**WEST YELLOWSTONE/HEBGEN BASIN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES**

**APRIL 18, 2024**

Present: Facility Manager John Burns, Jon Simms, Gus Tureman and Gallatin County Commissioner Jennifer Boyer via phone.

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 1:32 p.m.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the March 2024 Board meeting were submitted for approval. Jason (via e-mail) moved to approve. Gus seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The minutes of March 2024 were approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  None

**MANAGERS REPORT:**

1) Maintenance update:

* RDO performed an inspection on the 310SL backhoe as the warranty expires next month. The inspection found no issues.
* RDO also is working on a trade in evaluation for the 310SL.
* Tri State delivered a load of road base that we will use to fill potholes and level depressions on the interior dirt roads. We will begin to fill the potholes on the entry road with asphalt patch also.
* Litter pickup is underway as the snow continues to melt.

2) Operations update:

* YNP opens on 4/19. We have been receiving a number of loads of winter trash as they begin to get ready to open.
* The transfer station will begin summer hours on May 1st. M-F 8am to 4pm and Sat. 9am to 1pm.
* Rob Sutherland and Jim Russell will go to full time on 5/1 and James Madison will return as well to fill the seasonal operator position.

3) Miscellaneous:

* Reminder that the May meeting has moved to the 9th for budget review/approval purposes.

**DISCUSSION: COMPOST BUILDING UPDATE – YNP**

Burns informed the Board that as he had not yet received correspondence from YNP stating their desire to acquire the compost building due to their financial investment in the building. He requested the County Administrators Office to send a request for legal services to the County Attorneys’ Office to begin the process of drafting a resolution of memorialization. He forwarded all pertinent information he had collected to the County Attorneys to aid in the process.

**DISCUSSION/DECISION: GLASS RECYCLING UPDATE**

Burns informed the Board that he, Gus, and Jon met with Dave Leverett of Four Corners Recycling and recycling advocate Lindsey Charlton on 4/15 to discuss the possibility of switching from plastic recycling to glass recycling. Dave reported that YNP had received a $200,000 grant to fund a 2-year study on options of phasing our plastic recycling. Because of that, Dave suggested that the district wait at least one year before phasing out plastic recycling. This would allow the study to proceed under normal circumstances with the Park’s border communities recycling as normal.

Dave did suggest that paper recycling was a good option to phase out for several reasons including low amounts now being collected, high cost of handling and fewer end markets.

Dave suggested if the district and Town of West Yellowstone were interested, they could purchase a glass roll off for the glass recycling. The high cost of that option was not feasible, and Gus suggested to phase out paper and use the space in the existing triple bins for glass recycling. Everyone agreed this was a good option. Dave suggested to start accepting glass as soon as possible with the summer season starting. All agreed that a one-year pilot project of glass recycling would show the effectiveness and costs after that year. Burns would put this on the Solid Waste Board 4/18 meeting agenda and Jon will talk to the town Council.

Estimated cost increases for both the Town and District to accept glass was $2,500 per entity. Gus said he has a good template for a sign to place on the triple bin to inform the public of what is and is not accepted.

This information was discussed by the Board and all members voted either in person or via e-mail to proceed with phasing out paper recycling for glass for a period of one- year when it will then be rediscussed. May 1st was suggested as a start date.

**CORRESPONDENCE**: None

**CLAIMS:** $14,999.40 Jon moved to approve the March 2024 claims. Jennifer seconded the motion. All in favor (Jason and Gordon approved via e-mail). None opposed. Motion passed to pay the March 2024 claims.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 9th at 1:30 pm.