection numbers included in staff report. Numbers up again.
- Christmas tree pile is enormous. Thank you for reminding community that trees should be clean. Some property management companies are taking advantage of the free tree drop-off. This is hard to police.
  - Heather – Johnny, is Town of Jackson collecting trees?
    - Johnny – As they have time. Snow removal has kept them busy.
- Sustainability Series is Jan 19<sup>th</sup> and will feature an overview of Taming the Wild Waste, Talking Trash, Recycling and more. Recycling 101 and zero waste basics continue to be in-demand topics.
- Comments
  - Phil – looking toward budget season, good time for RRR committee to get together?
    - Mac – yes, applications for RRR partnerships are in. Committee will be called to review.
- Mari Allan
  - New Zero Waste tab on ISWR website.
  - Zero Waste link for households/families along with 12-month plan. See January's household Waste Audit activity.
  - Zero waste link for businesses will begin 6 months later.
  - Sarah Steinwand gave introduction to Straw Free Jackson Hole
    - Movement to reduce straw use in Jackson Hole.
    - Contacting restaurants to encourage participation. Trio and Local are currently participating.
    - Feedback from customers is mixed.
    - The better compromise for customers who request a straw is paper straws instead of plastic.

#### **Zero Waste Committee Report, Heather Overholser:**

- BCC workshop planned for Jan 23.

## Compost Committee Report, Heather Overholser:

- O2 Composting is putting together a site plan.
- Interim transfer station/composting building.
- Composting contract with Terra Firma expires Nov 2017. Concerns about keeping operations going and keeping costs reasonable during TTS construction. Terra Firma has been a great partner through all of the construction. The site is in such flux that it is difficult to clearly identify scope of work for a bidding process. In talking with Keith Gingery and others, extending Terra Firma's contract is recommended. Heather will write contract amendment and bring to BCC in the next month.
- Longer term scope of work and contract will include aerated static pile and composting of food waste. This is when the compost committee can really help develop a scope of work and pull all the pieces together.
- Considering the West Yellowstone composting facility for temporary food waste composting from Grand Teton National Park. It is too expensive and too far to send all of Teton county food waste, but it could work as an interim solution for the Park. Tip fees are \$350/ton. Funding is available from Subaru. The next step will be for Teton County to put out bids for food waste hauling. Teton County is handling the contract because they have a contracting process in place, and it will help ISWR establish a process and RFP for food waste hauling in the future.
  - Phil/Johnny – Great that ISWR won't be starting from scratch with food waste composting when the County facility is completed. Great interim step.
  - Ted – What will the collection frequency be?
    - Heather – More frequent pickups are ideal for food waste, but, right now, the food waste is in the trash bins, so not critical to increase frequency beyond current trash service.
  - Chris – First year is just large facilities - lodge kitchens, employee dining rooms. Next steps will be employee housing and then campgrounds. It may take several years to expand and perfect. Significant lessons learned by 2020.
  - Heather – the residential piece will be the most difficult.
  - Don – What percentage of participants in each of those levels of services?
    - 90% of solid waste comes from concessionaires, 50% of that is food waste, expect 50% of the 45% in the initial program.
  - Heather – right now West Yellowstone composting only accepts material from Yellowstone National Park. They are looking to expand, so this program meets their needs as well.
    - Mac – do they use ASP?
      - Heather – indoor anaerobic digestion. Different technology than the ASP composting program planned for Teton County.
  - Heather - Maybe a tour of West Yellowstone facility for board members?
  - Joe – Where is the closest ASP facility to Teton County?



- Heather – not sure.
- Ted – Maybe Riverton.

**Facilities Committee Report, Heather Overholser:**

- Fire Suppression completed soon.
- Waste Excavation and Grading
  - BCC approved Montana Civil to come back in the spring and finish.
- TTS planning
  - BCC approved Golder to plan interim transfer and compost facility.
  - Approval from DEQ for interim transfer to be approved under SLIB funds. This preserves more of the SPET money to grow and help fund other TWW project costs.
  - Golder working on Teton County permitting for the interim transfer and compost facility. Scheduled to be completed by mid-February.
  - Teton County Planning suggested ISWR begin the permitting process for a crematorium in preparation for dead animal handling, just in case.
- Recycling Center parking lot needs to be redone next year, paving and grading. Teton County Engineering will do the designs. It will be bid out in March, with start date in July.

**Other Announcements:**

- Caroline – Finance committee meeting is at 2pm on Jan 27 at ISWR.
- Heather will attend the All Parks Summit – all parks in the Subaru pilot Zero Landfill program.
  - Margaret – Heather is invaluable to the process. She is integral to decisions/programs in all 3 parks.

Motion to Adjourn, Moved: Don; Second Andi. Meeting adjourned 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mari Allan Hanna  
ISWR Administrative Assistant

Approved on \_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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Katie Dahlgren, ISWR Secretary

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Phil Cameron, Board Chair

