

OKALOOSA COUNTY SOLID WASTE PUBLIC WORKSHOP  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 12, 2009  
Crestview Courthouse  
BOCC Meeting Room

### Introductions

Danielle welcomed the audience to the second Solid Waste Public Workshop. The information we have tonight was shared at the previous workshop in Fort Walton Beach. We want to make sure that everyone at the South and North meetings has complete information. All the information you are presented with this evening will be posted on the County website including minutes from the last meeting and this meeting also. We want everyone to participate, even if it's through email. We are very interested in determining what the public thinks and wants as far as solid waste management issues are concerned. We are interested in hearing from the providers as to what's available for us to consider. We are doing this in preparation for an RFP that will be going out in mid 2010. Often when you put out your RFP and you get your bids back there will be fifteen different ways of doing one thing; it's difficult to assess which one is the low bid and which one is the most responsive. We're trying to get ideas of what all is out there, what's available right now so we can build it into the bid; if nothing else as alternatives. When we get it back we will have a full comprehensive bid that we can compare one to the other, as to method and collection. We want first to inform you about what we do and how we do it today. Second we want to get input from you on how you do it; how you think you would like us to do it; and if you are a provider and have alternative means you would like us to consider we need to get those into the record and into consideration by staff. That is the purpose of today.

The handout provided will tell you how, what and why we do things in a concise manner. Danielle hopes everyone listed their email when they signed in, so we can contact them via email to remind them of meetings and answer questions they might have. We can send meeting minutes by email also.

### Review Planning Issues for 2011

Danielle stated the packets have Public Works contacts and pointed out references on page 4 of the handout. These are rules and laws that govern how we do business, we must conform to these. We have the Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-701, Florida Statute, Chapter 403; The Clean Water Act; and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Rules. All of these things have to be considered when we provide Solid Waste Management services. These are all the laws and standards we have to meet so that none of us go to jail and the County doesn't get fined \$10,000 a day or more.

The County is responsible for providing Solid Waste services to the unincorporated areas of the County. If anyone is with a municipality, they provide their own service. The County does provide disposal services to municipalities, some take advantage of it and some do not. We would like for everyone to take advantage of our disposal services because we believe there is a savings; however it is not mandatory.

We provide these services via two transfer stations - one in Fort Walton Beach and one in Baker. We also have a yard waste facility where we take yard waste – at Wright located in the south end of the County and at the Baker Landfill in the north end. There are franchise and non-franchise areas within Okaloosa County. The franchise areas are primarily located where there is a larger density of population. One of the things that we are going to be looking at as part of this process is whether or not we want to franchise the rest of the unincorporated County areas. There are rural areas that make it difficult for the providers and we understand. We have issues with having those people being able to dispose of their solid waste appropriately, even though transfer stations are available for them to take their solid waste to, it's not always convenient. Sometimes the solid waste ends up in inappropriate places which can cause environmental concerns.

There are a list of definitions and terms on pages five through eight. We want to make sure everyone understands the language. This is why we are providing these definitions. Harold LaFountain asked what ammunition comes under. Danielle stated ammunition comes under hazardous waste. Please be very careful as to what everyone puts in their solid waste.

Cindy Halsey stated the County has two contracts that will be expiring in 2011. The first one is the disposal contract, which covers the two transfer stations. Currently, at those facilities we are taking Class I garbage, tires, white goods and they also have a recycling center in the Fort Walton Beach transfer station yard. Currently, we are ranging from 175,000 to 200,000 tons per year depending on the season. We want to keep all of our options open. This is what we are looking at now regarding our Class I garbage. Do we want to go with an in-county landfill or with an out of county landfill which we are currently doing with in-county transfer stations, or transfer stations with out of county waste to energy, or plasma arc? Plasma arc is being currently looked into at Hurlburt Field. All of these areas we would like to keep open as part of this contract so that we utilize the best technology. We are looking at the five year contract in 2011 so that we have time frame to have more information on some of the newer technology and plasma arc. Currently the Fort Walton Beach transfer station is operated by our contractor, Waste Management. The Baker transfer station tip floor is operated by Waste Management and the scale house is operated by the County. The County operates the Wright yard waste site. The County owns twenty acres at the Baker Landfill and we will own the transfer station. Do we keep that as a county operated scale house and contract out the hauling and processing of the solid waste materials being brought in to Baker or do we lease out all the operations, which include hauling, processing, scale house and tip floor?

Mr. LaFountain asked how the County and cities are going to work together and where does the City of Crestview take their solid waste. Cindy stated the City's solid waste is going to Milton. Mr. LaFountain stated he believes the County and cities need to start working together more than they have been. Danielle stated she had a meeting with the League of Cities and discussed opportunities to consolidate or partner on services.

This occurred after the holidays and the managers got together for a meeting and workshop at the college to look at opportunities throughout the county. Solid waste service was one issue that was identified. The first meeting was with a group of managers and public works directors.

Danielle said that the County provides a very nice suite of services to our unincorporated clients; however, some of the cities provide more service to their clients. The City of Fort Walton Beach provides more tailored service. They have a much smaller area to cover and they do this in-house. They feel that is what their clients want and they provide them a great deal more services. We are talking to them about (possibly when we go out with RFP) including cities, indicating we would like service for the County and all these cities, identifying these cities need for additional services. The question was asked if the cities current franchise agreement has to expire before this could be done. Danielle stated it would have to expire or be terminated, if there is a termination clause for them.

Cindy stated another issue is the cities contracts are for both residential and commercial. Currently the County's contract is just for residential. Hopefully, we can get pricing for everything throughout the county so that at any point in time if a city wanted to come on board and get those prices for refuse removal then they could join by signing a contract with the company that we contracted with to get a better rate. We are working and talking with the cities to be able to form an RFP that would be all inclusive of the things that we need, especially in this economic time and the issues that we all have. The question was asked, what kind of response we have got from the municipalities. Cindy stated they have just started these meetings, but everyone is very interested. Everyone in the county would like to have all the options open to provide the best service to their citizens and customers at the best value. This is a work in progress. The City of Laurel Hill stated they were not notified about last week's meeting with the League of Cities. Cindy stated she sent information of the meeting to the City Clerk and we would make sure they are notified by phone for the next meeting.

Cindy stated at Baker, because we own that property, if we do lease it out and no longer have it ran by county personnel, who will up keep the scales and the scale house? Maybe the vendor would just take care of the computer equipment and the software that is used to track the waste streams, tonnages and provide that information to our billing office. Mr. LaFountain wanted to know who inspects the yard waste at Baker. He stated he picks up yard waste for his garden from curbside and sometimes he finds paint in the leaves. Jim said yard waste is inspected by county personnel after it arrives on site.

Jim said the two major components are disposal and collection which is how it will be broken out in the proposal. There will be various components in each one of these that we will be looking at; Class-I, yard waste, recycling, tires, white goods and C & D. Jim's primary focus is recycling, hazardous waste management, tires and white goods. Our current method is at curbside, the typical resident gets two garbage pick ups, one recycling, one bulk and one yard waste pick ups per week. The bulk waste is on a call in basis, not a dedicated route for it. The things that are influencing where we head with this RFP with respect to recycling and waste reduction are from House Bill 7135, which the Governor signed in July 2008. They are mandating a 75% recycling rate by the year 2020. It also addresses green lodging, green building and renewable energy. There are a lot of components in House Bill 7135 that are good thing, but we are still trying to get our hands around if we can do it and how much it will cost.

If the mandates or goals stay in place until that time, we are going to need to look at ways to reduce our waste stream and ways to recycle.

Construction and Demolition is an area that really needs to be looked at. Waste Management introduced in November 2008 single stream recycling for residential and commercial customers. We have a household hazardous waste program for local residents and for small businesses that can bring their business waste for a fee. Our residential program is free. Dave Parisot asked about electronics. Jim stated residents can bring those items to us. White goods and tires are brought to transfer stations in Baker and Fort Walton Beach at no charge to residents. Cindy stated one reason we did the white goods and tires was to help with litter issues at the time and we had grants that helped pay for the service, however, now the grants are no longer available and we are paying for the service out of our tipping fee. Mr. LaFountain asked what we get paid for white goods. Cindy stated it's paid by the pound. We call three vendors every month to see who will pay us the highest price per pound and we deal with that vendor that month. White goods do not pay for themselves; the price for metal is not that high.

The other side of this contract is for the collection, which is all the unincorporated area, all south county franchise areas and two areas in Crestview. We are looking at expanding county wide. As Jim stated there are two garbage, one recycling, one bulk (on call) and one yard waste pick up per week. The contract will be in the franchise areas for these services. We need to look at the way we pick up yard waste, do we continue to pick it up the way we are currently doing (manually) or go to automated service. The single stream recycling has already been started. In the future we will look at, do we go automated and go to a 96 gallon cart or some variation. We were sorting recycling at the street, now they can combine it and go back to the transfer station where it is bound and compacted and taken to Pensacola where it is sorted. Dave from Waste Management said they have a video he can bring to show on single stream recycling.

Cindy stated the other area of the contract will be the billing. Currently we bill single family and multi-family commercial in different methods. All the residential franchise customers that are on the OCWS system are billed through OCWS and on their water bill. Any other residents in the franchise area that are not under OCWS system are billed by the vendor on a quarterly basis. Waste Management bills the customer and then remits the landfill disposal fee to the county. When it goes through the water and sewer system, they collect for collection, recycling and disposal. The recycling is a direct pay to Waste Management, the disposal fee is retained and the collection fee is also passed to Waste Management, less 5% administration fee for water & sewer doing the billing. The multi-family is all currently billed by Waste Management. Approximately 90% of our customers are billed under OCWS. There are about 3,600 homes that are not billed through OCWS. Our charges are on page 19, it goes through disposal, our per ton rate at the gate and then the components for collection of residential and what those components are.

Jim stated there are emerging technologies that we may want to consider taking advantage of; five years vs. ten to fifteen years. Danielle stated the contract may have a renewable clause in it, either yearly or bi-annual. We also understand a contract less than five years is not worthwhile for providers. We thought five years is reasonable. Danielle stated the other thing in the handout that she would like to talk about is a list of current contracts.

Solid Waste management includes a couple of other things besides just picking it up and making it go away. We have four landfills in the county, one of which has permanent closure. We are done with our thirty year time period and that was quite a day of celebration when we were able to get it permanently closed. Out of three, we have two that have active remediation systems, which are very costly, but are required by law. Then we have one that we are very excited about which has a research project we're working with the University of Florida on and you will see that there is a contract as well for Niceville landfill meditation. We're doing this as a test project we hope will benefit the whole state. We are trying to come up with technology with the University of Florida that makes sense for iron remediation and this project is ongoing. We hope they will give us some results in about six months of what they've found. We will be doing some test projects; that gives us an opportunity to work very closely with DEP at a district & state level. Some of the contracts you see like Engineering contracts, we have because when you have closed landfills, for 30 years you have to monitor those. This means you have a lot of monitoring wells for gas and water quality, water quality being the primarily concern for us, very few of our gas wells ever show up anything. We need those Engineering firms to do the extensive chemical analysis. Every county that has a closed landfill is in this same business, they are all doing this as part of the law.

Then you see our tire contract for those tires that we pick up. We do a lot of this as preventative maintenance for environmental concerns. We are looking for ways to ensure we dispose of tires properly. Tires are picked up at the landfill by Little's tires. They grind them up and the county uses them for playgrounds. The question was asked about recycled tires being mixed with asphalt. Danielle stated we do not do that, the results are not what we are looking for. Jim stated it can be used to cover landfills.

We have done some surveys of franchise areas and they are in the packets. It shows the types of services and fees, who pays for what and how much it costs. For people that are unfamiliar with solid waste equipment, we show what a rear loader and side loader looks like. One question we get is what's yard waste and how much can be put by the curb, and why don't we pick up trees. We have included pictures of what you do and don't do. All of this information is on the county website, so you can refer to it and refer your friends to it also. We have our property and equipment schedule in the packet. On the website there is also a map of the franchise area that's not in the packet.

Dave asked about plasma arc technology. Danielle said there is a pilot project right now going on at Hurlburt Field; it is a technology that is used primarily on cruise boats, where the waste stream is far more defined than normal household waste. Jim has been in contact with Hurlburt, watching, waiting and seeing what is going to be produced. Jim said Hurlburt is working to get this going by 2010. Danielle said cost may be a concern.

David Parisot gave a presentation. He stated he has been involved in his neighborhood and the Port Dixie area of Shalimar trying to get the trash off the streets and getting them cleaned up. One thing that he has discovered during this process is that waste management (not the company) is very much dependant on economies, the economics of a community.

In the Port Dixie area we have a lower income and there are a lot of renters there. Then a little to the East you have the Lake Lorraine area that is generally a higher economic base and you have owner occupied homes.

In some respects he thinks some of the issues in the contract have to be tailored to meet some of these economic factors in some of the communities we have in Okaloosa County. There is a test going on right now on some of the bulk pick ups in the Shalimar area. The first question is how we can increase our residential participation in recycling programs to reduce the waste flow to the landfills. Dave believes this is the key item in reducing your waste to the landfills. The more that can go into recycling to be used to make another product, the less that is going to the landfills. He has family all over the U.S. and he was just out in Diamond Bar, California they have already met the 70% criteria to the best of his knowledge.

One thing he thinks is going to be essential is the 96 gallon container for recycling; make it a different color of course. In some respects he likes what is happening with the single stream recycling, but can we add plastic bags to the recycling program? Another area that is the key to increasing recyclables is going to once a week pick up. If you go to once a week pick up, you have your refuse container, your recycling container and they will sort because it will not all go in your refuse container. He fully supports mandatory recycling with some kind of warning or fine if they put recyclables in with the trash. Another key part of recycling is the hazardous waste; there is way too much going into the landfills. He believes we need an easier hazardous waste program than our current program.

How can we make it easier for residential customers to properly dispose of pressure treated lumber? Currently, you can see it on the side of the road. Most of the population doesn't know what the C&D term stands for. When you go to the transfer station you drive across the scales, on your way out you stop and pay a fee. He would like to see the county as part of the new contract, go back and reinstate the program where you can take your current bill where it shows you are current on paying your bill for waste disposal, get your bill punched or stamped and go through free. Maybe set a limit of once or twice a month. Dave thinks it will help in two areas, it should reduce the amount of pressure treated lumber and the number of bulk pick ups. This will still have to be weighed to keep up with tonnages. Next question, how can we reduce waste pick up and disposal cost to keep our fees to customers reasonable? Reduce pick ups from twice a week to once a week, still moving the same amount of trash. This will save money by going from twice a week to once a week and still haul the same amount of tonnage.

Some households have larger families and they have more trash than a single couple. There should be a provision of the contract where a residents can request two containers, for example pay a higher fee. On bulk pick up we need to retain provisions for picking up these items. Currently, it is set up to place bulk at curbside and call Waste Management customer service to schedule the pick up. In the current contract it states Waste Management is required to pick up during the same week in which the call was received.

Danielle stated we are looking at how to fund our solid waste program. Some counties do MSBU's for solid waste. We are looking at this as part of the analysis. This is something we need to look at and see how we collect, its part of the billing process. We want to make sure it's fair. We understand if we go to one per week pick up you may need an extra bin. When we build the RFP we will have everything there is to offer and how much it will cost.

The City of Mary Esther just received a bid from Waste Management that we are very envious of and we will be looking to have more of those kinds of bids in the future.

Mr. LaFountain stated he has a problem with yard waste; he thought yard waste would have to be kept on your own land. He thinks if you don't use yard waste service you shouldn't have to pay for it. The people that use the service should pay for it. Danielle stated that is something to look at. Danielle talked about household hazardous waste service; we currently provide service for ten additional counties.

#### General Comments/Questions

Dave asked if the county has the ability to enforce recycling, Danielle stated we do have the ability, whether or not there is an opportunity is the difference. The county has opportunity to regulate commercial waste and make recycling mandatory. We can try to make people do a lot of things. We can enforce, reinforce or revise ordinances as it pertains to solid waste, and probably as part of this process we will do so.

Danielle thanked everyone for coming and would like to see everyone at the next meeting in May in Fort Walton Beach. There will be six of these meetings total. We will be bringing back new information next time. We will have met with the cities by then to talk about consolidation or partnering. We hope to have more citizen input, so bring anyone interested.

Adjourn