

Minutes of Meeting
CdA Garbage and Chilco Disposal Discussion
November 25, 2014
3:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Todd Tondee, Commissioner Dan Green, and Commissioner Jai Nelson met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer, and Deputy Clerk Daniel Robertson.

A. Call to Order: Chairman Tondee called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

B. Introductions: There were no introductions necessary.

C. Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes.

D. Old Business: There was no old business discussed.

E. New Business:

1. Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer summarized an earlier meeting with Phil Damiano, owner of Coeur d'Alene Garbage, regarding future fees to possibly be incurred by his haulers for single stream recycling. Using a base figure of 2300 tons of solid waste (about 1.7% of the County's total solid waste) being hauled to a converter, Ms. Mayer estimated costs would range between \$30,000 and \$50,000, depending on the type of recycled material.

Ms. Mayer said Prairie Transfer Station would be the best site for Mr. Damiano's delivery of recycled materials, yet transferring the materials between Mr. Damiano's trailers and the County's equipment was inefficient even there.

Commissioner Green wondered if it was cheaper for the County to reimburse Mr. Damiano's recycling fees than for the County to design, create and implement an alternative process. Chairman Tondee pointed out that Mr. Damiano has a contract with the City of Post Falls, and that he seemed to be seeking increased revenue from Kootenai County because of the recycling activities in Post Falls. The Commissioners discussed environmental stewardship and extending the life of the landfill as important aspects of this cost equation.

Ms. Mayer described some of Mr. Damiano's alternatives, given that he is the legal owner of recycled materials picked up by his firm. The Board debated a tipping fee or per-ton fee added to future hauler contracts. While there was agreement that small financial incentives for recycled materials could keep recycled materials out of the landfill, Ms. Mayer said unmanned waste disposal sites in rural parts of the County made collecting fees logistically difficult.

Commissioner Green asked when the contract renewed. Ms. Mayer said it was 2016, but that in early 2015 she anticipated renegotiating aspects of this situation first with the City of Coeur d'Alene.

The Commissioners asked what next steps were needed now. All agreed that due to the many unknowns there was no action needed now. Ms. Mayer offered to monitor the costs Mr. Damiano billed the County, and she pointed out that additional costs from Mr. Damiano might not actually happen. She said if and when it additional costs were presented to the County, she would find every way possible to manage them. In the meantime, Ms. Mayer offered to continue to brainstorm more efficient ways to haul recycled materials.

2. The Board discussed November 25 letters from property owners named Wheeler and Hollingsworth regarding The Chilco Disposal site. Ms. Mayer summarized key points of site obscuring issues. She said the operations pad was appropriately placed, and that the access entrance was appropriate. Ms. Mayer showed a diagram confirming the required 35' from the Wheelers' property line to the Chilco fence had been achieved, and that it was consistent with the requirements of the Conditional Use Permit.

All agreed, however, that because the buffering trees were sparse, there was visual access from the land owners' property onto the disposal site. Ms. Mayer suggested a two-foot addition with a slatted screen be built on top of the existing fence, and she reminded the Board that planting additional vegetation on berms near power poles would also be effective. The Board and Ms. Mayer debated the exact definition of 100% site obscurity from the adjoining property owners' view, and correlating fence height flexibility in County ordinances.

The Board asked Ms. Mayer to draft a letter from them to the property owners, conveying the Board's discussions today and the Board's intention to address and remedy each of the property owners' concerns.

F. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. There were no public comments.

Chairman Tondee adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

TODD TONDEE, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Daniel Robertson, Deputy Clerk
