## Minutes Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission October 14, 2014

The Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission (Commission) met on October 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Loudon County Courthouse Annex. The Commission was represented by Steve Field, Larry Jameson, Robert Harrison, Tom Paul and Kelly Littleton-Brewster. Other attendees included Attorney Kevin Stevens; Santek representatives Cheryl Dunson and Levi Higdon; citizens Aileen Longmire, Betty Jo McAllister, Kaye Wallace, Ray and Ann Chadwick, Lisa Bridges and Pat Hunter; and several other unidentified citizens.

Mr. Field called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Field introduced Chrissy Spoon to the Commission. Ms. Spoon is currently performing administrative services for Loudon County and is being considered as a candidate to perform similar services for the Commission.

**MOTION:** Ms. Littleton-Brewster made a motion to approve the September 9, 2014 minutes. Mr. Paul seconded the motion. Ms. Longmire indicated she was not identified in the minutes although she signed the attendees list. The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

During Items of Public Concern, Ms. Longmire inquired about the status of the landfill's major permit modification. Ms Dunson replied there had been no progress since the Commission's last meeting. Ms. Longmire also asked Mr. Field how many people approve payments from the Commission. He replied that he performs a preliminary review of all invoices, including itemized payment requests from Santek, and then typically presents such invoices to the Board for final approval of payment.

Ms. Hunter said that she thought an engineer was going to be present at the meeting. She also asked for an update on the Poplar Springs Landfill and inquired if expenditures for the landfill were presented to the governing bodies before being brought to the Commission. Mr. Field replied he was unaware of any developments with the Poplar Springs Landfill and said Loudon County Finance Director Tracy Blair typically disclosed all expenditures to Mr. Field and then sought written approval from the stakeholders to authorize payment. Ms. Hunter asked about the process of accepting asbestos from the Greenback School demolition project. Ms. Dunson replied the Matlock Bend Landfill has blanket special waste approval with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to accept asbestos and landfill personnel follow special procedures when disposing of the material.

Mr. Chadwick asked how the closure/post-closure funds for the Poplar Spring Landfill will be maintained. Mr. Field said the funds will be maintained in a sub-account of the Commission's closure/post-closure account. Mr. Chadwick asked about the procedure of giving approval for disbursements. Mr. Field said he doesn't disburse funds until the landfill's stakeholders approve an invoice. Ms. Hunter asked if she could see the first invoice. Mr. Field told Ms. Hunter to talk to the county attorney. She replied it costs money to talk to the county attorney. Mr. Field said she could talk to the county mayor or the county commission. Ms. Longmire asked if the amount of the first invoice (\$18,000) had been taken out of the Poplar Springs Landfill Fund. Mr. Field said the amount will be reflected in next month's Cash Activity Report.

Ms. Dunson presented the September 2014 Cash Report which included a line item for the Poplar Springs Landfill Closure/Post-closure Sub-Account and a narrative from Ms. Blair about the procedure for disbursements.

During Santek's Operations Report, Mr. Jameson asked about the timeline to complete the installation of the wheel wash. Mr. Higdon replied that work has begun and his goal is to complete the project before in climate weather arrives.

Mr. Field said there is a significant difference in Santek's cost estimate to lower the elevation of the Matlock Bend Landfill and Dr. Bob Bachus' estimate. He said there needs to be some discussion between Dr. Bachus and Santek engineering personnel to determine where the difference lies. Mr. Field also said there will be some significant challenges to alter the landfill's design.

During the Attorney's Report, Mr. Stevens asked the Commission how it wanted to proceed with the potential lease of the Purdy home. He said that he can draft a lease agreement once the Commission agrees on the specific parameters of the lease. Mr. Jameson said he knows of an interested party who wants to lease the home as a single-family residence as is. The proposed party would be responsible for all interior improvements and exterior maintenance of the property, including mowing. He recommended a rate of \$200 per month paid semi annually. Mr. Harrison suggested a credit and background check of the lessee. Mr. Stevens said that he certainly recommends the Commission document exactly who will be living in the home. Ms. Littleton-Brewster agreed with the proposed \$200-per-month lease price because it included all improvements and would relieve the Commission of mowing costs. Mr. Chadwick asked the Commission if it was required by law to advertise the lease of the home. After some discussion, Mr. Jameson recommended the Commission establish the parameters of the lease without a lease payment and then advertise the home for three weeks with the highest bidder being the successful lessee.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jameson made a motion to advertise the Purdy home for three weeks including the rental criteria and award the rental property to the highest bidder. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion failed on three-to-two vote with Ms. Littleton-Brewster and Mr. Paul voting no.

Mr. Jameson asked the Commission to table the home rental project until guidelines could be established and the Commission could revisit the issue at its next meeting.

During the Chairman's Report, Mr. Field said he received a letter from TDEC indicating Loudon County achieved a 34 percent recycling rate in its 2013 annual report due to the waste reduction efforts of Kimberly Clark.

Mr. Field asked the Commission if it liked the new format of the Cash Activity Report which will be generated by Ms. Blair in the future. Mr. Field emphasized the separate sub-account for Closure/Postclosure funds for the Matlock Bend Landfill in the County Trustee's office and recommended leaving the funds with the county trustee if the Commission can get a more favorable interest rate.

Mr. Field said he's still working to schedule an informational meeting with new members of the Loudon County Commission and is looking at a Tuesday evening in the next few weeks.

Mr. Field announced Mr. Akins' resignation from the Commission and said he's waiting to hear Mr. Akins' replacement from Lenoir City officials.

Mr. Jameson asked the Commission to consider giving the former Poplar Springs Landfill Closure/Post Closure reserve funds back to the stakeholders since the Commission has no legal authority for the closed facility. Mr. Jameson added that the Commission continues to receive a lot of questions and scrutiny about the closed landfill. Mr. Harrison suggested asking the landfill stakeholders for permission to resolve the landfill issue. Mr. Stevens said that he generally agreed with Mr. Jameson: The Poplar Springs Landfill was never owned or operated by the Commission and is not the Commission's liability. Ms. Hunter then suggested giving the Closure/Post-closure reserve funds for the former landfill to the City of

Loudon. Ms. Hunter said that the City operated the landfill and controlled the financials. She said a year has passed since the landfill was identified as a source of contamination and nothing has been done. She said the former county mayor Estelle Herron had no authority to authorize \$18,000 in expenditures and there is no transparency to the public on how this issue is being resolved.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jameson made a motion to request the stakeholders to accept the former Poplar Springs Landfill Closure/Post-closure reserve funds and accept responsibility for the oversight of the former landfill. Ms. Littleton-Brewster seconded the motion. The motion passed with a four-to-one vote with Mr. Harrison dissenting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jameson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Ms. Littleton-Brewster seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Commission's next regularly scheduled meeting is November 11, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Annex.

Respectfully sybmitted,

Steve Field, Chairman

Loudon County Solid Waste Disposal Commission