



KENT COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

March 1, 2018

8:30 AM

**Waste-to-Energy Facility
DPW Conference Room
950 Market Ave SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Vonk, Bulkowski, Brieve, Skaggs, Yonker, Janes, Koorndyk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Darwin Baas, Director; Kimberly Williams, Finance Division Director; Alisha Barber, Office Manager; Paul Smith, WTE Operations Manager; Nic VanderVinne, Resource Recovery and Recycling Manager; Dan Rose, Solid Waste Operations Manager; Kristen Weiland, Communications & Marketing Manager; Megan Kretz, Resource Recovery Specialist; Calvin Brinks, Purchasing/Fleet Services Manager; Linda Howell, Corporate Counsel; Scott Harvey from Demand Action; Cody Angell from Demand Action

I. Call to Order

Chairman Vonk called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

II. Consent Agenda

- A. Review and Approval of Minutes
- B. Conference/Education Travels
 - 1. NAWTEC Conference – AR
- C. Approval of Monetary Outlays

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Brieve and seconded by Commissioner Janes to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Solid Waste Operations**A. CAT D6 Dozer – AR**

Director Baas reviewed the Bulldozer – South Kent Landfill action request. Staff is recommending the purchase of one D6T LGP which includes a 12-month Standard Full Machine Warranty service agreement and a five year, 9,000-hour premier extended warranty. The Department has an approved Capital Improvement budget for the purchase of the proposed equipment.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Bulkowski and seconded by Commissioner Skaggs to award the purchase of a tracked bulldozer for South Kent Landfill to Michigan CAT of Grand Rapids, Michigan for the total amount of \$437,805.18 and authorize the Director to execute the associated contracts.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Recycling and Education Center**A. SafeChem (HHW) Safety Storage Facility – AR**

Director Baas reviewed the North Kent Transfer Station – SafeChem Storage Facility Replacement. DPW planned to replace the aging SafeChem storage facilities within 2018 – 2020. The facilities are open to residents and staffed weekly to receive hazardous materials. The program reduces improper disposal of chemicals that would otherwise be placed in the trash, dumped down the drain or indiscriminately dumped in the environment. Bids were solicited through the Kent County Purchasing Department. One bid was received from Safety Storage, Inc. at a cost of \$97,005.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Koorndyk and seconded by Commissioner Brieve to purchase one Safety Storage facility for the North Kent Transfer Station at a cost of \$97,005.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Environmental Compliance Management**A. North Kent Landfill – PFOA/PFOS Update**

Director Bass reviewed the PFAS information from the North Kent Landfill (NKL), Sparta Landfill, Kentwood Landfill and updates from MDEQ on wastewater guidelines.

North Kent Landfill – Several of the monitoring wells showed elevated levels of PFAS. Near the landfill, there are a total of 43 properties with private wells and four properties on city water. DPW provided the 43 properties with bottled waters, Meijer gift cards and a letter describing DPW’s response action. We have sampled 42 wells and are waiting for the property owner’s response to obtain the last sample. Once the testing finalizes and depending on the level of PFAS detected, either Michigan Department of Health & Human services (MDHHS) or the Health Department will release the results to the home owner and DPW. A water filtration systems will be installed in homes where PFAS is detected.

Sparta Landfill - The Sparta Landfill was operated by the Township prior to Kent County operating it. No records were found to indicate that PFAS and/or impact materials were dumped at the landfill however, it was operating during the same era where the materials may have been received. There are eight wells near this landfill that are tested regularly by DPW and the Health Department. DPW has sampled 7 wells already and will sample the last well next week.

Kentwood Landfill – The Kentwood Landfill was operated by the Parish Township prior to Kent County operating it. All five wells near this property are tested annually to meet DEQ’s permit requirements. There are no records of Wolverine World Wide (WWW) materials dumped at the landfill. As a precautionary, we sampled one homeowner’s drinking well and are in contact with the homeowners who use the other four wells for irrigation.

MDEQ – Director Baas has been in contact with the MDEQ. They are beginning to provide guidelines to the wastewater treatment plants. Since PFAS is prevalent in the environment, MDEQ is concerned if PFAS is being discharged from Industrial water users to the wastewater treatment plants. MDEQ is sponsoring a meeting in Grand Rapids on March 14th from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at the LV Eberhard Center – Grand Valley State University to discuss waste water treatment and PFAS/PFOA.

VI. Director’s Report

A. San Jose Facility Tours

Director Baas discussed the San Jose facility tours. The tours are scheduled from March 19 through March 22. An update will be provided at the Board Meeting in April.

B. Renew Michigan Proposal

Director Baas discussed the proposal. Currently, there is a \$0.36 per ton surcharge on municipal solid waste that is collected and sent to the State to help run their programs. The Governor is proposing to increase the surcharge to \$4.75 per ton.

C. Resource Park RFI

Director Baas discussed the Request for Information (RFI) proposal. The Purchasing Department will release the RFI on Friday, March 2, 2018 to approximately 500

companies. The companies consist of local, national and international organizations. The RFI will be open for two months and DPW hopes to have feedback by the summer.

D. MPSC Avoided Cost Ruling

Director Baas discussed the Ruling. There is a conference in March, briefings in July and the final ruling may come during the fall season.

E. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Meeting

Director Baas discussed the FERC meeting that took place in Washington, DC. The group shared concerns and experiences with the Commissioners. After discussing the concerns, the Commissioners provided guidance on the appeal process.

F. Christmas Tree Light Collection

Director Baas discussed the Christmas Tree Collection Program. DPW set up multiple locations and collect Christmas lights. Three tons of lights were collect and recycled accordingly.

G. Scrap Tire Grant

Director Baas discussed the Scrap Tire Grant received from DEQ. Megan Kretz, Resource Recovery Specialist is managing this program and focusing on three areas this year. The locations for the events will be in Lowell, Long Lake Park and Courtland Township.

VII. Public Comment/Miscellaneous

Scott Harvey from Demand Action discussed his concerns regarding PFAS. He put together a chronologically list of items and provided copies to the Commissioners.

Cody Angel from Demand Action stated two questions. 1. Have you located any maps on North Kent Landfill where tannery sludge from WWW were placed? 2. Is the leachate coming out of the North Kent Landfill a contributing factor to the Wellington Ridge Subdivision where high levels of PFAS/PFOA were detected and what direction from the North Kent Landfill is the plumes generating from? Because some houses near House Street found high levels of lead. WWW confirmed that none of their wells detected lead.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.