

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

**SUMMARY OF THE FEBRUARY 27, 2008 LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETING  
FOR THE CITY OF CHEYENNE**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the February 27, 2008 meeting that was held at the City of Cheyenne's Municipal Building in Cheyenne, WY. The meeting began at approximately 8:00 AM, and concluded at approximately 12:00 PM.

**Attendees**

Craig McOmie, Wyoming Dept of Environmental Quality, SHWD  
Dennis Pino, City of Cheyenne Sanitation Division  
Vicki Nemecek, City of Cheyenne Public Works Department  
Mike Abel, City of Cheyenne Public Works Department  
Jeff Fanning, City of Cheyenne Engineering  
Tyler Bandemer, City of Laramie Solid Waste Division  
Louise Waters, public representative  
Marge Bedessem, Trihydro Corporation  
Bill Brewer, Trihydro Corporation  
Laurie Johnson, Trihydro Corporation

Following introductions of attendees, a slide presentation was provided to guide the group discussion. The following discussion headings correspond to those used in the slide presentation. A copy of the slide presentation is available on the project website at [www.southeasternwyomingiswm.com](http://www.southeasternwyomingiswm.com).

**Public Outreach Discussion**

The group discussed various options to inform the residents of Cheyenne of the integrated solid waste management (ISWM) planning process.

- Two plexi-glass stands with "Why are We Talking Trash" brochures were placed at the transfer station and one at the city building. A request would be made to the public library for permission to place a stand there, also.
- The City of Cheyenne will link to the Southeast Region ISWM website
- The City of Cheyenne would submit an article into the internal city office newsletter.
- Trihydro will provide the requested number of brochures for the City of Cheyenne to place into utility bills.
- Trihydro will make available a 3-5 minute power point presentation for various community groups
- It was suggested to add an ad with the website information on the cable PBS channel

## **General Comments**

- A discussion evaluating the previous evening's public meeting offered the following suggestions:
  - Add a section on the website introducing Trihydro Corporation's team
  - Provide comment cards at the next public meeting for people without internet access.
- The state is divided into ten ISWM planning regions and this can be viewed on the DEQ website (<http://deq.state.wy.us/shwd/ISWM>).
- A field trip was discussed to visit the Boulder reuse center and their materials recycling facility (MRF). Trihydro will work to coordinate this for first part of April.

## **Recap of the ISWM Planning Process**

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

- Why Are We Here Today?
- Today's Agenda
- What Are We Doing
- Project Schedule
- Meetings

## **Waste Management System Characteristics**

General characteristics of integrated solid waste management systems were discussed. These characteristics were used to facilitate a discussion of the existing waste management system, as well as alternative waste management systems that may be needed to meet the communities' long-term needs.

### Cost

- Tipping fees at the landfill are currently \$41.40/ton, with a decreased fee for segregated commercial waste.
- Residential garbage collection rates in the City of Cheyenne include a range of fees but are approximately \$15/month/household, and are included on the City's monthly utility bill.
- The group agreed that an increase in cost to the public would be better received if the public was properly informed. It was suggested that the results of the current recycling pilot study survey will provide public opinion to a cost increase to add the component single stream curbside recycling.

### Location

- It was discussed that various locations for a new local or regional landfill would be considered since current Happy Jack landfill is very near capacity.

- The group discussed the possibility of a short-term use at Burns if Eastern Laramie County Solid Waste Disposal District agreed. Also, an alternate location between Burns and Cheyenne could be considered for a regional landfill.
- It was discussed that while the proposed landfill at the Belvoir Ranch was still under consideration, other alternative locations should be evaluated.

### Environmental Protection

- Since the City of Cheyenne is over a Class 1 aquifer, environmental protection will be a consideration in whatever plan is determined.

### Other Partners

- If any of the existing facilities would accept waste from other partners, the permitted service areas would have to be changed. It was suggested that a major amendment to change the service area to the entire state be implemented. The SHWD representative believed the WDEQ permitting group would likely accommodate such requests.
- The group discussed the importance of minimizing increasing fees within a regional entity. Various plan management options were briefly discussed (joint powers board, disposal district, etc) with the consensus that whatever plan was implemented, equal representation from each entity was important. The various possibilities of partner relationships could be generally outlined in the final plan's implementation schedule.
- Cost effective transportation distances are estimated 100 - 150 miles therefore Laramie transporting to Cheyenne would be considered feasible. A transfer station would need to be built to hold 2-3 days of waste in case the roads were closed.

### Recycling/Diversion-Segregation/Composting

- The group agreed they would like to maximize recycling and reuse efforts within the next 20 years and set attainable goals. It was agreed to establish a goal of 2% per year increase in waste diversion and reuse over the next 20 years with a total increase of 40%. It was suggested that a current baseline be determined by using an EPA model. This same model can provide excellent information that can be used in public education.
- The group discussed construction/demolition (C/D) segregation. Current practices are reuse of asphalt and concrete for road base at the landfill. It was determined that more C/D could be segregated and reused at the landfill.
- It was reiterated from the public meeting that increased public education was a high priority to a successful recycling and reuse program. The City of Cheyenne noted they would like to see that as an objective in the final ISWM plan.

### Potential Alternatives

The group was asked to identify specific alternatives to the existing local waste management system, and provide a general indication regarding the feasibility of each alternative. The City of Cheyenne decided to break up the alternatives into short term and long term alternatives.

## **Short Term Alternatives**

### Definitely Worth Considering

- Convert Happy Jack to a C/D landfill only and transport all other waste to Ault, Colorado
- Improve current Happy Jack practices to extend the capacity life (i.e. bale with shrink wrap, use commercially available alternative daily cover system such as a spray applied product, increase diversion of recyclables and C/D waste etc).
- Develop a regional recycling center in the City of Cheyenne; particularly a C/D recycling facility at the Happy Jack landfill

### Maybe Worth Considering

- Reclaim and remediate an older, leaking cell at the Happy Jack landfill. Consider mining the waste from this cell and then line for reuse.

### Impractical/Unreasonable

- Haul the City of Cheyenne's waste to an unlined landfill. It was discussed that a clay liner was considered acceptable.

## **Intermediate Alternatives**

### Definitely Worth Considering

- Permit ~100 acres of land located at the northern portion of the current Happy Jack landfill for immediate use

### Maybe Worth Considering

- If ELCSWDD is in agreement to haul to Burns landfill for a short term until a regional location was permitted

## **Long Term Alternatives**

### Definitely Worth Considering

- Pursue the purchase of 160 acres from a private landowner near Happy Jack landfill
- Operation of a regional recycling center at the City of Cheyenne
- Pursue alternative waste to energy options

### Maybe Worth Considering

- Consider other sites not previously evaluated as a regional landfill in Laramie or Albany County
- Continue to evaluate the feasibility of the Belvoir Ranch landfill as a regional landfill
- Consider other sites not previously evaluated as a City of Cheyenne only landfill
- Continue to evaluate the feasibility of the Belvoir Ranch landfill as a City of Cheyenne only landfill
- Evaluate the possibility of transporting waste to possible regional landfill

## **Next Steps**

The group reviewed the schedule for completing the inventory of existing systems, selection of regional alternatives for detailed analysis, preparation of the economic analysis report, and ongoing public outreach activities. The annual meeting of the Wyoming Solid Waste and Recycling Association, which will be at the Parkway Plaza in Casper on August 25-28, 2008, was identified as an opportunity to network with other communities that are facing similar solid waste management issues.