

**INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROJECT  
SOUTHEAST WYOMING REGIONAL LANDFILL PLANNING GROUP**

**SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2008 EASTERN LARAMIE COUNTY SOLID  
WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT (ELCSWDD) PUBLIC MEETING**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the February 19, 2008 Eastern Laramie County Solid Waste Disposal District (ELCSWDD) public meeting that was held at the Burns Community Center in Burns, Wyoming. The meeting began at approximately 7:00 PM and concluded at approximately 9:00 PM.

**Attendees**

Russ Hay, City of Burns Landfill Operations  
Carl Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle  
Talana Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle  
Mike Ragsdale, Town of Pine Bluffs  
Vernon Testerman Jr., Towns of Burns  
Marge Bedessem, Trihydro Corporation  
Bill Brewer, Trihydro Corporation  
Laurie Johnson, Trihydro Corporation

Following introductions of attendees, a slide presentation was provided to inform the public of the planning process. The following minutes summarize the public comment and testimony. A copy of the slide presentation is available on the project website at [www.southeasternwyomingiswm.com](http://www.southeasternwyomingiswm.com).

**Recap of the ISWM Planning Process**

The meeting began with a general overview of the ISWM planning process:

- Why Are We Here Today?
- ISWM Planning Facts
- ISWM Planning Objectives
- Public Testimony

**Public Testimony**

Public comments were received in order of the names on the sign-in sheet. The testimonies were recorded.

Carl Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle

His opinion was to maintain the landfill operations as they currently exist. There was little interest in working with other communities.

Talana Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle

She would prefer the landfill to stay in Burns but understands that a transfer station should be considered. It was discussed that the local citizens were known to be more independent and like to keep to themselves so this person did not think the local communities would be receptive to Burns being a long-term regional landfill.

Russ Hay, City of Burns Landfill Operations

He discussed the recent fee increase at the Burns landfill. Recently, a scale was installed to capture costs more effectively and the fees were raised competitive to surrounding landfill services. Currently, the ELCSWDD is saving money for an imminent and costly liner system. The increased fees and more accurate assessment of these fees with the scale allow the district to save for the liner. The process to inform the public of these increased fees included letters in local papers and informational flyers. Similar public notification/education was suggested for the integrated solid waste planning process.

Mike Ragsdale, Town of Pine Bluffs

It was discussed that surrounding communities like Pine Bluffs are willing to work to increase recycling and to consider other solutions to the solid waste problem. This public representative felt something needed to be done and is supportive to look at other alternatives.

Russ Hay, City of Burns Landfill Operations

The school district boundaries that separate the current landfill services were discussed. It was mentioned that there would need to be an agreement to cross these boundaries or have a regional landfill near the boundary to service both communities.

Talana Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle

It was also discussed that the expected increase in population will decrease the number of years at the Burns landfill space.

Russ Hay, City of Burns Landfill Operations

It was discussed that perhaps a transfer station at Burns would be cheaper than lining a new cell. It was discussed that the purpose of this planning process would help put some numbers to these options and help better evaluate the various alternatives.

Talana Smith, RTS and RTS Recycle

The option to transport waste to Colorado was briefly discussed but there was concern about environmental liability. It was discussed that possibly the State of Wyoming might help address a groundwater problem in Wyoming but less likely if it was a problem in an adjoining state.

Vernon Testerman Jr., Towns of Burns

He noted that all alternatives should be considered based on the costs outlined in this study process. He suggested reviewing the feasibility of a transfer station at the current Burns landfill for household waste and yet continue to bury construction/demolition wastes. It was discussed to consider using Burns as a temporary regional landfill until an alternate location was determined only if the economic study supported. It was noted that factors other than

economic would need to be considered before choosing the Burns landfill as a regional location, even for short term. It was also noted that long term solutions need to be considered to account for population growth.

There was a general consensus to only consider taking the City of Cheyenne's waste for a short term until a more central landfill was sited. It was agreed this was not a long term option for the ELCSWDD.

### **Next Steps**

The local working group meeting to be held on February 20 from 2-5 PM was announced. The purpose of the regional meeting was discussed and attendance encouraged.