

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

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 15, 2008 LOCAL PLANNING MEETING
FOR LINCOLN COUNTY**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the January 15, 2008 meeting that was held at the Lincoln County Courthouse in Kemmerer. The meeting began at approximately 1:00 PM, and concluded at approximately 5:00 PM.

Attendees

Tammie Archibald, Lincoln County Commission
Kent Connelly, Lincoln County Commission
Jerry Harmon, Lincoln County Commission
John Woodward, Lincoln County Planning
Bob Rawlings, Lincoln County Solid Waste Manager
Ryan Lyman, Thayne Landfill/Transfer Station
Kevin Walker, Town of Cokeville
DJ Prows, Town of Cokeville
Stanley Thompson, Town of Cokeville
Chuck Smith, City of Diamondville
Craig McOmie, Wyoming DEQ
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.

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 (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

- In general, the public in Lincoln County may not be aware of the cost to manage their waste. It was noted that development, operating, and closure costs should all be considered when comparing the full cost of existing systems and alternatives.
- It may be more cost effective to combine Lincoln County's waste stream with the waste streams of other counties or states at a large, regional facility (e.g., landfill, recycling center, or composting facility). In many cases, facilities can manage more wastes with limited impact to their variable costs (e.g., personnel, fuel), and no impact to their fixed costs (e.g., land, facilities, equipment). This concept, known as "economies of scale", means that as the daily tonnage of waste managed increases, the cost to manage each ton goes down.

Location

- Current regulatory and capacity issues at the four permitted Lincoln County landfills were discussed. The Cokeville #2 Landfill is an unlined facility that receives Star Valley's municipal solid waste from the Thayne transfer station. The Thayne Landfill has 12-18 months of remaining capacity for construction/demolition waste. The Kemmerer #2 Landfill is unlined and receives waste from the transfer station at LaBarge. The South End Landfill is permitted but not constructed, and may be exchanged for additional State lands adjacent to the Thayne Landfill for additional construction/demolition waste disposal capacity.
- The potential for transporting wastes to other landfills in the region, including Uinta County, Sublette County, and Mud Lake, ID was discussed as an option.
- The possibility of extending the useful life of the Cokeville #2 Landfill by converting it to a construction/demolition-only landfill was discussed. It was noted that the DEQ currently has less strenuous requirements for construction/demolition landfills, including the option of getting a waiver from the liner requirement (if specific conditions are met). It was also noted that Lincoln County owns additional land adjacent to the Cokeville #1 Landfill, which may also be suitable for the development of additional capacity for construction/demolition waste.
- All three operating landfills have areas designated for the disposal of clean fill. It was noted that clean fill (i.e., old asphalt and concrete) does not need to be managed at a landfill and can be diverted to other locations for reuse or fill material.
- The group discussed an option of keeping all three operating landfills (Kemmerer #2, Cokeville #2, Thayne) open for the disposal of construction/demolition wastes, and hauling all municipal solid waste to a lined landfill, either in-county out-of-county, or out-of-state. It probably does not make sense to have more than one lined landfill in Lincoln County. To keep waste transportation costs to a

minimum, participants suggested that efforts should be made to increase segregation and recycling efforts.

- The history of the municipal waste incinerator at the Thayne Landfill was discussed. The unit was unable to process all of the municipal waste it received, so the current baler was added. The incinerator was eventually shut down due to escalating costs for propane, which was required to combust the off-gases. It was also noted that subsequent changes to air quality rules would have required significant expenditures for additional pollution control devices.
- The design, construction, and operating issues associated with the South End Landfill were discussed. This facility has been permitted, but has not been constructed. This landfill is located on approximately 340 acres but only 10-15 acres are permitted for the footprint of a landfill. The permit for this site specifies that it must be lined. Access and use of this site is limited in the winter due to steep slopes and heavy snow fall. The high precipitation rates, steep topography, and shallow groundwater systems pose significant practical and financial obstacles to the development of this site.
- The group discussed the feasibility of a new lined regional landfill at Sage Junction, which has significant acreage, rail access, and very few if any local residences in the area. It was noted that utilization of reclaimed mine land could present significant technical issues (i.e., settlement) for a lined landfill. In order to make any large, lined regional landfill economically feasible, significant daily tonnages of incoming wastes will be necessary. The potential for shipping wastes from eastern Utah or other places via the existing rail lines was identified as a potential option.

Environmental Protection

- Quite a few years ago, the DEQ concluded that municipal solid wastes could not continue to be buried at the Thayne Landfill unless an engineered containment system was used. This determination resulted in the incineration/baling/transfer of municipal solid wastes at this facility. Recently, the DEQ also issued determinations stating that future municipal waste disposal units at the Cokeville #2 and Kemmerer #2 Landfills would need to be lined.
- Questions were raised regarding the level of protection provided by engineered containment systems. It was noted that significant technical improvements have occurred relative to the materials, construction, and testing methods for engineered containment systems. Although engineered containment systems can still leak, they are generally considered to be significantly more protective than an unlined system.

Other Partners

- The group discussed that Lincoln County would consider sending or receiving waste to or from other counties or states.

Segregation/Diversion of Waste

- The three existing operating landfills currently require segregation of construction/demolition wastes. Participants supported increasing waste diversion and recycling rates.

Composting

- The group discussed the possibility of establishing green waste composting programs to divert more wastes from land disposal. There was some interest in the possibility of composting green wastes and wastewater treatment plant sludge generated by the Town of Cokeville, as well as the possibility of establishing a composting facility at a location other than the landfill.
- Ongoing dead animal composting projects at Kemmerer #2 and Thayne Landfills were discussed. It was noted that composting dead animals at the Kemmerer #2 Landfill has saved a large amount of landfill space. If additional space were available, the composting program at the Thayne Landfill could be expanded to accommodate the large number of dead animal waste received at that facility.

Recycling

- Existing recycling opportunities in Lincoln County are limited. It was noted that some people are reluctant to recycle because it doesn't make much money, and in some cases, it actually costs money to recycle. It was noted that recycling does not need to make money to be worth while. As long as the cost of recycling is less than the cost of landfilling, it makes sense to recycle. Due to geographic issues, it may make sense for the recycling programs in the southern part of Lincoln County to partner with Uinta Recycling (Evanston), while recycling programs in the northern part of Lincoln County may need to partner with Jackson Community Recycling (Jackson).

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

- Transfer municipal solid wastes from Thayne, Kemmerer #2, Cokeville #2 Landfills to a single lined landfill
- Transfer wastes from the LaBarge Transfer Station to the Marbleton #2 Landfill
- Convert the Kemmerer #2 Landfill to a lined regional landfill
- Convert the Cokeville #2 Landfill to a construction/demolition waste landfill
- Construct a new construction/demolition landfill at Cokeville (Cokeville #3) on adjacent property owned by Lincoln County

- Construct a new regional lined landfill/recycling center at Sage Junction

Maybe Worth Considering

- Transfer municipal solid waste from Cokeville #2 and Kemmerer #2 Landfills to one of the two landfills in Uinta County (Bridger Valley or Evanston #2)
- Transfer municipal solid waste from Star Valley to the Circle Butte Landfill near Mud Lake, Idaho

Impractical/Unreasonable

- Construct more than one lined landfill in Lincoln County

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.