

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

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 17, 2008 LOCAL PLANNING MEETING  
FOR TETON COUNTY**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the January 17, 2008 meeting that was held at the Teton County Administration Building in Jackson, Wyoming. The meeting began at approximately 8:00 AM, and concluded at approximately 12:00 PM.

**Attendees**

Wayne Neal, Teton County Engineering  
Jeff Hermansky, Teton County Engineering  
Andy Schwartz, Teton County Commission  
Hank Phibbs, Teton County Commission  
Heather Overholser, Jackson Community Recycling  
Dan Buchan, Jackson Community Recycling  
Doug Sobey, Jackson Community Recycling  
Samantha Eddy, Jackson Community Recycling  
Jeff Brewster, Waste Connections  
Guy and Celeste Jacobson, Star Valley Disposal  
Kelly French, Jackson Curbside Inc.  
Cindy McIntyre, Teton County Solid Waste Department  
Shane Hansen, Terra Firma Organics  
Dane Buk, Terra Firma Organics  
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](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 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

- The cost of an engineered containment system, including excavation, liner installation, leachate collection systems, and monitoring wells was discussed. General costs for an engineered containment system were estimated at \$75K - \$150K/acre, not including excavation costs. It was suggested that the cost of an engineered containment system for the Marbleton #2 Landfill (Sublette County) be considered as an alternative in the regional plan.
- The distance from the Teton County Transfer Station to regional landfills was discussed. It may be worth comparing the cost of hauling wastes to the Marbleton #2 Landfill or to the cost of hauling waste to the Circle Butte Landfill in Mud Lake, ID.

### Location

- Due to the availability and cost of land, it is probably not reasonable to consider development of a new landfill in Teton County.
- It may be reasonable to consider an alternative, larger location for the existing composting program, but the availability and cost of land may be an obstacle. The County is in the process of upgrading and expanding the current composting operations (operated by Terra Firma Organics) at the Horsethief Canyon Landfill/Transfer Station. Jackson Community Recycling has no plans to expand their facility, but they could increase the number of shifts to accommodate an increased volume of commodities.
- Modifications to the Horsethief Canyon Transfer Station are under development to address safety issues and expand recycling opportunities.

### Environmental Protection

- Teton County is applying for a closure permit of the Horsethief Canyon Landfill, and an operating permit for the Horsethief Canyon Transfer Station (which includes the composting operations). As part of the closure process, the landfill will be monitored for 30 years. Groundwater monitoring wells were installed in 2007.

## Other Partners

- Teton County recently signed a 10-year contract with Sublette County to transfer municipal solid waste to the Marbleton #2 Landfill. The possibility of hauling wastes to other counties and states was discussed.

## Segregation/Diversion of Waste

- A portion of the construction/demolition waste stream is currently being segregated, stockpiled, and composted (wood waste) or ground (concrete) at the Horsethief Canyon Landfill/Transfer Station. Incentives to increase segregation rates may include mandates or tiered tipping fees (i.e., higher fees for wastes managed through transfer station, and lower fees for wastes that are diverted to the composting/reuse areas).

## Composting

- Terra Firma Organics operates the composting program at the Horsethief Canyon Landfill/Transfer Station. A 1-year pilot program for composting food waste is about to begin. The initial diversion goal for the food waste composting program is 10% of the waste stream, but could be as high as 30% of the waste stream. Terra Firma Organics is also interested in managing organic wastes from surrounding counties.
- Currently, dead animals are disposed at the Horsethief Canyon Landfill. Once final closure of the landfill is completed, Teton County will need to consider implementing a composting program for this waste stream. Composting practices were discussed. It will be necessary to manage wild and domestic dead animal wastes in separate areas. Compost products generated from domestic animals could be marketed to the public, but compost products generated from wild animals will need to be disposed at a permitted landfill due to concerns with Chronic Wasting Disease and Brucellosis.

## Recycling

- Jackson Community Recycling representatives indicated that the public has expressed an interest in expanding recycling opportunities for additional commodities that are not currently being recycled. The cost/benefit of recycling specific commodities was discussed. It was noted that the full cost accounting analysis that is being prepared for the local integrated solid waste management plan is focused on the cost to manage a generic ton of recycling commodities through the recycling center, and the cost to manage a generic ton of wastes through the transfer station. It was noted that a breakdown of the volumes, costs, and revenues associated with specific commodities would be helpful to Jackson Community Recycling in the process of determining which commodities to manage.

- The group was encouraged to think about establishing either local or regional goals for waste diversion/recycling/composting as part of the planning process. Terra Firma Organics indicated that they may be able to divert up to 60% of the local waste stream to a composting program. Strategies to increase diversion/recycling/composting rates were discussed, including curbside collection and single-stream recycling. It was noted that detailed evaluations of local collection programs (which include private businesses), are generally outside the scope of the current planning process. The integrated solid waste management planning process is focused on evaluating the core infrastructure of the waste management system (i.e., environmental, capacity, and cost issues associated of recycling centers, composting facilities, transfer stations, and landfills).

### **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

- Optimize waste diversion rates
- Implement mandatory segregation or tiered tipping fees for construction/demolition wastes
- Expand the Horsethief Canyon Transfer Station

#### Maybe Worth Considering

- Construct and operate an engineered containment system at the Marbleton #2 Landfill
- Transport wastes to the Circle Butte Landfill near Mud Lake, ID
- Increase efficiency of recycling system by incorporating commodities generated in Sublette and Lincoln Counties
- Construct a transfer station at Teton Village
- Expand the current composting operation at the Horsethief Canyon Landfill/Transfer Station
- Switch from a source-separated to a single-stream recycling system
- Curbside collection services

#### Impractical/Unreasonable

- More landfills in Teton 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.