

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

SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 5, 2008 CITY OF LARAMIE PUBLIC MEETING

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the March 5, 2008 City of Laramie public meeting that was held at the City of Laramie Council Chambers in Laramie, WY. The meeting began at approximately 7:00 PM and concluded at approximately 9:00 PM.

Attendees

Tyler Bandemer, City of Laramie Solid Waste Manager
Rich Elliott, City of Laramie Public Works Director
Bill Vance, ARK Regional Services
Teri Lund, public representative
Ramsey Bentley, public representative
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.

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
- Possible alternatives for disposal and recycling
- Public Testimony

Public Testimony and Discussion

Ramsey Bentley asked if Laramie had space to become a regional landfill. Tyler responded that if they only received the waste for Albany County then estimated 30 to 40 years of life remained but if we add Laramie County (Cheyenne and ELCSWDD), then that would decrease remaining life considerably. Also, if Laramie wanted to be a regional landfill it would most likely only be temporary. Bill said also if increase diversion then will extend the life of the landfill, particularly City of Cheyenne currently has ~300 tons/day but their diversion will increase. Ramsey comments that increased diversion of construction demolition wastes, yard wastes etc is what he would like to see.

Teri Lund asked what is the potential of recycling in Laramie to extend the life of their landfill? Tyler stated potential is great and it's just a matter of harnessing the potential. Tyler stated that moves into collection, automated with single stream will help. Bill suggests \$5 for recycling whether you do or not. Teri asks is there a dump fee whether you use it or not. Tyler ~\$3-6/month for disposal (not including collection).

Teri commented on the 2X/week garbage collection being excessive. Tyler said that is just the way it has always been done. Why do we have to do 2X/week. Could we cut that back and be more efficient? Suggest cutting back to collect once a week for non-recyclables and the other time collect the recyclables.

Teri asked how would we get a community composting operation started? The information we get from this meeting will be passed along to city council. Marge stated this will be documented that in the ISWM plan that people are interested. Teri stated that a central location is preferred. Bill states anything we can get out of the landfill is beneficial, studies clear on how successful and well received. Teri asked how did these programs start? Rich suggests a Spring tree-branch recycle program with chipper. Rich suggests move programs slowly to minimize momentum, move ahead with logic and less emotion. Share a roaming chipper is an idea. Tyler mentioned there is a cost for these services, in Oregon you pay to drop off the tree branches and if you want compost or wood chips you pay again. A suggestion is pilot a project to see how the local community receives it. Cheyenne did a pilot, surveyed the people and now it is mandated. Change slowly with adequate notice and then accepted more readily.

Teri - Do you think the understanding of the increased costs to line the landfill is well known information? - No. Rich says this ISWM plan effort is only 2-3 months old and now seeing issues brought up in last 2-3 months that the community will need to make more efforts quicker. Marge mentioned that public outreach in next 1.5 years is very important. She thinks ISWM planning is in good time. Rich says the real work starts after the planning process.

Marge asked Bill if he wanted to discuss single stream vs separation recycling; he feels recycling will flow behind what we do in the landfill. Single stream is easier but doesn't make as much money but Tyler feels more compliance if you make it easier.

Marge summed up today's comments indicating that the public in Laramie is interested in diversion and recycling. Discussed setting an achievable goal, ISWM plan will put numbers to some of these questions and that will help the governing bodies make decisions.

Next Steps

The local working group meeting to be held on February 27 from 8 AM - noon was announced. The purpose of the regional meeting was discussed and attendance encouraged.