

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

**SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 6, 2008 WORKING GROUP MEETING
FOR CITY OF LARAMIE**

The following information is a general summary of the issues discussed at the March 6, 2008 meeting that was held at the City of Laramie Recreation Center in Laramie, WY. The meeting began at approximately 8:00 AM, and concluded at approximately 12:00 PM.

Attendees

Tyler Bandemer, City of Laramie Solid Waste Manager
Rich Elliott, City of Laramie Public Works Director
Bill Vance, ARK Regional Services
Klaus Hanson, City of Laramie Mayor
Janine Jordan, City of Laramie City Manager
Doug Bryant, Albany County Planner
Victor Lopez, City of Laramie Sanitation Department
Marge Bedessem, 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.

Public Outreach Discussion

The group discussed various suggestions to inform the residents of Laramie of the ISWM planning process. Plexiglass stands with “Why are We Talking Trash” brochures are available to place at the following suggested locations: landfill, recreation center, post office, city hall, county building, library, court house, court house annex, Agricultural Extension office, LCCC, ARK, Wyotech, UW Union, Rock River post office, and Centennial post office. It was suggested to contact Nicole Korfanta with UW’s Environmental and Natural Resource department, add information into the Boomerang, and Klaus volunteered to write an article in the Boomerang. It was also suggested to contact Wyoming Disposal to add a flyer into their billing notice.

General Comments

- 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>).
- 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.

- 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 are currently \$1.90/cy uncompacted, \$7.35/ cy compacted with a \$4.15 minimum
- Residential garbage disposal rates in the City of Laramie are approximately \$ 3-6/month/household, and are included on the city's monthly utility bill. The cost for county residents are subject to the regular tipping fees. It was mentioned that the purchase of a scale could better capture landfill fees and increase the revenue to cover landfill costs.
- The group agreed that an increase in cost to the public will be better received if realistic and the public was properly informed then should be acceptable. It was discussed any reasons for increasing costs should be transparent to the public.
- The group discussed various waste management concepts like transfer stations, pay as you throw, single stream curb side collection, etc.

Location

- Currently, Rock River operates a transfer station and hauls the waste to the Laramie landfill
- It was agreed to consider building a transfer station at the current Laramie landfill and transport Albany County waste to a regional facility via both semi-trailers and the railroad. Trihydro will investigate the costs if these are regional alternatives.
- Build a transfer station at another location near a railroad hub where a composting operation could be developed. Mention segregate yard waste and clean wood for composting with other construction demolition waste (CDW) segregated prior to transport.

- It was discussed to send all waste (MSW and CDW) or maintain a segregated CDW landfill if the DEQ would allow CDW to be buried in an unlined landfill
- 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.
- It was mentioned that Laramie may not be a viable location for a regional landfill due to current aquifer concerns and lack of space.

Other Partners

- The general consensus was to look into partnering with other counties and cities.

Environmental Protection

- It was agreed upon that less was not an option. The City of Laramie has already received a letter from WDEQ that a liner system will be required when they begin Phase 2 excavation. It is estimated to be within 1-2 years.

Diversion, Recycling and Composting

- The group wanted to look into more alternatives for CDW diversion. It was discussed to offer incentives for segregated wastes. It was discussed that if the Laramie landfill became a CDW landfill only then it may change the number of employees
- It was a priority to increase composting and divert yard wastes. It was suggested that a pilot program like was conducted in Cheyenne be implemented in a section of Laramie.
- The group was encouraged to set attainable benchmarks and goals for recycling. The general reaction from the public should be considered and education as to the long-term cost savings.
- Current attitude in some local residents is “not in my garbage can”?

Education

- The City of Laramie noted they would like to see increased community education pertaining to recycling and reuse as an objective in the final 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 Laramie evaluated disposal and recycling alternatives separately.

Disposal Alternatives

Definitely Worth Considering

- Maintain the current Laramie landfill for Albany County use only understanding the increased costs of a liner system.
 - The expected growth in Rock River was discussed and the potential impact on the landfill. The Albany county planner noted that ~2400 people would be employed at the proposed Industrial Gasification and Liquefaction Facility in neighboring Carbon County at start up and ~350 – 400 fulltime, long-term employees.
- Convert the Laramie landfill to an unlined CDW only landfill, construct a transfer station in a yet to be determined location and haul waste to a regional landfill

Maybe Worth Considering

- Close Laramie landfill and haul all waste (including CDW) to a regional landfill

Impractical/Unreasonable

- Convert Laramie landfill to a short-term lined regional landfill taking wastes from Albany and Laramie counties.

Recycling Alternatives

Definitely Worth Considering

- Develop a composting facility

Maybe Worth Considering

- Implement curbside single stream collection
- Develop a regional materials recycling facility (MRF) in Laramie. Current ARK operations could complement a MRF since transportation and market problems are already worked out. It was discussed that the costs are large for a MRF but when compared to landfill liners or siting a new landfill, they are comparable. There was a high level of interest in considering this for a business opportunity for Laramie, to increase diversion and therefore decrease the amount of waste to the landfill and it could decrease the environmental impact from the landfill.
- If a transfer station was constructed, it was suggested to add areas for household hazardous wastes and e-wastes.
- Waste to energy alternatives should be considered over the 20 year plan

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.