

Vernon County Solid Waste/Recycling Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8th, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Running at 9:31a.m. Those present included: Justin Running, Mary Rae, Shawn Redington, Kelli Mitchell, Lorn Goede, Mike Paulsrud, Dan Martin, Tim Hundt, Tim Eddy, David Eggen, Dennis Brault, and Stacie Sanborn.

Proper Public Meeting Notice was confirmed.

A motion was made by Redington, with a second by Rae to approve the minutes of the April 23rd, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

April Committee Report

Landfill waste volumes were up 47% compared to last April and up 26% over last year. Recycling Fee Items were up 35% over last April and 28% over last year. Recyclables Sold were up 143% over last April and down 41% for the year. The department has several loads of recyclables waiting on shipment and payment which will increase this percentage.

Total revenues are at 21% so far for the year compared to 22% in 2018. Recycling expenses are at 25% of budget while the Solid Waste expenses are at 22%.

Review/Approve Vouchers

Vouchers totaling \$31,735.11 were presented for payment. A motion was made by Mitchell, with a second by Goede to approve the vouchers. Motion carried.

Discussion/Possible Action on Hauler Contracts

Big Hook Trucking submitted a Solid Waste Hauler Agreement Contract for approval. After discussion, a motion was made by Redington, and seconded by Mitchell to approve the Hauler Agreement Contract for Big Hook Trucking.

Discussion/Possible Action on Letter from Revolution Plastics

Sanborn read a letter received by Revolution Plastics requesting funding from the County to continue collecting agricultural plastics within Vernon County. The funding request was for \$600 for each of the 91 farms serviced in Vernon County per year totaling \$54,600 per year. Committee discussed the request for funding and no action was taken.

Discussion Recycling Program

Sanborn addressed the proposal from Bill Meeks of Southwest Sanitation proposing to provide comingled service to the County serviced 19 Towns. This service would take the place of the County's Source Separated Program. Sanborn voiced concerns that switching to the comingled service would cost the County an additional \$25,000.00 per year just for the Town's recycling. Sanborn also voiced concerns that if the County provides the payment for these services to the Towns then the County would be obligated to fund recycling for the other municipalities which would increase the recycling costs roughly another \$150,000 per year. The other option would be to pass these costs onto the Towns. Sanborn brought the issue to the Vernon County Town's Association Meeting on April 25th, 2019. Of the 12 Towns present 9 signed a petition stating that they "are happy with Vernon County Solid Waste and Recycling Department's free source

separated recycling program” and they “ask the Solid Waste Committee to NOT entertain the idea of outsourcing the County’s recycling program at an increased expense to our Towns.” The Towns present that did not sign the petition were Liberty and Union who are not a part of the County program currently, and the Town of Greenwood.

Sanborn also voiced concerns over potential cost increases in the future for comingled recycling. Comingled recyclers are currently having to pay \$35.00 per ton to get rid of their product and if that cost increases it would most likely increase the proposed costs. The County Program is still generating revenues from their recycled materials and by keeping the program the County has an ability to control costs much like the leachate trucking program. The Committee had further discussion but no action was taken.

Department Update

Sanborn updated the Committee on the Spring Clean Sweep on May 11th from 8:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. and the upcoming Finance Committee meeting on the truck purchase.

The next SW/R Committee meeting will be June 12th, 2019 at 9:30a.m.

A motion was made by Redington, with a second by Goede, to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:26a.m. Motion carried.

Minutes by Sanborn.

X 

Shawn Redington, Secretary