

## **A Report of the Operations and Planning Committee Meeting July 23, 2020**

A meeting of the Operations and Planning Committee was held on Thursday, July 23, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. at the Authority's Administrative Office in Conway, South Carolina. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices setting forth the date, time, and place of the meeting were mailed to the news media.

Present was Committee Chairman Pam Creech, Committee Members Amos Berry and Sam Johnson and Ex Officio Committee Member Bo Ives.

The following were also in attendance: Board Member Carl Schwartzkopf, Danny Knight, Executive Director; Mike Bessant, Director; Esther Murphy, Director; and staff members Stephanie Todd, Cecil Terry and Cindy Keith. Vance Moore and Craig Fortner of Garrett & Moore and Amelia Woods also attended.

Ms. Creech called the meeting to order and Mr. Johnson rendered the invocation. Mr. Berry led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Committee Chairman Creech asked for any revisions to the Agenda as contained in the Meeting Packet.

**Ms. Creech moved to approve the Agenda as presented. There was a second by Mr. Johnson and the Motion was carried.**

### **Leachate Tank Upgrades**

Ms. Creech explained that several items were on the agenda and asked Mr. Bessant to explain the first item, the leachate tank upgrades. Mr. Bessant explained that the system was discharging 30 gallons of leachate per minute and should be able to discharge approximately 100 gallons of leachate per minute. He remarked that with heavy rainfall, the tanks were sometimes required to run twenty four hours per day. Mr. Bessant explained buildup was found inside of the tanks as well as in some of the discharge lines. He stated that the lines should have been four inches in diameter, but because there was so much scaling in the lines, there was only a two inch opening. Mr. Bessant remarked that staff cleaned the tanks and lines to the extent they were able with equipment on-site, which slightly increased the discharge volume. He said that Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (GSWSA) was consulted and had also attempted to clean the lines several times over a two month period, but was unsuccessful. Mr. Bessant stated that GSWSA agreed to replace the existing four inch line with a six inch line, contingent on the SWA providing the capability for the lines to be flushed with water so there will not be any future scaling. He remarked that the new lines should be installed by October 2020. Mr. Bessant explained that part of the

upgrade required the tanks and lines to be repaired and more thoroughly cleaned. He remarked that the planned expansion would generate more leachate necessitating the need to discharge a greater volume, so the upgrade would solve the existing issues as well as providing for future expansion. Mr. Johnson asked if any chemicals would need to be used to keep the lines flushed. Mr. Bessant answered that GSWSA was unable to find any chemical able to breakdown the scaling. Mr. Johnson asked if other companies should be consulted to possibly clean the existing four inch lines. Mr. Bessant explained that the lines belong to GSWSA. Mr. Fortner of Garrett & Moore stated that they support the plan and the partnership with GSWSA.

**Mr. Berry moved to recommend to the full Board the utilization of \$300,000 budgeted in FY21 for a leachate/wastewater treatment facility to complete repairs and upgrades to the leachate tank system. There was a second by Mr. Johnson and the Motion was carried.**

Mr. Bessant explained that information was included in the packet about alternative daily cover. He explained that currently the SWA sprays the working face of the landfill with a DHEC approved substance called Proguard which consists, in part, of ground newspaper and latex paint collected from the SWA's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Mr. Bessant remarked that the seal it creates is so effective that the seagulls leave once it is sprayed. He explained that DHEC requires the SWA to cover the working face with dirt once a week, which is done on Saturday. Mr. Knight remarked that staff feels that the best option for alternative daily cover is currently being utilized. Ms. Creech thanked the staff for researching different possibilities for alternative daily cover.

### **HCSWA Treatment Facility**

Mr. Bessant explained that Garrett & Moore was asked to compile an estimate of cost associated with creating a leachate treatment facility as well as the construction and operation of a heat assisted leachate evaporation system. He explained that currently there was no need for these options, but the staff and Board should be informed should the SWA have to handle leachate treatment in the future. Mr. Fortner explained that his firm had consulted with landfills of similar size, and he would recommend either a reverse osmosis system or a leachate evaporation system. He explained that a reverse osmosis system would create clean water as well as sludge that would need to be disposed of in the landfill. Mr. Fortner stated that the leachate evaporation system would boil off clean water and would also create a residual sludge that would have to be disposed of in the landfill. He explained that the reverse osmosis system would cost approximately \$6,000,000 upfront and operations cost would be approximately \$460,000 annually, not including electricity or replacement parts. Mr. Fortner stated the leachate evaporation system would cost approximately \$.09 per gallon. Mr. Johnson asked if the fumes would be dispersed in the air if an evaporation system was used. Mr. Fortner answered that the fumes would be dispersed which would require special permitting from DHEC. Mr. Johnson asked how much the SWA pays GSWSA to handle leachate. Mr. Bessant replied the cost is approximately \$85,000 per year. Ms. Creech remarked that the relationship with GSWSA is very advantageous. Mr. Johnson asked if

a written agreement between the SWA and GSWSA exists. Mr. Knight replied that there is no written agreement. Ms. Creech remarked that the fact that GSWSA is willing to provide the upgraded discharge lines is indicative of their willingness to continue to provide service. Mr. Bessant explained that a chemical analysis of the leachate is done by a third party laboratory every week. Mr. Knight remarked that the lab sends the results to GSWSA and to DHEC.

### **Food Waste Program**

Mr. Bessant stated that Smart Recycling picked up 350 food waste containers three times per week when school was in session. He stated that they are eager to begin food waste collection again once schools reopen. Mr. Bessant stated that Smart Recycling brought food waste to the landfill this week which they picked up from some of their commercial customers. He said that Curbside Compost & Recycling was working with several homeowners' associations, but they have been reluctant to meet during the pandemic. Mr. Bessant remarked that it would cost the SWA \$375,000 to begin a food waste collection route.

### **DHEC Public Hearing**

Mr. Bessant stated that DHEC had a public hearing on June 11, 2020, during which some Horry County citizens complained about odors they thought were coming from the landfill. He explained that he wanted to inform the Board about the measures being taken to minimize odor. Mr. Bessant stated that an odor neutralizing system was installed on the landfill fence which comes on at 5:00 a.m. every morning. He remarked that the system is effective regardless of the wind direction. Mr. Bessant stated that staff is always exploring ways to eliminate odor coming from the landfill. He explained that a vacuum system was installed on one specific portion of the landfill which helped to reduce odor. Mr. Knight stated that a monitored weather system was installed so if there is an odor complaint, staff and DHEC could look at the direction of the wind at any time to see if the odor could have been coming from the landfill. Mr. Knight remarked the system has shown that often the SWA gets blamed for odor problems which could not have come from the landfill. Mr. Bessant explained that \$2,000,000 is budgeted in FY21 to expand the current gas collection system, which will also reduce odor.

### **Equipment Budget**

Mr. Bessant explained how the funding source for each line item is listed on the SWA's Capital Improvement Budget. Mr. Bessant remarked that line items labeled as coming from funding source E are un-funded. He explained that staff is always looking for ways to increase the longevity of equipment and nothing is replaced just because it is on the list. Mr. Bessant stated that equipment is often refurbished rather than replaced. He explained that the items on the list highlighted in yellow are the only items planned for replacement in FY21. Mr. Bessant said that once a piece of equipment is fully depreciated but not replaced, the amount that was applied to depreciation is put in Fund A which is the equipment replacement fund. He explained that Fund B is funded through tipping fees as is Fund D. Mr. Bessant stated Fund C is an infrastructure account and is funded

each quarter if revenue exceeds expense. He explained that the Board decides how and if the funds are dispersed. Ms. Creech asked if the equipment warranties purchased by the SWA are worth the cost. Mr. Bessant explained that the SWA used to purchase total maintenance and repair warranties, but now purchases premier warranties which cost much less since some of the routine maintenance and repair is done by staff. Mr. Bessant said that most trucks and some equipment are purchased from State contract which saves a lot of money. Mr. Knight explained that because the SWA is a government entity, some equipment is purchased with a buy back option, but the SWA may be able to make more selling it online on GovDeals.com.

### **Electronic Waste**

Mr. Bessant remarked that the contract with the company that handles the SWA's electronic waste expires in October and staff is developing a RFP. He explained that because the SWA was sued when the company that previously handled electronic waste disposed of it improperly, some additional requirements were added to the RFP. Mr. Bessant said that the SWA will require a performance bond from the successful bidder and the SWA will be able to approve and inspect any delivery location. He stated that the SWA will also require pollution liability insurance listing the SWA as an additional insured. Ms. Creech and Mr. Johnson stated their approval of the additional requirements. Mr. Knight said that he thinks some of the risk has been mitigated due to the additional requirements. Mr. Berry asked what happened to electronic waste in counties with no collection program. Mr. Bessant answered that unfortunately, the electronics were sometimes dumped in the woods or in ditches. Mr. Ives remarked that the SWA's lobbyist should work with the Association of Counties to help with the possibility of funding the cost of electronic waste disposal. Mr. Bessant stated that the electronics law sunsets in 2021, but electronics will still be banned from disposal in landfills.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 A.M.