

**INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROJECT  
WESTERN WYOMING PLANNING GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 14, 2008 LOCAL PLANNING MEETING  
FOR UINTA COUNTY**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the January 14, 2008 meeting that was held at the Uinta County Library in Evanston. The meeting began at approximately 1:00 PM, and concluded at approximately 4:00 PM.

**Attendees**

Tim Beppler, Uinta Recycling Inc. Board  
Betsy Wagner, Uinta Recycling Inc. Board  
Jon Turner, Uinta County Solid Waste Department  
Dan Robinson, Uinta County Solid Waste Department  
Rick Hoffman, Sublette County Solid Waste Department  
Ken Schreuder, Trihydro Corporation  
Laurie Johnson, Trihydro Corporation

Following introductions of attendees, a slide presentation was provided to guide the group discussion. The following discussion headings correspond to those used in the slide presentation. A copy of the slide presentation is available on the project website at [www.westernwyomingiswm.com](http://www.westernwyomingiswm.com).

**Recap of the ISWM Planning Process**

The meeting began with a general overview of the ISWM planning process:

- Why Are We Here Today?
- Today's Agenda
- What Are We Doing
- Project Schedule
- Meetings
- [www.westernwyomingiswm.com](http://www.westernwyomingiswm.com) (i.e., public outreach strategy)

**Waste Management System Characteristics**

General characteristics of integrated solid waste management system were discussed. These characteristics were used to facilitate a discussion of the existing waste management system, as well as alternative waste management systems that may be needed to meet the communities' long-term needs.

## Cost

- Tipping fees at both Uinta County landfills are currently \$8/ton with \$4 minimum for the general public, \$40/ton for commercial haulers compacted, \$40/ton for city haulers, and \$50/ton for commercial roll-off bins.
- Residential garbage collection rates in the City of Evanston are approximately \$11.40/month/household, and are included on the City's monthly utility bill. The City of Evanston's garbage trucks are equipped such that they can pick up both commercial and residential containers on the same route. If a City of Evanston's resident or business chooses not to use the city provided collection, they must haul their own garbage or use a private hauler.
- Private collection companies that service the Evanston area include Waste Management and One Source. Private collection companies that service the Bridger Valley area include Waste Management and Gary's Service.
- The group discussed how changes in monthly collection and disposal rates may be received by the public. There may be some public opposition to rate increases, but it was noted that the current rates have been in effect for several years (since 2000?), so a nominal rate increase may not be considered unreasonable.
- A local task force is considering the feasibility of instituting a single-stream, curbside collection program for recycling commodities within the City of Evanston. Members on this task force represent Uinta Recycling Inc, Uinta County and the City of Evanston.
- A household hazardous waste collection day is currently offered twice a year in Evanston and at least once a year in the Bridger Valley area.

## Location

- The group discussed the possibility of building a transfer station at the Bridger Valley Landfill, hauling municipal solid waste to another landfill, and utilizing the remaining disposal capacity for construction/demolition waste. A feasibility study of this scenario was completed in 2000, and reportedly concluded that the periodic closure of I-80 due to weather and accidents was a deterrent to hauling wastes to Evanston. It was noted that this problem could be addressed by providing additional storage capacity on the tipping floor of a transfer station, or in transfer trailers. Another potential obstacle is that the residents of Bridger Valley may perceive a transfer station and construction/demolition landfill as a decrease in the level of local service.
- The group discussed the possibility of building a transfer station near the city limits of Evanston, which would decrease the time and distance that self-haulers and collection trucks have to travel. (The Evanston #2 Landfill is approximately 8 miles outside of the city limits.) If a new transfer station is developed, it may also be a good idea to move the current recycling center to the transfer station to provide one-stop service and additional capacity for processing and storing recyclable commodities. Development of a green waste composting program at a new transfer station was also discussed.

## Environmental Protection

- Participants indicated that the Evanston #2 Landfill is currently permitted to dispose of solid waste without an engineered containment system (i.e., liner), but that the DEQ has not yet rendered a final determination regarding the need for an engineered containment system at the Bridger Valley Landfill. It was noted, however, that current or pending DEQ determinations may not be permanent, and could be amended or reversed at some point as a result of new data or changes in regulations.
- Participants suggested that the general public may not be well-informed regarding the potential for landfills to impact local groundwater systems. Participants did note that recycling programs are generally well-received by the local community.

### Other Partners

- The group discussed the possibility of transporting wastes within the county, or across county or state lines. Uinta County commissioners reportedly have a policy to not accept out of county waste at either of the two landfills. Participants suggested that transporting wastes within the county (e.g., from Bridger Valley to Evanston) may be the least controversial transportation option, but that transportation of wastes across county or state lines should not be omitted from the list of options for further consideration.

### Segregation/Diversion of Waste

- The group discussed the potential benefits of segregating and diverting portions of the waste stream that is being buried at the landfill. Currently, Uinta County segregates tires and white goods (i.e., washers, driers, refrigerators, stoves) from the waste stream, and manages these wastes in separate areas. Depending on the availability of space, dead animals are either buried in the main working face or diverted to a separate disposal area. Participants discussed the possibility of implementing segregation programs for recycling commodities and construction/demolition waste, and diversion programs for clean fill materials (i.e., old concrete and asphalt).

### Composting

- The group discussed the possibility of starting a composting program for green wastes (e.g., grass clippings, leaves, brush, and tree trimmings). Once composting programs are established, participants suggested that incentives may be necessary to encourage participation.

### Recycling

- Uinta Recycling currently operates a recycling drop-off center in Evanston, and would like to expand and provide services to the Bridger Valley area. Participants expressed an interest in increasing recycling rates for marketable commodities, as well as electronic wastes.

## **Potential Alternatives**

The group was asked to identify specific alternatives to the existing local waste management system, and provide a general indication regarding the feasibility of each alternative.

### **Definitely Worth Considering**

- Construct a transfer station at Bridger Valley, with recycling and composting facilities
- Construct a transfer station on the east side of Evanston, with recycling and composting facilities
- Segregate construction/demolition wastes (to facilitate alternative management strategies)
- Process construction/demolition wastes with a grinder (to minimize volume of air space consumed)
- Transport municipal solid waste generated in Uinta County to existing landfills in Rock Springs (Sweetwater County), Marbleton (Sublette County), or Weber County, Utah

### **Maybe Worth Considering**

- Accept municipal solid waste from Lincoln County (Kemmerer and or Cokeville areas)
- State-wide initiatives:
  - Promote recycling of glass and/or plastic bottles
  - Ban the use of plastic bags commonly used by grocery stores
  - Grant program to support recycling and composting programs

### **Impractical/Unreasonable**

- More landfills

## **Next Steps**

The group reviewed the schedule for completing the inventory of existing systems, selection of regional alternatives for detailed analysis, preparation of the economic analysis report, and ongoing public outreach activities. The annual meeting of the Wyoming Solid Waste and Recycling Association, which will be at the Parkway Plaza in Casper on August 25-28, 2008, was identified as an opportunity to network with other communities that are facing similar solid waste management issues.