

Kosciusko County Solid Waste Management District

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – November 22nd, 2022

Present: Brad Jackson, Cary Groninger, Bob Conley, Joe Thallemer, Rick Swaim, Mike Long, Jerry Frush, Tom Ganser, Michelle Puckett, Leslie Williams, Liz Shepherd – InkFree News, Kirk Salerno – Borden Waste-Away

Absent: Scott Reust

- Call to Order:
 - Brad Jackson called the meeting to order.
- October 2022 Board Minutes
 - Brad Jackson asked for a motion to approve Minutes from the October 2022 Board Meeting. Mike Long made a motion to approve as presented. Cary Groninger seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Correction of September 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
 - Tom Ganser stated that in the September board Meeting Minutes, there was a mistake in the approval of board meeting minutes. In the September Minutes it states that the Board approved June Minutes, when they actually approved the August meeting minutes. Tom asked for the change to be approved. Mike Long made a motion to approve the change. Cary Groninger seconded the motion, and the Board approved the motion unanimously.
- Claims and Financial Report
 - Michelle Puckett presented the claims in the amount of \$67,820.30. The ending checking account balance is \$8,089.07, in addition to the 1.4-million-dollar investment. Michelle then stated that the ending balance is not the actual balance – that it is just taking into consideration the processing of the claims or receipts. Michelle added that the ending balance for October was roughly \$110,000. Michelle stated that she has been watching the ending balance each month to ensure it does not go below \$50,000 – when money from investment would need to be pulled. Tom stated that we may drop below the \$50,000 soon as the billing problems with GFL have been worked out. Cary Groninger asked if, because of the billing problems with GFL, that is why there was a larger balance. Michelle confirmed his thinking. Bob Conley made a motion to approve claims as presented. Cary Groninger seconded the motion. The board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.
- New Business:
 - Tom Ganser stated that the board meeting schedule for next year will need to be approved. He stated that the schedule is within the meeting pack and all of the meeting match up with County Commissioner meetings. Mike Long made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Rick Swaim seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- Old Business

- 2023 Recycling Drop-Off Program

- Tom Ganser stated that last month, there was a lot of discussion about the recycling drop-off program, and what to do with it. Tom added that we had discussed dropping service at all locations, other than the Warsaw location. Tom stated that different configurations were discussed to keep it open for residential recycling drop-off. Tom then added that over the course of the month, he has looked into several different performas on how to accomplish a successful drop off site. Tom stated that any program that we put here is going to require us to draw money from the investment or raise taxes. Tom mentioned that at the last meeting, and meetings prior, the Board was adamant about not raising taxes, and he commended that. Tom then added that Borden Waste-Away Service will be able to provide curbside recycling throughout the entire county at the start of the new year. Tom stated that the curbside recycling gives us the option not to compete with the private sector (recycling) and not raise taxes. Tom stated that his recommendation to the Board would be to eliminate residential recycling drop-off bin locations (all) and keep the Depot open for electronic and HHW processing. Rick Swaim asked what the expected curbside recycling participation would be. Kirk Salerno stated that he would expect 2,000 people/households to be participating. Tom added that many commercial businesses would also participate in getting a recycling bin for their location as many businesses come here to drop-off cardboard. Brad Jackson stated that a couple key points that he noticed while he and Tom Ganser were talking about everything is contamination and cost. Brad stated that contamination rates in curbside programs are usually less than 10%, while the drop-off bins were seeing roughly 40% contamination. Brad then added that with the prices of curbside recycling being so low (\$8 per month), it makes it for a much mor convenient option. Kirk Salerno confirmed these two statements. Discussion briefly continued the statements.

Tom Ganser stated that with the markets being so low for recyclable materials at the current times, he doesn't blame the contractors for having such high bid rates on the drop-off program (\$225 - \$300 per ton). Tom added that we would be locked into a contract for 3-5 years with most of the options that have been looked at with the drop-off program. Cary Groninger was hoping that there would be a way to ease into no drop-off programs, but he does understand that due to having to be locked into a contract, that it would not be possible. Brad Jackson stated that we finally have what we have worked all these years for – curbside recycling for the entire county. Discussion briefly continued the matter.

Cary Groninger stated that he thinks that we should let the residents choose

their curbside recycling program – not only back one company. Cary added that there should be a list compiled with all the curbside providers on it. Tom Ganser added that from a curbside recycling standpoint, Borden’s is the only company in the county with that option, but that doesn’t mean that other companies will not move in. Joe Thallemer added that he agrees with the points that everyone is making – let residents choose their recycling provider and maintaining the site for only a short period of time does not make sense – he wants to do what we do best, keep the HHW/electronic items out of the landfill. Discussion briefly continued on this.

Cary Groninger mentioned that if we start to see a positive cash flow, then he would like to look into lowering HHW/electronic pricing. Tom Ganser stated that he will bring numbers monthly; however, he does not know where prices are going to be next year. Tom added that he will have a better gauge on pricing after the first of the year.

Tom Ganser stated that approval from the Board is needed to take advantage of the county-wide curbside recycling program and close all residential recycling drop-off locations. Rick Swaim made a motion to approve the request. Bob Conley seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

- Reports
 - Tom Ganser stated the Director and Educator Reports were included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions regarding these reports. There were no questions.
- Comments and Questions
 - Joe Thallemer mentioned that he thinks a carefully crafted message should be sent out the public (regarding recycling drop-off location closure), in order to ensure the prevalence of recycling in the county. Tom Ganser stated that he will be sending them the public service announcement for review.
- Adjournment
 - Bob Conley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mike Long seconded the motion, with the board approving.

The next board meeting will be Tuesday, December 20th, 2022, at 11am.