



**MONO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SOLID WASTE DIVISION**

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Mono County Solid Waste Task Force

Meeting of October 4, 2012
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Board of Supervisors Meeting Room
Sierra Center Mall, Mammoth Lakes

MINUTES

In Attendance:

<i>Tony Dublino</i>	<i>Mono County</i>
<i>Johnny Goetz</i>	<i>TOML</i>
<i>Jesse Baldwin</i>	<i>Member/Contractor</i>
<i>Pat Fenton</i>	<i>Mammoth Disposal</i>
<i>Brian Robinette</i>	<i>Sierra Cons. Project</i>
<i>Scott Eagan</i>	<i>Inyo County Integrated Waste Management</i>
<i>Karl Schnadt</i>	<i>MCWD</i>
<i>Ray Jarvis</i>	<i>TOML</i>
<i>Jill Kearney</i>	<i>Mono County Env. Health/LEA</i>
<i>Ron Cohen</i>	<i>MMSA</i>
<i>Kevin Brown</i>	<i>D&S Waste</i>

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order at 1:05

2. Update on TOML and BOS approval of Bylaws and membership

The Board of Supervisors and the Town Council both approved the SWTF bylaws and membership at their meetings earlier in the week. As such, the bylaws will be acknowledged and the group will be so governed. There was a request to send the adopted bylaws to new members. It was noted that the group did have a quorum as defined by the bylaws, but no action items were on the agenda.

3. Recognition of new members and brief update of what the group has been doing and what they hope to accomplish

The purpose of the group was explained, and a brief history of what has been discussed in recent meetings was provided.

4. Meeting schedule—formalize a meeting time and place and frequency for the remainder of 2012 with plans to schedule 2013 meetings in January 2013.

It was agreed that the group will continue to meet monthly through the end of the first quarter of 2013 (March 2013) at which time quarterly meetings will be considered. The group will meet on the first Thursday of each month, from 1-3 pm in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room, notwithstanding the possibility for changes as necessary.

5. Solid Waste Enterprise Fund and budget issues

The Group was provided with a spreadsheet that included information on expenses of the county's solid waste facilities, by facility, as well as revenues for each facility from gate fees. It was explained that numerous assumptions were made to develop the spreadsheet, and those assumptions were discussed. The spreadsheet did not include revenues from parcel fees, but those were estimated and it is clear that the program is still running at a deficit.

It was explained to the group that the Board of Supervisors directed staff to bring a proposal for balancing the SWEF budget before the end of the year. The primary question is whether the budget can be balanced by reducing costs, or if an increase in revenue is absolutely necessary. There is also the question of funding the future transition of the program, and upcoming closure costs.

Kevin Brown- Commented that a tipping fee increase will punish the haulers, and their customers. If those customers are lost, franchise fees are also lost. He believes the best approach is to up the parcel fee. He is frustrated because they could haul the garbage out of the area for less, but they still have to pay the exported waste fee. He said he has not seen any reduction of the county's programs or staff in an effort to reduce expenses. He said that if the tipping fees are increased, that he won't pay it. When asked for specific suggestions, he brought up privatization of the system, eliminate staffing at the landfill, transition to long haul, eliminate the waste export fee, accelerate dump closure, increase the parcel fee, close Benton TS, close the landfills and let the haulers take over the TS. He suggested the county abandon the program and ask the state for regulatory forgiveness. Another suggestion is to require mandatory curbside pickup and eliminate transfer stations.

Pat Fenton- expressed some of the same issues as Brown, tipping fees are seen as increases in the fees by the waste haulers and not the county. He did not think the state would offer forgiveness if we abandoned our regulatory obligations.

Johnny Goetz- Can we consider raising the parcel fee? The issues and challenges of imposing a new property tax was discussed. It would be difficult to accomplish, if not impossible. Goetz explained there is a Mandatory Pickup ordinance in the Town. Could this be done in the county? Such a program would eliminate the need for Transfer Stations.

Ron Cohen- Suggested an independent audit of A-87 allocations. There is a possibility that the SWEF could be funding other county programs and department's activities. He summed up some of the basic direction and tools: Accelerate closure, transition to LHTS, increase tipping fee, increase parcel fee, bring detailed balance sheet, mandatory pickup fee.

Ray Jarvis-

Mandatory curbside pickup does not make as much sense in the unincorporated parts of the county

Because of diminishing tonnage, perhaps parcel fees would best maintain the system. Discussion of closure costs and post-closure liabilities was discussed. Could the parcel fees be used as security for post closure maintenance?

Brian- Considering the ever-inflating closure costs, and the reality of increasing diversion, he believes the group should focus on accelerated closure.

Other discussion about whether the SWEF should go away, and the program could go back into the Gen Fund. Is that possible? Other ideas for helping out the finances is for the county to forgive the loans to the program, eliminating some debt service.

The group was advised that based on the discussion and suggestions, some basic concepts would be returned to the group at the next meeting for their consideration. The timeline of getting an item before the board before the end of the year was discussed, and how the opportunity to obtain an SWTF recommendation may only be the first meeting in November.

6. Update on local Ordinance banning plastic bags

A brief update was provided, as Lisa Isaacs was not in attendance. The ordinance is being drafted, there is a sponsoring Town Council person, and the goal for a roll-out date would be in April 2013.