

**Minutes of Meeting
Coeur d'Alene Garbage
April 15, 2015
2:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart, Commissioner Marc Eberlein, and Commissioner Dan Green met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer, Principal Planner Laureen Chaffin, Transfer Station Manager Sam Cook and Operations Manager Rick Bishop; Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jamila Holmes; Waste Management Public Sector Manager Tami Yager and District Manager Steve Roberge; Coeur d'Alene Garbage General Manager Phil Damiano, Operations Manager Rod Eldevik and Mark Hinders; Waste Management-Bluebird Senior MRF Manager Mike Range; and Deputy Clerk Mary Enquist.

A. Call to Order: Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

B. Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves.

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

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

E. New Business:

Discussion with Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer, Coeur d'Alene Garbage General Manager Phil Damiano and representatives from Waste Management (Bluebird Recycling) regarding Single-Stream Recycling

Solid Waste Director Cathy Mayer gave some background data on single-stream recycling procedures. Ms. Mayer said that Coeur d'Alene Garbage (referenced as NW Waste) General Manager Phil Damiano is currently depositing single-stream recyclables at the Prairie Transfer Station. Single-stream is a co-mingled mix of plastic, paper, cardboard, cans and other material, which in this case is collected by NW Waste from residences in Post Falls and Hayden.

Ms. Mayer said that prior to March 2015, NW Waste delivered single-stream material to and received revenue from Bluebird Recycling, but that in mid-March Bluebird began charging fees for receipt of single-stream recycled material. Ms. Mayer said it is important to note that Kootenai County is not a party to any agreements with NW Waste for single-stream recycling, nor does the County require recycling.

Mr. Damiano said that the County has collected an annual solid waste fee from property owners and therefore the County should either pay for the recycling costs or manage the recycled material. Ms. Mayer said the Solid Waste Department disagrees that disposal of recyclables is covered under the annual solid waste fee. She said the fee is for waste disposed of through the County's solid waste system.

Ms. Mayer said that now Mr. Damiano is depositing his collected material at the County's transfer stations rather than delivering it to Bluebird Recycling and incurring their fees. She said she sent Mr. Damiano a letter that his material would temporarily be accepted at the Prairie Transfer Station for 30 days commencing on March 30, 2015, but that the County would be reviewing codes and requirements, as well as discussing this issue with the Board of County Commissioners.

Ms. Mayer said County solid waste sites are not set up to manage mixed recyclables or operate as sorting facilities. Ms. Mayer said her concerns are the precedent set should the County continue to manage this material as recyclable or accept it as waste. She expected other private businesses and haulers would then deliver recycled material to the County's transfer stations because they're an easy, free dump.

Ms. Mayer said she believes the following are options in the NW Waste situation:

- The County should not continue to accept the single stream material at a transfer station unless the material is separated and deposited in the collection bins as required.
- If the Board decides that Solid Waste should accept the single-stream material, users should be charged an appropriate handling and processing fee.
- NW Waste should seek other options (such as alternative markets or increased user fees) for the material management.

Ms. Mayer said she realizes it is inevitable that there will be a single-stream fee charged to the Solid Waste sites for their disposal at a recycling center, and thought that inevitability would arrive within the next few years.

Mr. Damiano addressed the Board and read the Kootenai County Solid Waste Ordinance (Ord. 449, 11-23-2010) 4-3-3. He cited five out of the eighteen Definitions:

- Commercial Waste
- Dangerous or Hazardous Waste Material
- Industrial Waste
- Residential Solid Waste
- Solid Waste

Mr. Damiano claimed that Kootenai County residents already pay for disposal of recyclable materials with the solid waste fee included in their property tax. He said that as a hauler of residential garbage, he does not believe he should have to pay the single-stream recyclable fees on behalf of the County when he takes material to Bluebird Recycling. Mr. Damiano admitted NW Waste is depositing recyclable material at the County's solid waste sites, and that the County is loading and hauling it to Bluebird Recycling so NW Waste is not charged. He said he is asking the Board to approve the County paying fees for NW Waste to haul recyclables to Bluebird Recycling instead.

Mr. Damiano said he received the 30-day notice letter described by Ms. Mayer. He asked for Board direction whether he should continue taking recycling material to the transfer stations or instead take it to Bluebird Recycling with the County paying Bluebird's fee.

Waste Management-Bluebird Senior MRF Manager Mike Range said he is willing to work with the County's Solid Waste Department to adjust single-stream fees. Commissioner Green asked Mr. Range if he could coordinate the fees with Ms. Mayer through 2016 when the Bluebird contract expires, and then do a month-to-month agreement with the option to renew monthly.

Chairman Stewart and Commissioner Eberlein concurred with Commissioner Green. They directed Mr. Damiano to haul single-stream recyclables directly to Bluebird Recycling and said the County would pay the fees that Mr. Range and Ms. Mayer agreed upon.

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

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Mary Enquist, Deputy Clerk
