

TETON COUNTY INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING (ISWR) ADVISORY BOARD  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
LOCATION: ISWR CONFERENCE ROOM AND ZOOM MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 3-5 PM  
Notes were taken by Secretary Lindsey Ehinger

**Members Present, Constituting a quorum:** Tanya Anderson, Don Baker, Rani Carr, Paul Cherry, Katie Creasey, Lindsey Ehinger, Kahlynn Huck, and Erik Kimball

**Staff Present:** Brenda Ashworth, ISWR Superintendent, Becky Kiefer, ISWR Waste Diversion Outreach Coordinator, Caroline Sheahan, ISWR Financial Accountant

**Others Present** (public): Kelly French from Jackson Community Recycling, Floren Poliseo from Public Works, Iris Saxer, Opie Garvin from Yellow Iron, Tim O'Donoghue from Riverwind Foundation

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chair Paul Cherry.

Motion by Rani to approve January 6<sup>th</sup> minutes; *seconded* by Don. Motion passes unanimously at 3:02 pm.

#### **New Business and Public Comment**

- None

#### **Report from Board Chair Paul Cherry**

- **Wildlife LDRs and Pay as You Throw (PAYT):**
  - The letter in support of bear-resistant containers and PAYT that the board discussed in January was sent to the County Planning Commission. No board members were present at the meeting on Monday, February 28, so we aren't sure if the commission received the letter or provided any updates. Erik and Kahlynn added to R2ZW.
  - Brenda is not sure when the wildlife LDR updates will go into effect. It may be up to one year before they are implemented, or they could be implemented in July but not yet enforced. There is a group working to purchase and use bear-resistant containers, but they are looking for a person or nonprofit to run the program. The contact is Ryan Hostetter.
  - Board members expressed interest in continuing to promote PAYT with multiple-sized bin options at the same time as new bear-resistant containers. The bin size has an impact on carbon footprint which is also an important consideration in addition to charismatic wildlife impacts. Ideally, we can promote fewer trash pickups, but more impact has been shown when municipalities also offer different sized bins. Some statistics may be available in the Haub School report.
  - The board members can express their thoughts by continuing to inform the planning commission about logistical details for PAYT. However, an ordinance would be required for enforcement, and enforcement would still be an issue even with an ordinance.

#### **Budget Discussion led by Caroline Sheahan**

- Finances for the current fiscal year are in good shape, and we expect to have another solid year next year. ISWR is projecting to have twice the reserve in this fiscal year as we budgeted (~\$600,000 instead of \$266,000). Revenue is ahead of budget by \$500,000. This is due mostly to tip fee increases. Recycling revenue is up significantly due to commodity prices being high,

especially aluminum. Our aluminum volume is up significantly with up to five loads expected compared to typically one or two per year. Scrap metal, OCC, and aluminum bring in most of the recycling revenue. The diversion rate is up to 35% from 34% at the same time (11/30/21) in the previous year.

- Trash tonnages are down slightly from budgeted. The diversion rate is relatively constant. The sort fee revenue will be down due to newly enforced policies at the transfer station. Loads are being rejected rather than charging a sorting fee. Reminder: new recycling opportunity for mattresses.
- Capital Expenses: We have added over \$109k to capital expenses for a new total of over \$200k. This includes bin painting, roll-off signage, and loading equipment (forklift). Capital expenses are included in our budget–ISWR must generate money to pay for our capital expenses.
- FY'23 Budget and Tip Fees:
  - Tonnages and recycling prices are budgeted conservatively. Total revenue expected is \$7.2 million with total expenses budgeted at \$6.7 million. The tip fee will remain the same for the next fiscal year. The transfer station revenue is budgeted to increase 12% due to incoming tonnages. Recycling revenue is just under \$1 million. We expect to contribute \$50k to reserves.
  - The county requires ISWR to have a certain amount of capital reserves and two months of expenses in reserves. We are currently under our required amounts. We have significant pooled cash, so we will plan to move some money into the reserve accounts.
- Fund 34 and SLIB: Fund 34 has \$190k in it. SLIB has \$125k left for landfill closure. We expect to use all these funds and will not have any remaining. Fund 44 (2019 SPET) has \$1.8 million left for planning, engineering, and the sorting system.
  - Next year's budget feels more stable than last year which coincided with COVID uncertainties, pricing increases from suppliers, tip fee increases, etc. This year, tonnages went up more than anticipated, the staff kept costs under control, capital projects are in good shape, and commodity prices are way up. Remarkably, we've been able to keep tip fees stable.
  - There is an annual escalator for household hazardous waste. These programs are very expensive to run, and we never turn people away if they can't pay for proper disposal. Fees do not cover costs. We will have a new contract next year for HHW, so we are trying to budget conservatively since we have many unknowns. Food waste is very new, so the costs are still uncertain.
  - Inflation did not impact the budget significantly, but we did budget conservatively for increased freight costs in light of the Ukraine situation.

*Motion* by Don to approve the budget and fee increases; *seconded* by Rani. Motion passes unanimously at 3:50 pm.

#### **Superintendent's Report by Brenda Ashworth**

- Capital expenses:
  - The bin painting bid came in less than expected at \$60k. This should wrap up by May. Bins will need to be pulled in order to paint them, so it will have some impact on community recycling. It's a slow time of year, so the impact should hopefully be minimal.
  - Recycle Across America has finalized new bin signage. Becky has sent requests for quotes to identify a low bidder to be approved by BOC in April.
  - The sort system was approved by BOC and is currently being manufactured. The schedule for its installation should be in place next week.

- Electrical system upgrades are nearly complete. They should be done by the end of the month.
- The food waste composting depackager is set in location. Delcon is working on the electrical. Ecoverse employees will be back on March 14 to train ISWR on how to use it. The machine is supposed to be able to handle tin cans and palletized food. March 15-16 will be the best opportunity to see the machine in action.
- The water system project has wrapped up. Ridgeline paid additional engineering fees due to their delays.
- Zero Landfill Initiative: The Subaru-funded project wrapped up after seven years. Erik, Brenda, and Heather Overholser attended an informative zero-landfill summit. Erik said the amount of increased diversion in the park was significant. A report will be available shortly.
- Staffing: Samantha Lee (current customer service representative) will be the new scale master. The scale clerk position has been offered to an outside person. We are looking for a CSR again.
- Facilities Planning: SPET funds from 2019 are being used for the food depackager and sort system. We need to investigate options for the truck scale. Ideally, the facilities committee will meet soon to help with this.
- Food Waste Composting: We have a contract, pricing, food depackager, and facility. We expect to begin picking up food waste on April 1 and are currently working with early adopters to figure out the route. A kickoff meeting with WestBank is scheduled for the week of April 14. We will pick up twice per week. The contract has a minimum fee of around \$5,000 per month. The regular fee will be \$98 for a smaller 65-gallon bin or \$143 for a 95-gallon bin with biweekly pickup. Containers will be bear-resistant.
- Grants: We asked for \$50,000 instead of \$30,000 from the Brinson Foundation this year. They pay for post office recycling, household hazardous waste, and outreach. We asked for increased funding for residential compost. People may be able to drop off food waste at the transfer station and pay the tip fee but not the minimum fee for food waste. Teton Conservation District also helps with grants for the above issues as does Weed and Pest.
- Climate Action Committee: Erik Kimball is the ISWR representative on the Teton Climate Action Plan (TCAP). They are currently identifying projects and have a goal for net-zero carbon by 2030. Residential compost expansion is in the works as well as PAYT implementation to reduce carbon. Another priority is to enhance the school district sustainability program. They are still working out leadership details and processes moving forward.
- Waste Audit: A waste audit is happening this week at ISWR. Anecdotally, not a lot of recycling is in the garbage—good news! Grand Teton National Park did a waste audit in August 2021. Haub School students will be working on this in the spring semester and may become fellows in the summer. Another priority is to enhance the school district sustainability program. They are still working out leadership details and processes moving forward.
- Permits/RFPs:
  - The dead animal closure pit RFP is coming up. Don will be on that committee.
  - The Chapter Six operating permit for the transfer station involves water, fault lines, waste handling, etc. This next permit through the DEQ is a lifetime permit. Paul and Erik will be helping with this.
  - An RFP for the environmental sampling plan for the landfill closure monitoring is also coming up soon. Golder will help develop the plan. The contract is for a contractor to monitor specific issues. Katie will be part of the RFP committee for this.
- Transfer station rejected loads: ISWR updated our sorting policy last July and started rejecting loads last winter. In February, we increased our rejection instead of sort fees. Steve has conducted site visits to educate contractors. Dan with Yellow Iron suggested having a BBQ and

educational session with contractors at the transfer station. If a load is rejected, the contractor takes pictures and notifies Steve Ramos right away to maintain documentation. Some customers were unhappy, but most contractors have been ok with it once they understood WHY they had to sort. Haulers have also helped reject loads ahead of time.

- Eastern Idaho Waste District: A new landfill is being planned in Rexburg. Teton County, WY, has been invited to be part of this process. We would be part of the waste district and own part of the landfill. We would need to evaluate costs, benefits, and liabilities if we pursue being part of the waste district. It might also be a good option as a contingency landfill if possible. Bonneville is not part of this waste district. We also do not have a waste contract for Bonneville, so it may be prudent to have another option.

### **Tim O'Donoghue – Sustainable Destination Management Plan (SDMP)**

Our tourism levels are undermanaged currently, but we are aiming to increase the management of tourists. The Travel and Tourism Board (TTB) has hired George Washington University (GWU) to develop a management plan. Tim would like our help distributing the community survey to our networks. GWU team leads will be here the week of March 14-18. Focus groups are governance, economy, environment, community & culture, and "other." Brenda and Lindsey will be attending the environment group to identify SWOT in the waste management sphere. In May, GWU will return to identify solutions.

### **Committee and Staff Reports**

- Marketing and Outreach:
  - Since the sort policy went into effect, we have seen a 12% decrease in C&D and a 65% increase in wood waste. We are working on new signage and outreach.
  - The food waste composting toolkit is ready and is being translated into Spanish. Becky will also be reaching out to restaurant kitchens to help get the word out.
  - The Road to Zero Waste (R2ZW) committee has lots of community members involved. They are working on getting the word out on new projects and initiatives with the sorting system, wildlife LDRs, updating the R2ZW timeline, etc.

### **Closing**

Motion by Don to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Lindsey; All board members approved with no opposition. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.