

## Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board:** Recycling Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, November 7, 2018

Chair Mr. Max Weiss called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Marvin Meier, Mr. Darin Larson, Mr. Bob Carothers, Mr. Bradley Hanson, Mr. Ben Adank, Mr. Nathan Nelson, Mr. Bruce Kees, Ms. Jeannie Czaplewski, Mr. Al Amann and Mr. Max Weiss. Excused were: Mr. Joe Wick, Mr. Tom Huber and Mr. Don Black.

**OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING:** Sonya Hansen, Manager Randy Johnson, Bruce Fuerbringer, Josh Sweeney, Gwen Sweeney, Ron Speltz and Greg Hofer.

**MINUTES:** Mr. Darin Larson made a motion seconded by Mr. Bob Carothers to approve the August 30, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING POSTED AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments were received.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION: 2018 FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer reviewed the 2018 budgeted to actual expenditures and revenues as of October 31, 2018 with the Committee. The BBC, Nelson and Mondovi sites revenues and expenditure reports were also distributed to the Committee for review. No action required of the Committee.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION - SALE OF FORKLIFT AT THE MONDOVI RECYCLING CENTER:**

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer recommended the sale of the forklift at the Mondovi Recycling Center. He indicated that the forklift has around 211 hours and is not used and was purchased for \$24,000 in September of 2014. A motion was made by Mr. Bob Carothers seconded by Mr. Ben Adank to approve the sale of the forklift using the Wisconsin Surplus process with a minimum bid of \$20,000.00. Motion Carried.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – UNPAID BILL FOR DAMAGES AND REPAIRS OF THE SKID STEER AT BBC RECYCLING CENTER:**

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer informed the Committee that the skid steer at the BBC Recycling Center is mostly used by employees at the site but is owned by the County. Employees operating the equipment damaged the door and tires. Historically routine maintenance of the equipment was the responsibility of the County and if BBC damaged the property, they paid the cost for the repair. The County recently received invoices for payment

from Lindstrom Equipment for repairs to the skid steer for damages caused by employee use at the BBC Recycling Center.

Representatives from the BBC Recycling Board agreed that the damages should be paid for by BBC and that Buffalo County should make sure they receive the invoices for payment.

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer indicated that adequate training will need to be completed prior to allowing access to use of the equipment.

### **REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RECYCLING DIRECTOR MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE:**

Ms. Sonya Hansen indicated that the County received formal orders to extend the current director's leave of absence to September 30, 2019. She indicated that Manager Randy Johnson is doing an excellent job with keeping the program operating efficiently but he is only one person with only so many hours in a week. She indicated that additional time is needed to assist him with public outreach and some of the other administrative duties needed for the program. She further stated that the Administration Office can continue to perform the fiscal duties. Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer is willing to continue to assist the County and Manager with administrative functions. A motion was made by Mr. Ben Adank seconded by Mr. Marvin Meier to authorize up to 15 hours per week for Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer to assist with the Recycling Program while Mr. Steve Schiffler is on military leave. Motion Carried.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – SITE REPORTS:** The BBC Recycling representatives indicated that they would like to see more open verbal communication with staff versus written notes.

### **REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

#### **Update on Collaborative Efforts With Pepin County and City of Mondovi:**

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer indicated that they are in the beginning stages of exploring the possibilities to work together and they had their first meeting with all partners participating in the meeting. He indicated that more information will be forthcoming as they are developing a purpose statement and framework for recommendations in the 2020 budget process.

#### **Update on Recycling Site Issues:**

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer reviewed the following observations with the Committee members:

- The current recycling contracts were last amended in 2006 between the townships and the County. There are areas of responsibilities for the townships and for the County identified in the agreement that need to be addressed and clarified as follows:

- The County does not have a control over the flowage;
  - Not all collection sites are secured and have a collection attendant;
  - Not all recycling materials revenues collected at the sites are kept in the program;
  - Not all collection attendants are making sure that the material brought in are properly prepared and separated;
  - The education and training to collection site attendants by the County has not been provided to the extent that it should be;
  - Collection site attendants are to reject contaminated or improperly placed materials;
  - The County may charge the local municipalities for the cost of the County's separation and preparation of improperly placed materials;
  - Local municipalities maintaining a curbside or roadside pickup by a private hauler is to provide quarterly reports by classification. Current private haulers that cross county lines are not able to complete these reports as they are combining with another county and Buffalo County is not always receiving the credit for the tonnage;
- Job descriptions should be developed for the site attendants.
  - The County should have access to all areas of the recycling centers.
  - There is no plan for managing the recycling fund balance.
    - Elimination of the fund will result in an annual per capita charge which should be high enough to replace and maintain equipment. This topic may be contentious each and every budget if the status quo is maintained.
  - Should the County stay in the recycling business?
    - Could every municipality on its own meet State recycling laws and Responsible Unit requirements;
    - Could municipalities combine efforts without County assistance;
    - Recycling market is in flux at this time due to China situation.
  - Should site attendants become County employees to increase accountability, create consistent standard practices, reduce conflict and controversy and possibly increase workforce?

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer recommended the following at a minimum if the Committee would decide to operate as status quo:

1. Create common job descriptions for site attendants;
2. Create and implement training for site attendants;
3. Hold monthly joint evaluations of recycling site processes;
4. Move appliance semi-trailer to Mondovi Recycling Center;
5. Sell BBC skid loader and use revenues towards new compactor;
6. Cover the Town of Milton's dumpster or eliminate the site;
7. Eliminate contributions to outlying site and restrict site to participating members; (Could consider the use of a sticker system or permit system for identification.)
8. Eliminate non-hour access to recycling sites and require all sites to have

- attendants during hours of operation;
9. Require all recyclables (aluminum cans) to go to the hauler;
  10. Meet with private haulers to discuss operations and impact on solid waste and recycling program;
  11. Provide more public education on recycling.

The following next steps were discussed:

Long Term plan is to continue to explore options with Pepin County and the City of Mondovi and also look at single stream recycling.

Short Term plans were identified as follows:

- Look at option of county employees for the recycling program;
- Prepare job descriptions for site attendants;
- Develop training program for site attendants;
- Develop public education outreach.

Mr. Bruce Fuerbringer indicated that he would put together an outline for the Committee to consider moving forward to obtain the goals as discussed by the Committee.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MANAGER’S REPORT:** Manager Randy Johnson reviewed the tonnage report from each site as of October 3, 2018. He indicated that loads are up 20% from 2017 and tonnage is up by 10% from 2017.

Manager Randy Johnson informed the Committee that he had encountered some issues with the company used for the Electronic Recycling event in Mondovi. He stated that the report was very vague. It showed 97 televisions and 8,700 pounds collected with no additional information. He indicated that they also were charging for items that were advertised to be collected at no cost. He recommended that if we do this event in 2019 that we look for a different vendor, even if it may have additional cost.

**PUBLIC COMMENT UNRELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS:** No comments were received.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Bob Carothers seconded by Mr. Ben Adank to adjourn. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sonya J. Hansen, Recording Secretary