

TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2018, 3pm

Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling Conference Room

Members Present, constituting a quorum: Don Baker, Nikki Kaufman, Joe Kola, Andi Psmithe, Rani Carr, Lorie Cahn (remotely via phone), Lindsey Ehinger, Rachel Daluge

Others Present: Curtis Haderlie, Haderlie Farms/WyoFarm Composting; Paul Vogelheim, Teton County Commissioner; Carrie Bell, ISWR Waste Diversion Outreach Coordinator; Heather Overholser, ISWR Superintendent; Caroline Sheahan, ISWR Financial Accountant; Iris Saxer, Teton Valley Community Recycling; Paul Walters, Jackson Hole Airport; Kelly French, Jackson Curbside Recycling; Kent Jasperson, ISWR Solid Waste and Recycling Manager; Diana Myers, Teton County Resident; Herb Brooks, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort; Johnny Ziem, Town of Jackson Public Works; Tom Segerstrom, Teton Conservation District; Floren Poliseo, Town of Jackson Public Works; Becky Kiefer, ISWR Administrative Assistant

3:02pm: Meeting called to order by Don Baker at ISWR

Introductions

Motion to approve October Minutes, Moved: Lindsey, Second: Joe, All in favor, motion carried at 3:15.

Report from Board Chair, Don Baker:

- Heather Overholser was elected Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.
- Asking Board Members and Invitees to volunteer at large retail store fronts to distribute reusable bags during the Town of Jackson's Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance in April.
- Heather- The Jackson Town Council had a second reading of the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance this past Monday, December 3 and it passed 4 to 1. Next meeting is Monday, December 17th at 6:00pm. At this point it will probably pass as-is. The ordinance will go into effect April 15th at large retailers and grocery stores. Smaller Retailers in the Town of Jackson will start November 1, 2019. The ordinance means retailers will not be permitted to give out plastic bags less than 4 mils thick. They will charge 20 cent per paper and 4 mil or thicker plastic bags. Half of the income collected from the fee will go to the Town of Jackson on a quarterly basis, which will then be passed on to ISWR for education and outreach. Becky has a list of potential volunteers to help with the bag distribution effort. We are going to need a lot of help April 15th and the week after. We plan to station ourselves at stores that will allow us, having a booth from morning to night to hand out bags and explain the ordinance to the public. Next November we will work closely with smaller retailers to train the owners and their staff, so they can help the public with information packets and bag distributions. We would love as much help as you all could offer. It will be fun!
- Andi- Are we handing out reusable bags at the booths?

- Heather- Yes. We are in the process of researching different styles of reusable bags from nylon to canvas. We will stamp or print the R2ZW logo on the side of the bags. We will also have a bag round up, for people who have a surplus of reusable bags at home. They can drop off their extras here, we will have a bin at the Recycling Center.
- Andi- Some of the reusable bags rip easily.
- Heather-We plan to purchase canvas bags or “Chico” bags that are durable. Expect to hear from us and please be generous with your time.
- Lindsey- What about at the airport?
- Heather- The Travel and Tourism Board is in the process of bag distributions at the airport. We will see if they plan to continue. We are considering talking to hotels. We will have further discussion and ideas.
- Johnny- Yes. Kate is doing that now at the airport through the Travel and Tourism Board. We are still coming up with our game plan.
- Don- I will be stepping down as ISWR Advisory Board Chair. Lindsey Ehinger will be filling the role.
- County Commission Liaison, Paul Vogelheim and ISWR Board Member, Andi Psmithe are stepping out of their current positions. A certificate of thanks was presented to both. Thank you so much for all your fine work. Paul, you lobbied on our behalf at the County Commissioners Carcass Workshop. Thank you for everything you have done for us.

Update from Paul Vogelheim, County Commissioner:

- Thank you, 10 and a half years, what am I going to do?
- The issues ISWR faces are huge. You have some monumental projects and you are doing a great job. My only caution is CWD and how critical that is. I am very protective because Heather wants to fix things and she does a great job fixing. She faces increasing diversion rates and closing the landfill, amongst other large projects; we need another state entity or federal partners to focus on this task. We want to continue to facilitate solutions, not to *be* the solution. After this past Monday’s Board of County Commissioner’s Workshop, they are locked and loaded with incineration as the solution. The conservation sector also agrees with incineration. Great job Heather communicating to the commissioners. We need to continue to press on the director of WYDOT and Scott Talbot of Wyoming Game and Fish. We need to lean away from the landfill as a solution. Sublette County does not have a lined landfill, and because of the nature of CWD, we can’t cross over to Idaho. Northern Lincoln County’s solution has been leaving dead carcasses on the road ways. The neighbors are starting to get restless thinking this is not acceptable. We need to make it a state issue with local solution.
- Heather- Thank you. Don and I met with Alyssa Watkins and Sean O’Malley. Alyssa is bringing the new commissioners up to speed. We would like to step aside and let the agencies work on a plan.
- Paul- We are pushing harder on Wyoming Game and Fish.
- Heather- The National Elk Refuge and Park too.

- Paul- It is great to hear Alyssa is up to speed and is asking the right questions. She is going to move it forward quickly.
- Paul- Teton County financials were recently released audited FY2018. These auditors work with local municipalities and said we have the second best that they have audited.
- Joe-Second?!
- Paul- The other entity has 5 CPAs, we only have 1. It is amazing to me, we are a county that has no debt, reserves of \$27 million, \$10-15 million of that reserve is for emergency needs. We also had a recent reduction in the property tax mill levee. The neat thing is how well you're doing as an enterprise. A lot of complements from auditors.

Treasurer's Report, Joe Kola:

- Joe- Looking at Jim Wolf's summary. This is a multi-year look at ISWR's operating position. You can see revenue for services charged, material sales, and miscellaneous. Growth in this chart is positive. We are looking into budgeting soon and addressing the tip fees. We will be looking at the material cost analysis worksheet for accuracy in calculating the final tip fee.
- Joe- Looking at Tonnages chart. Tip fee has not changed in the past 3 years. This chart points to tonnage increase in diversion. We did a project years ago which ripped open bags from one trash truck to count plastics and other recyclable materials. We might want to consider doing that again to get an idea of true diversion potential.
- Joe- A bit of a squeeze between October this year and last. Organics is down versus last year. MSW seems up. Total tons are down but outbound trash is up versus last year. JCR commodity is down \$15,000. As a whole we are down \$26 a ton.
- Joe- From a cost perspective, we are 60% done with the construction on the new Trash Transfer Station. Does that seem accurate with what is built?
- Heather- The foundation is enormous. The frame work of the building is on site and going up.
- Joe- The landfill should be closed by the end of next year. We have a lot going on. Wild game carcasses need to go somewhere else. We are keeping an eye on revenue and expenses each month.
- Lindsey- In terms of revenue from recyclables, how are we trending? Trending up or down?
- Caroline- It's pretty bleak. Aluminum is \$.56 a pound right now. We will probably have 3 loads this year. It's pretty tight and I don't see any upward trends.
- Joe- We are reevaluating our glass option. The way we do glass now involves a lot of work on our end with little revenue.
- Heather- We have a few options for glass hauling using Momentum. We may need sand for the landfill closure. We send glass to Salt Lake, and there may be a sand backhaul option. So much labor and time goes into managing glass. I have asked Kent for numbers of how we used to process glass vs. this new process. We have been separating glass for shipping. Kent is looking into an option where the glass can be mixed and crushed, then be sent to a facility with an optical sorter.
Kent is still working on it. We have a second option, such as having a trailer in the parking area that can be loaded on site as the glass comes in. Both options are more expensive than the way

we have been preparing and hauling glass; however, if it alleviates the labor for our crew, it could be worth the extra cost. When budgeting for fiscal year 2019 and included a full-time employee for the recycling center, but then decided to pull it and hire a temporary summer employee from April to October. We had 555 overtime hours amongst four operations staff over the course of a year. That's almost 900 hours that ISWR paid in wages when you factor overtime at time and a half. Plus, we had the temporary summer employee. On December 18th I am going to the Commissioners to request a full-time recycling operations position. It's The annual cost is about \$63,000, including benefits. HHW and machine hours alone account for approximately 195 hours of labor per week, while four full time positions equal 160 hours. The recycling supervisor is spending 80% of his time on the floor right now (60% is ideal). So, we really need the help. We need to fill an existing vacancy now and the proposed position is another one we are hoping to fill in January.

- Rani- If we are seeing an increase of revenue along with this, would we need more staff?
- Heather- We are seeing an increase in tonnage plus a dramatic increase in contamination. That is due to China and others being very particular about the cleanliness of the commodities. Contamination is frustrating. We can't train the public to be perfect. The question then is, how do we adjust our operations to accommodate for the expected contamination? We have included a small sort system in the budget for next year to more efficiently deal with the removal of contamination. The answer isn't only to hire more people. We are looking at other options as well and will bring those to the commissioners. Some commodities don't have high contamination rates, such as paper. But plastics are hugely contaminated. There is more contamination because of more products and packaging in the marketplace, along with the higher standard.

Committee and Staff Reports:

- Carrie- I had a meeting with Johnny and Carl from the Town of Jackson to discuss the final numbers for Fall Clean Up. We collected 114 tons total. Westbank experienced some staffing issues and they left the organic waste pile sitting at the Rodeo Grounds for a week. I was surprised that there was no trash illegally dumped with the yard waste.

We have made a new connection at the Teton Literacy Center. They hold a "Grossology" club, in which they educate kids about recycling and the landfill. We have discussed ISWR being a staple in their programming. This is also a good pipeline and resource to the Latino community

R2ZW reporting will be out soon. I am in the final edits.

We have several new RRR Business leaders: Interconnections 21; Noso Patches; Fall River Electric Cooperative; and, WyoCompost. Hopefully Hatch and TGR will follow up with a few small improvements and can be included.

Planning for education and outreach has been shifted over the last month to focus on the Town's plastic bag reduction ordinance. We are creating a new advertising campaign that will

align with our new look but will be specific to the ordinance. Heather has already discussed the majority of our planning for the Plastic Bag Reduction ordinance. We want to reach out to small businesses to alleviate their concerns of the implementation of the bag fee.

- Heather- This is a big deal for waste reduction (Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance). Teton County and Jackson are not only reducing waste, but also building that community ethic. Johnny has been spearheading this ordinance and has done a wonderful job.
- Carrie- I am hoping the Plastic Bag Reduction ordinance makes people conscience about single use plastics in general.

Lastly, Richard Reese has temporarily taken over the Zero Waste Construction Committee. He is an architect and is familiar with the construction industry, so he is a natural fit. Rich has been meeting with Town and County about next steps in an LDR text amendment that would require equal space for waste diversion from landfill in new construction and significant remodels. He is doing a great job collecting information and is planning on moving forward with a draft of the text amendment.

- Kelly- It's great!
- Heather- Over the summer, we started sending food waste to Haderlie Farm through the Food Waste composting pilot. Curtis Haderlie is here to talk to us about his composting process.
- Curtis Haderlie- WyoFarm Composting is about a year old. I have been hauling a lot of food waste to the farm. 95% of the food for my pigs is from Jackson, and its beautiful food. Pigs don't prefer citrus fruits, and meat could cause trichinosis and makes them aggressive as well. In the past, whatever food waste I didn't feed to the pigs, I put in rows and composted. My motivation as a farmer is to increase biological density in order to increase production density. I don't do the composting, I am only a compost facilitator. I just put compost over growing beds, it's a wonderful material. It is the microorganisms that provide food for the plants. A lot of agriculture is now focusing on feeding the biology in the soil rather than feeding the soil with fertilizer. I launched the residential part of WyoFarm Compost this past May with the Eco fair. People could pick up a five-gallon bucket, put their food waste in it over the duration of a week or month, and then I pick it up and replace it with a new bucket. In September I started picking up commercial bins. Hatch jumped on board first, then Four Seasons. Four Seasons started with five bins. Now they need five more 32-gallon trash-sized bins. I used a different size and different colored bin than the trash bins to limit confusion, which limits contamination. I pick up one time weekly. I also pick up from Whole Food Rescue. It is a win for everyone. I now have a tipper on my truck to help with dumping.
- Johnny- Is that beer grain? (*referring to PowerPoint photo*)
- Curtis- Yes. Isn't it beautiful? This is the tip of the iceberg of what we could be collecting to feed animals and make compost.
- Heather- What percent goes to pigs and what goes to composting?
- Curtis- Now that I'm accepting from restaurants, the meat will become a problem. I will need to start picking up restaurants separately. I would like to see food waste streamed into humans first, then animals, compost, and lastly landfill. I honor the hierarchy. Compost only requires

nitrogen, carbon, oxygen and moisture. It creates heat (*picture of compost steaming*). It gets to about 150 degrees, which is beneficial because it destroys pathogens and creates stable compost.

- Heather called me in July and asked if we wanted to take waste from the Teton Park concessioners. These are the 50 thousand pounds we collected (*referring to image*). The pile is about 30 feet long, 10 feet high, and 25 feet wide. Each linear foot is about a cubic yard. Again, this is 60 thousand pounds of compost, I was surprised, I have a permit from the DEQ to collect 100 thousand yards, so this is not taking up much space at all.
- Kelly- Do you have to have a permit to just do your own?
- Curtis- No, I have a permit for 100 thousand yards, which in the compost world is small.
- Nikki- Has anyone from the State approached you?
- Curtis- No, I'm the only one that I know of in the State doing this. I have never used compostable bags before, and I received them from the Park. They are decomposing nicely.
- Heather- In the Park, food waste must be bagged, or the bins have to be washed once a week to limit odor. As of now we have no odor issues at all.
- Diana- What is your opinion on compostable coffee cups?
- Curtis- Yes, we are accepting those. We are taking cups and plates, but I don't want the utensils. Some of the utensils are not truly compostable, but, over time, if I find that they compost quickly, I will change that. Most of the challenges I experienced were with contamination. When we first started getting Park materials, there was a lot of contamination. As a farmer, this is a huge challenge, especially with glass contamination. What if it is broken? An aluminum can I can remove. Glass is the biggest challenge. I'm trying to work with people to educate them. It is so much easier to take care of this in the kitchen before it gets to the farm. But people see a garbage can and throw contamination in the can. Also, there is a lot of turnover in kitchens so that is another challenge of education, but I am optimistic. We imposed a fine to get attention and it got better quickly.
- Heather- University of Wyoming will be working with us again this year for education and training packets to share with food waste early adopters based on the pilot program for the past two years. They will want to pick Curtis's brain about contamination and training.
- Curtis- If you have the compost tested, it contains a low amount of a broad spectrum of minerals. This creates very stable nutrients.
- Tom- Do you experience plant contamination with seeds?
- Curtis- I am the guilty party with weed seeds in compost. Squash really grow in the compost pile. If they don't get hot enough, they will get planted and grow. At my farm I produce hay, grain, barley, potatoes, flowers, veggies, pigs, milk, cows; cows don't eat compost directly, but they eat the hay. On my farm, which is 50 acres, I could use 10 tons per acre every year. That is about 50 tons annually of compost just on my farm, but I only have a fraction of that now. I do sell compost by cubic yard, but I don't advertise that. I would love to eventually provide finished compost to landscapers.
- Joe- Heather, do you have a sense of how much food is in our waste stream now?

- Curtis- 40% of typical landfill tonnage is food waste. I do not accept yard waste. Unfortunately, yards are the most toxic place in our homes because of herbicides and pesticides. Toxic products, such as clopyralid, are present. The problem with clopyralids is that they are persistent through the composting process and create issues for nightshade family, plants, such as potatoes, peppers, and tomatoes. I cannot take that risk because that is my major commodity that I produce. That is why I don't accept yard waste. The DEQ has approved me for composting and I have a lot of capacity to expand. I am also proud to be a new RRR business leader! Jackson is unique in that the community really supports me and my efforts. I love the concept of taking something that would be a waste product and using it.
- Heather- We are putting out an RFP for the compost contract that Terra Firma has now. We will know by this spring who will hold the contract. The compost infrastructure we are looking into includes electricity, fencing, and water. Nelson Engineering just completed a study on our current water system and the well; option number two in the report is what we want to go with. This consists of using the same well but putting in a new section of pipe and a tank, so we can hold water and not draw on the well constantly. The project cost estimate is approximately \$800,000. We are planning to bid it out this winter to start work next summer. For electricity, we just need to run the lines. And in regard to fencing, we talked to Game and Fish about bear fencing. We are getting cost estimates and will put it out to bid. We need to complete the landfill closure before the fencing goes in. We are waiting to see how much available money we have to determine the extent of the fencing project.

Capital Projects Update, Heather Overholser:

- Heather- The cost estimate for the Recycling Center's phase 2 came back about three times more than we had originally estimated because construction inflation has gone through the roof. We circled back with CTA about using a pre-engineered metal building for the storage warehouse. This pre-engineered concept has brought down the price by about \$300,000. We have \$700,000 in the budget for dry storage and residential recycling. We are going to bid it out and hope that the bidding process brings the price down. I will get the number to the board and talk it through. We are still on target to build next summer, pending the bid prices we receive.

At the Trash Transfer Station everything is going along smoothly. We are projected to be finished in June.

In regards of landfill capping, Golder is going to be pulling together a procurement package and we will bid it out. This is our last bid and will determine what will happen with the rest of the project.

- Joe- When would awards go out?
- Heather- We plan to go to the commission in mid-April, but we will have a good idea of the cost before that.
- Don- I just want to comment about carcass disposal, and it sounds like we are leaning towards incineration.

- Rachel- Incineration meaning we will be responsible?
- Heather- Hopefully moving in the direction where we will not be responsible.
- Rachel- What about thoughts of it going to Sublette or Lincoln County? Too early to say?
- Heather- Too early to say. We would like to see it in the hands of the agencies that actually own the wildlife.
- Don- What we receive is only a fraction of the dead animals. I want it in the notes we are leaning toward incineration. Landfill is not a viable option because it does not destroy the prions.

Public Comments and New Business:

- Kelly- We are six months into the downtown public recycling. Johnny picked 20 locations and it is a really great addition for the tourists walking around. Great job team! And I want to commend the amazing ISWR recycling operations crew. When you see those guys, please say thank you. They have worked harder than anyone can imagine. The labor staff in this whole town is pushed, so please voice your appreciation.
- Paul Walters- Sustainability report accomplished for the JH Airport. Green power is coming soon.
- Don- Are items coming off of airplanes getting recycled?
- Paul- That is part of the report. There isn't room to keep things separate, but we are talking about it and planning.
- Lindsey- Interconnections 21 is tying zero waste committees and students with composting and zero waste initiatives. Curtis is available for zero waste events.
- Nikki- Whole Food Rescue is always looking for volunteers.
- Tom- November was crazy for us. The Conservation District tax passed, which is exciting for us. Our technical assistance grant deadline is February 1st. If you have funding needs, think about that. We want to be in close communications with everyone. We have funding and you all are great partners.

Motion to Adjourn, Moved: Lindsey, Second: Rachel, All in favor. Meeting adjourned 4:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Kiefer

ISWR Administrative Assistant

Approved on February 13, 2019

Attest:

Don Baker, Board Chair

Jess Wireman, Secretary