



# ***Solid Waste Planning Board Meeting hosted by Sioux Falls Regional Sanitary Landfill***

***Carnegie Town Hall  
November 23, 2010; 5 pm***

## **Roll Call**

### **Board Members Present**

Aimee Ladonski – City of Sioux Falls  
Jake Anderson – Millennium Recycling, Inc.  
Sarah Campbell – Citizen Representative  
Greg Dix – DJs Sanitary Service  
Dave McElroy – City of Sioux Falls  
Deb Reinicke – Lake County  
Ryan Streff – Minnehaha County Planning Department  
Heath VonEye– City of Madison  
Merle Wollman – South Dakota Multi-Housing Association

### **Board Members Absent**

Bob Kappel – City of Sioux Falls  
April Schave – Citizen Representative  
Dale Long – Lincoln County  
Nancy Korkow – McCook County  
John Overby – Turner County

### **Others Present**

Bobbi Nelson – Novak Sanitary Service  
Todd Sandmen – Sandmen  
Tom Wilford – Marv's Sanitary Service of Brandon  
Dan & Cindy Neuroth – D & C Solid Waste

### **Call for Public comment**

## **Agenda**

1. Sustainability Coordinator Report – Aimee Ladonski
  - Introduction of new Sustainability Intern.
  - America Recycle's Day
    - November 15
    - The City and the Sioux Empire Arts Council will host an art competition.
      - Art pieces will be made of recycled materials.
      - Art pieces will be displayed on Earth Day in April, 2011.
      - Artists will be chosen from submitted portfolios.
      - There will be a day when sculptures are made live before a public audience.
  - Media
    - We continue to spread the message about sustainability and waste reduction through our web page.
      - We made improvements to our website in 2010.
      - Always open to suggestions for making the website more user-friendly.
    - Advertising
      - Commercials on CityLink16 and Results Radio.

- Synopsis of participation levels at Household Hazardous Waste Facility so far this year.
    - Reminder that we cannot accept waste from any business, organized unit, nonprofit organization, etc. Not even from within city departments.
  - **Discussion:**
    - Discussion on small quantity generators.
      - Jake Anderson: Wasn't it the intent of City to eventually get a small quantity generator permit?
      - Aimee Ladonski: Yes. That action was taken by a previous Landfill Superintendent and that permit is still pending.
      - Anderson: Where's that at?
      - Ladonski: That preceded both Dave and me. The application must have been submitted to the state about 2 years ago, but right now, we're still on hold.
      - Anderson: Potentially next year?
      - Ladonski: That's a better question for Dave. His name and contact information is on the application so he might be privy to information that I'm not aware of.
      - McElroy is asked about the small quantity generators permit: I would say 6 to 8 months before we see movement on that.
      - Anderson: What's the limit of those generators?
      - McElroy: Less than 200 kg or 220 pounds per month.
      - Anderson requests being periodically informed about the small quantity generator permit progress, future expansion, future services that might be provided by the landfill or the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, etc.
    - Discussion of HHWF data.
      - There is some correlation between web page views and facility visits.
  - Ladonski - Amendments to the minutes from the meeting of September 28, 2010 have been made and re-posted to the website.
  - Ladonski - Encouragement to get waste hauler reports in on time and with accurate and verifiable numbers.
    - Many haulers have been doing a good job of getting reports in on time, but there are still some reports that have not been turned in. We encourage haulers to bring their reporting current immediately.
2. Landfill Superintendent Report
- Overall revenue of 2010 should be near the budgeted projected amounts for 2011.
  - Waste tonnage of 2010 is less than it was in 2009.
  - 2010 CIP projects are nearly completed:
    - Added 34 duo-phase wells.
    - Added horizontal gas collector wells in the new west NSW Period expansion part of the landfill.
    - Gas capture has increased about 500 cu ft per minute because of these projects.
    - Came in under budget.
  - Call for Discussion
    - None
3. Solid Waste Industry Meeting Report

- Discussed the City's tobacco policy going into effect soon.
- Discussed 18-81
  - Majority of haulers felt that they should have better representation, but still a mixed response.
- Haulers would rather see that we meet at 5 pm or later more often.
- Discussion on whether or not garbage collection is required to take place once per week.
- Another reminder for haulers to fill out their 2011 applications as soon as possible.

#### 4. Chapter 18-19 & 18-56 of City of Sioux Falls Revised Ordinances – frequency of garbage service

- Senior citizens asking for haulers to offer to pick up trash less frequently and charge less because they have less income and don't produce as much waste.
  - Two sections of the ordinance that deal with frequency of garbage collection:
    - Section 18-19 requires the owner of every dwelling unit to secure a waste removal service at least once each week.
    - Section 18-56 covers collection conditions. Every licensed garbage hauler will collect the waste from residential customers at least once each week, and from business customers at least once each week.
- McElroy: It is our administration's feeling that we should continue to require weekly garbage collection. It is a *de facto* standard nationwide, primarily for health and sanitary concern. I did not get a chance to contact state government about state laws regarding this. I believe that the city, up until the early 90's, required removal twice a week and many cities continue to require twice weekly removal.
- Greg Dix: Up until 1993, when we started recycling, they required twice a week but then they said we could collect garbage once a week and recycling once a week.
- Board member: But picking up recycling once a week was never city ordinance.
- Heath VonEye: Does this apply to cities outside of Sioux Falls?
- McElroy: The ordinance is one of those that does not specify what applies to all the cities in the area and what doesn't. We can't enforce Sioux Falls Ordinances in other towns. The towns in our region will have to determine what ordinances they wish to adopt. Right now we don't say that they must adopt Sioux Falls ordinances, but we do require that they provide recycling opportunities for their residents. Our health department supports continued weekly pickup. I was hoping that some of the senior citizens we've heard from would come tonight to testify and give their side of the story. I understand where they're coming from, with a fixed income they're looking to cut every cost they can, but we all know that there is competition, they can choose from a plethora of different haulers, maybe find a cheaper hauler, they can certainly try to use the smallest garbage can available. I talked to some and they didn't necessarily know that. I think the market can accommodate their concerns and some haulers may be able to find a niche with senior citizens. We are not recommending any changes, however it would not surprise me if some of these senior citizens would go directly to the council to argue their case. We have informed the council and they are aware of why we want to keep the weekly requirement.
- Anderson: Has this ever come up before?

- McElroy: I think it did last year at a Committee meeting, but the Solid Waste Planning Board decided not to take action and to leave the weekly requirement at that time as well.
- Merle Wollman: We had a discussion of picking up recycling once every two weeks, or twice a month.
- McElroy: But if we allowed this for garbage you run into the problem of trash piling up in places and that's a door that we just don't want to open.
- Tom Wilford (public comment): We hear this lot. People ask us to pick up less and charge less. Is there some way to allow for that?
- Wollman: This is the marketing part of me coming through: Advertise that we have this thing called "Senior Share," and you have to find another senior on your block, or someone else on the same page, and they can share a service, share the charge, maybe bill one this month and the other one the next month, and each one only puts waste out once every other week. I haven't thought it all the way through but it's a marketing opportunity.
- McElroy: As far as I know right now they can buy a smaller size trash can and be charged less because of it.
- Dix: If we have different levels of Pay As You Go, or Pay As You Throw, or price fixing, on the lowest end of it, if the customer only wants us to come once a month, we can't really charge them what we should be charging them, we have to stay within the guidelines of that Pay As You Throw.
- McElroy: But you set the rates. And weekly service is required; you can't just collect once a month.
- Dix: But everyone in the industry knows that there are people that only put trash out once every two weeks or once a month now.
- Anderson: But they're still paying for once a week service, are they not?
- Dix: Not necessarily.
- McElroy: We (City) don't set the rates, you do.
- Dix: But in Pay As You Throw, in that price differential that we have to meet, I'm going on the lower end of it. For example, if the first container is 15 dollars a month, for the senior citizens we can only go 1.5 percent less than that.
- McElroy: No, you can go more than that. As a matter of fact, it would be better from our standpoint if you went more than that. We would encourage larger cost differences for levels of services as that is what drives people to find the smallest service and minimize their waste. One of the suggestions we hear is to require a senior citizen's discount. I'm not the originator of that idea, but it is something that's been suggested. Right now, some companies do offer a discount and some don't.
- Wollman: We (SWPB) don't like to tell haulers how to run their business.
- Dan Neuroth (public comment): Does the landfill give a senior discount?
- McElroy: No.
- Neuroth (public comment): If it's mandatory that we have it, I say it's mandatory that the landfill have it.
- Bobbi Nelson (public comment): From the Waste Hauler Meeting it was indicated that we can pick up trash once every 3 weeks and we can give them a discount, as long as we drive by their house, I just want to confirm that. <Reads meeting notes: Number 5, Page 7, halfway down the page.>
- McElroy: The City doesn't get into how you offer discounts. But I'm not saying that you have to do that. It comes down to how you interpret 18-19 and 18-56.

- Nelson (public comment): If you switch over to Page 8, a hauler comment was made that it doesn't say that we have to pick it up once a week, we just have to drive by every week. I just want to confirm that.
- McElroy: I agree that a hauler said that, but that's not necessarily how I interpret it. A weekly service is a weekly service and your service may include driving by and checking each time to see if they have garbage.
- Nelson (public comment): So technically we have to come by every week but we don't actually have to pick anything up and we can credit that for them. What if there is no garbage to pick up?
- Dix: What if there's no garbage and no recycling there? Are we in violation of the ordinance?
- Nelson (public comment): That's what I'm asking, are we allowed to give discounts?
- McElroy: I'll have to ask an attorney.
- Nelson (public comment): Ok. And the other thing, on the Revised Ordinances 18-56, it says that collections in the business district can be made as early in the business day as is convenient. Can I pick it up as early as I want? 3 am?
- McElroy: No, 6 am is the earliest.
- Dix: And what's the definition of the business district?
- McElroy: Zoning district has that set. The industrial and commercial zones.
- Dix: Under 18-56, we can take the "business district" as anything other than residential?
- McElroy: I would imagine that that's in there just to get the haulers out of the business district quickly, before businesses open and customers are trying to get around.
- McElroy: Back to the discounts discussion, if I understand it correctly, if you are providing a weekly service to a resident that has secured a once-a-week service, if you drive by that resident and there is no garbage to collect, that then you are able to give them a discount because you didn't actually have to stop. Is that what you're asking?
- Nelson (public comment): That's exactly what I'm asking.
- McElroy: I think that would be acceptable, but I'm not an attorney, I'll have to check.
- Nelson (public comment): I just wanted to make sure that we wouldn't be violating ordinance if we were to do that. If we don't stop and then reward someone for not having anything for us to pick up.
- McElroy: How can we say that the hauler is in violation of not collecting anything if there's nothing to collect?
- Nelson (public comment): My main question is that you're giving something back to the resident for not collecting. You're rewarding someone for not having us pick up their waste.
- McElroy: I think that's the decision of the hauler.
- Anderson: But then people will complain to the haulers that they're not providing the weekly service required in 18-56, but the haulers could say that the customer is not following the rules of 18-19 where they have to have it out every week.
- McElroy: The requirement on the resident is to secure the service of weekly pickup. Is driving by to check if they have garbage out a service? That's the question.
- Ladonski: Is the board recommending that we put this on the agenda for the Administrative Rules and Ordinance Committee meeting?
- Anderson: Can we act on that?

- Ladonski: We don't have to have an official vote for it to go to that committee.
- Action to have the Administrative Rules and Ordinance Committee discuss the terms of 18-56.
- Dix: I've got another question: If people leave for the winter, do they have to have a garbage service? Do we have to continue to drive by?
- Anderson: I think we should take a closer look at the wording of the ordinance.
- Wollman: If you don't charge for trash that isn't there, then you'll have people dumping it off on their neighbors, storing it in their garages, and I don't think that's where we want to go.
- Dix: People might start saving it up and only putting it out once a month to save money.
- Wollman: From my experience, the city runs on a complaint basis. If someone complains about their neighbor, then the city officials take action. Prior to that happening, business just goes on and nobody says anything as long as everything is ok.
- Streff: If people just forget to put out trash, should they get a discount? No. It's ridiculous.
- Wollman: If I pay for cable TV but don't use it every day do I get a discount? Of course not.
- Dix: But senior citizens want discounts because they're not generating the waste.

Call for Public comment

**Meeting adjourned**