

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

**SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY 18, 2008 LOCAL PLANNING MEETING
FOR SUBLETTE COUNTY**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the January 18, 2008 meeting that was held at the Sublette County Library in Pinedale, Wyoming. The meeting began at approximately 8:00 AM, and concluded at approximately 12:00 PM.

Attendees

Rick Hoffman, Sublette County Solid Waste Department
Joel Bousman, Sublette County Commissioner
Sally Mackey, Sublette Citizens for Recycling
Caroline Sulenta, Sublette Citizens for Recycling
Susan Kramer, Sublette Citizens for Recycling
Melanie Woffinden, Tri-Town Recycling
Morell Woffinden, Tri-Town Recycling
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 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 public may not be fully informed regarding the actual cost of waste management services. In Pinedale, the current cost of collection for residents is approximately \$30/month (which includes disposal fees). Tipping fees at the Marbleton #2 Landfill have been \$5/ton for several years, The fee for industrial waste will increase to \$20/ton but residential and commercial will remain \$5/ton. Strategies for decreasing the volume of waste disposed were discussed, including curbside collection, reduced fees for wastes that are segregated, and increased public education.

Location

- The public is accustomed to the location of the Pinedale Transfer Station, but the facility is getting old, and may need to be expanded to handle the growing volume of wastes that are managed. If the Pinedale Transfer Station is expanded, it may be worth considering providing capacity to expand the local recycling program.
- The need for additional transfer stations in the county was discussed, but no obvious needs were identified.

Environmental Protection

- The costs associated with engineered containment systems were discussed. It was noted that the cost of an engineered containment system creates an incentive for larger, regional landfills instead of smaller, local landfills. This incentive is due on the fact that 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.
- The current status of the Marbleton #2 Landfill was discussed. Historically, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the facility does not pose a threat to groundwater, and therefore, is not required to have an engineered containment system. However, the results of ongoing monitoring activities, or changes in regulations, could alter the DEQ’s position on this matter. Regardless of DEQ’s position, Sublette County could decide to use of an engineered containment system to limit future environmental liability.

Other Partners

- The group discussed the possibility of working with other counties and/or states to optimize the efficiency of Sublette County’s waste management system. Sublette County recently signed a 10-year contract with Teton County to transfer municipal solid waste to the Marbleton #2 Landfill. The possibility of hauling Sublette County wastes to another regional landfill, such as the Rock Springs Landfill (Sweetwater County), was discussed.

Segregation/Diversion of Waste

- The possibility of segregating and diverting wastes from disposal at the landfill was discussed. Yard wastes, asphalt, concrete, and clean wood could be segregated and diverted to other management systems, including composting facilities and clean fill areas.

Composting

- Options for composting wood wastes, green wastes, and dead animals were discussed. Currently, these waste streams are buried at the Marbleton #2 Landfill. Composting could save landfill space and decrease odor and vector problems associated with dead animal wastes.
- Efforts to address pine beetle problems in the national forests may generate a significant amount of organic material that will have to be burned, buried, or composted. Development of a regional composting facility for this waste stream could create economic development opportunities, as well as a product that could be used to reclaim areas disturbed by oil & gas development activity. It may be appropriate to partner with Teton County or Terra Firma Organics on a regional composting facility.

Recycling

- Tri-Town Recycling (Marbleton) and Sublette Citizens for Recycling (Pinedale) both operate drop-off centers and free pick up services to their communities. They also have unmanned drop-off containers located around their communities.
- The group discussed the possibility of expanding the current recycling capabilities by utilizing space at the transfer station and landfill. Sublette Citizens for Recycling expressed interest in moving the baler equipment to the transfer station and using the existing recycling facility in town as a drop-off center. Tri-Town Recycling expressed a similar interest regarding the Marbleton #2 Landfill, although their short-term interest is limited to storage space for baled commodities. Both recycling groups expressed interest in the possibility of transporting baled commodities to the recycling center in Jackson by using the semi-trailers that are used to haul municipal solid waste to the Marbleton #2 Landfill. Joint transportation and marketing efforts with Jackson Community Recycling were also discussed as potential options.

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

- Divert wood, metal, and 5 gallon plastic jugs from Marbleton #2 Landfill
- Enlarge the Pinedale Transfer Station and include capacity for recycling program
- Partner with Jackson Community Recycling to achieve efficiencies with transportation and marketing
- Pursue curbside collection services

Maybe Worth Considering

- Construct an engineering containment system at the Marbleton #2 Landfill and operate it as a regional landfill
- Develop a regional composting facility in Sublette County
- Transfer all waste that is generated in Sublette County to the Rock Springs Landfill

Impractical/Unreasonable

- More landfills in Sublette 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.