

DEER LODGE DISPOSAL DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2023

Members Present: Charlie Brand, Jack Eldredge, Lewis Smith, Rob Kersch, Ron Mjelde, Dan Sager (by phone)

Members Absent: Anthony Savalla, Cameron Gill

Others Present: Dale Perkins, Donita Anderson, Barry Damschen, Mary Hendrickson, Justin Williams, PRDD Board Member, Billy Fisher of Grizzly Disposal, Lucas Johnson of L&L Site Services, Jordan Green-City of Deer Lodge CAO, Ted Dodge-Watershed Restoration Coalition, Brad Balis-Wildlife Mgmt Specialist Region 2, FWP.

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 @ 5:00 pm at the Community Center

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by board chairman Ron Mjelde at 5:05 p.m. with the meeting being held at the Powell County Community Center.

Adopt Minutes: Charlie Brand made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 2nd, 2023, meeting and Jack Eldredge seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Barry Damschen Report: Barry reported that he is impressed with how everything looks at the landfill, especially the office. He indicated that he had never seen it that clean and organized. Still on hold with DEQ.

Landfill Manager's Report: Dale Perkins reported that he needed more Candlestick and that he would like a heater in the shop since the oil burner heater was not working. Justin Williams suggested a Rinnai heater that runs on propane. Dale also needed a cord for the weather station. Dale reported that with the insurance inspection there were four non-serious violations and that all were fixed before the adjuster left the site. He will start employee evaluations to have on record and that daily inspections on the equipment are now being performed.

Equipment Report: Charlie Brand reported that the Excavator has a hydraulic leak and that the Tool-Cat is back at the landfill and that a boot was replaced on it as well.

Continuing Business: Landfill By-Laws were tabled as they are not ready. Ron Mjelde reported that the Amerigas rates are up and that brought up the discussion of PSI, which had been discussed in the past. After discussion Jack Eldredge moved to switch to PSI and Rob Kersch seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

PRDD rate increase of 5% suggested by Justin Williams, with the current rates at \$146.00/40 yd container and \$73.00/20 yd construction container. An increase of 8% was suggested and Justin said he will get back to the board on that after he talks with the PRDD board.

Billy Fisher of Grizzly Disposal and Lucas Johnson of L&L Site Services were in attendance to review the contract. They indicated that 25% of their garbage was coming to the Powell County landfill. They requested if the landfill could take on more. Five Hundred tons monthly are being delivered currently to the landfill. Barry Damschen felt that what was coming in now was enough. Ron Mjelde proposed upping the tons to 750 @ \$50.00/ton and to re-evaluate in two months. After discussion Rob Kersch moved to accept Ron's proposal and Charlie Brand seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Clothing allowance was revisited and Dale Perkins reported that all employees are now wearing safety vests. After discussion Lewis Smith moved that the employees receive a \$300.00 allowance for boots and clothing. Charlie Brand seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Applications turned in for the Equipment Operator I position were Mike McArthur and Jamie Cosens. Ron Mjelde indicated that interviews for the Operator I position would be held in the Powell County Courthouse conference room on June 14th (Wednesday) with the interviews starting at 6:00 p.m. The three candidates would be Robert Miller, Mike McArthur and Jamie Cosens.

New Business: Ted Dodge with Watershed Restoration Coalition and Brad Balis, Wildlife Management Specialist, Region 2 with FWP, dealing with bear management on the Upper Clark Fork and the Big Hole, were in attendance to talk about livestock carcass removal to reduce bear attraction and delivery to the landfill for compost purposes. Ted Dodge talked about his prior visit 05/04/2021 and the visit from Cora Helm of LC Compost Solutions in Helena on 05/24/2021 and asked about revisiting the carcass compost factor. Barry Damschen reiterated that a couple of years ago when Ted and Cora came and talked with the board about composting that the concentration was on the expansion at the time. Ted indicated that he and Cora will be back in August.

Jordan Green, City of Deer Lodge CAO talked with the board to make them aware of a City/County/Chamber clean-up. He indicated that on June 27th, 28th and 29th there would be dumpsters delivered to the fairgrounds so that people could use them for planned clean-up days on the 27th and 28th and then they would be hauled to the landfill on the 29th. The board asked Jordan if he could make sure the garbage was sorted, metal, boards, etc., as each are dumped in their own sections of the landfill. He agreed there would be no problem with that.

Ron Mjelde asked the board about a rate increase that is paid by the taxpayers to help cover the pay raises for the landfill employees. It was suggested to raise it by \$2.00. The current rate is \$144.00 a year per taxpayer per unit. After discussion Lewis Smith moved for the \$2.00 increase making the rate \$168.00/year per unit. Charlie Brand seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

A letter from Julie Dobson requesting reductions of RDD fees on her properties was reviewed. She requested that the RDD fee of \$144.00 be removed from a trailer (Parcel #M880145) that is severely dilapidated and uninhabitable. This trailer went off the tax roll in 2020. The mobile home she lives in (Parcel #M900085) has one unit of RDD, \$144.00. The property that the mobile home sits on is being charged at two (2) units of RDD. Her mobile home was removed from the tax roll in 2020 due to the age of it. Therefore, the RDD fee on her mobile home needs to be removed. Her 4.5 acre property (Parcel #232800) has two older buildings and junk vehicles on it and is getting charged for two (2) units RDD, \$288.00. There is no residence on that property. In total, for both properties, she is paying for six (6) units, \$864.00. Lewis Smith moved that four (4) of those units; two (2) from the mobiles and the two (2) units on parcel #232800 be removed leaving the two (2) units on the property (parcel #207700) her mobile home sits on. Rob Kersch seconded the motion. All voted in favor. **Motion passed.**

Ron Mjelde read a letter of resignation to the board from board member Cameron Gill. In his letter he indicated that he wanted to change his vote of yes on the termination of landfill manager Jeremiah Maulding and Richard Persons to a 'no' for his vote.

Financial Report: Rob Kersch reported that the landfill manager is now keying in all charge tickets, in Quick-Books, given at the landfill for invoicing. He reviewed itemized summary sheets and better compressed numbers and dollar amounts coming into the landfill monthly.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Ron Mjelde, Board Chairman

Donita Anderson, Secretary