



Technical Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on March 24, 2021

Pinellas Room, Heritage Village

The meeting of the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee (TMC) was held at the Pinellas Extension Magnolia Room, 2:00 pm on March 24, 2021. Members present were Earl Gloster, Willie Joseph, Deb Bush, Robert Turner, Michael Gordon, William Pickrum, Nan Bennett, Tracy Meehan, Bart Diebold, Dean Scharmen, and Andrew Butterfield. Pinellas County employee attendees were Paul Sacco, Department of Solid Waste (DSW), Joe Morrissey, County Attorney, and Brendan Mackesey, County Attorney. Members absent without an alternate: Scott Witt, City of Tarpon Springs. Carlee Ward, TMC Secretary recorded the minutes.

Call to Order

Earl Gloster, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

Citizens to be heard

None present

Minutes

Mr. Gloster entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting. **A motion was made by Nan Bennett; seconded by Robert Turner to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

Operations Report

Deb Bush, Pinellas County Solid Waste

- The Operations report for January and February 2021 are included in the meeting packet for review.
- Spring outage started on March 1. During the B101 outage B102 experienced an explosion in zone 1 of the grates. The explosion was likely caused by a compressed gas cylinder. The explosion caused several grate bars to break and damaged portions of the support structure underneath. This required unplanned diversions to the landfill.
- The facility is finishing up the replacement of the tipping floor rollup doors. The last door is being completed and will allow all doors to be closed at the end of normal site operations. These doors have been installed on the exterior and higher which will provide more clearance for trucks.
- Covanta is finalizing the conceptual study on the enhanced metals modification. It is expected that a draft report may be completed by April.
- Waste Management continues to excavate and maintain ditches around the site. They have also implemented enhanced safety procedures for the landfill working face.
- One of the Solid Waste Master Plan projects is the application of mechanically stabilized earthen berms or vertical side slopes for the landfill. HDR Engineering is finalizing the first draft of this feasibility study.

- Business Waste Assessments are still being conducted at facilities where appropriate social distancing and mask protection is possible and practiced.
- The Recycling Collection, Processing, and Marketing contract is out for bid, which closes March 16.

Financial Report

Deb Bush (on behalf of Linda Larkins, Pinellas County Office of Management and Budget)

- Reviewed the Financial Report of revenues and expenditures covering October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. A copy is included in the meeting packet for review.
- Duke Electric Sales Revenue are always one month in arrears.
- Recovered Metals Revenue is favorable due to the delay in Clerk Finance posting of payments.
- Other Revenue budget amount is primarily a Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT for North County HEC3 facility at \$1.255M. FDOT is expected to remit payment later in FY21.
- Plant Management favorability – As of 3/17/21, Clerk Finance has only posted the October Covanta service payment during the December period. November and December service payments were posted to the January and February periods, so are not included in this financial report.
- Landfill Management favorability – As of 3/17/21, Clerk Finance has only posted the October ADS service payment during the December period. November and December service payments were posted to the January and February periods, so are not included in this financial report. Also, the clerk “over reversed” their accrual of the \$943K September ADS invoice. That erroneously causes the YTD actuals to be too low. Clerk Finance will correct this error.

Pinellas County Updates

Paul Sacco, Solid Waste Director

- Solid Waste has been in discussions with FDEP about the industrial wastewater discharge permit. They have a consent order to discharge until improvements can be made to the facility. The improvements are being made but not FDEP doesn't feel it's progressing fast enough and issued a letter of intent to assess fines until they're completed. Solid Waste met with FDEP to discuss the improvements that have been completed, many of which they weren't aware of, and should be able to request the discharge permit be removed by mid-April. These improvements will allow them to keep the water on site at a manageable level so there will be no need to discharge. Will be able to provide an update at the next TMC meeting in May.
- Paul will be meeting with the County Administrator on April 1 to review the FY22 budget. He has included in the CIP a layered forecast of the major infrastructure projects coming out of the Master Plan. This information will be used to calculate the 30+ year forecast in the rate model for next year's rate review.
- Once the discharge permit is cleared with FDEP, they will begin discussions on a possible amendment to the landfill permit to be able to go higher rather than moving the working face. An amendment would increase the allowable height from 90 feet to 150 feet.

TMC Subcommittee - Pinellas Partners in Recycling (PPR) Update

Deanna Doss, Subcommittee Chairman

- March's meeting was held on March 10th via Zoom.
 - Hosted a presentation by Lufka Refillables.
 - FDEP announced Food Waste Prevention Week and recommended the following websites: www.floridaforce.org and www.savethefoodfl.com.
 - Pinellas County will be partnering with Hillsborough County on their “Reduce Your Use” campaign.
- Recognized the Pinellas County Solid Waste Scalehouse on achieving a 4.7 star rating on Google Reviews.
- Work Group Updates:

- Glass – Marissa Segundo of Recycling Resources shared that the MRF recycling certification is available through the Glass Coalition.
- Contract (Best Practices) – Published a document to assist municipalities in developing a contract with a new recycling processor and what information should be included. This document was previously shared with the TMC.
- Enforcement – Currently without a Chairperson, will be tabled until there is more interest.
- Contamination – Jenny Jaegal with Pinellas County Solid Waste will assume Chairperson role.
- Bylaws – Current bylaws are being reviewed and need approval.

MRF Discussion and Recommendation

- Paul Sacco reviewed the Board of County Commissioner’s direction to the TMC from the January 14, 2020 meeting: (1) Conduct domestic and international market research of mixed recycling commodity markets with the primary objective to understand what markets exist for ‘clean’, non-contaminated recyclables; (2) Assess current recycling practices and waste composition of curbside recycling for each municipality. Collaborate to develop a standard list which simplifies what is to be recycled. The objective would be to increase the yield of best marketed materials; and (3) Review the feasibility for a publicly-owned regional MRF, based on the outcomes of (1) and (2).
- There is a work session with the BCC scheduled for April 22nd to discuss the Power Purchase Agreement as well as the outcome of today’s TMC meeting on whether or not to move forward with some type of MRF activity.
- Paul distributed and reviewed a hand-out of discussion points (Attachment 1.0) with background data, costs and revenues for all options and solicited support for the following recommendation:
 - Direct staff to further evaluate the construction and operation of a regional municipal owned/operated MRF either in Pinellas County – or- construct a transfer station(s) and transport recycled materials to a Hillsborough County MRF.
 - Recommend and support the development of a Countywide Mandatory Recycling Ordinance for:
 - residential
 - multi-family
 - commercial
 - Recommend and support the development of standardized municipal recycled materials contracts to maximize participation, minimize contamination, and maximize market revenues.
- Bart Diebold made a motion in support of the recommendation. Motion was seconded by Nan Bennett. Motion carried unanimously on all items of the recommendation.

Additional Items for Discussion

Michael Gordon, City of Largo

- Mr. Gordon shared the details of an incident that occurred on one of their routes and reiterated the importance of driver awareness and safety.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm. The next TMC Meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Carlee Ward
TMC Recording Secretary

March 2021 TMC Meeting – MRF Discussion

- Review the (3) bullets from BCC request of the TMC
 1. Conduct domestic and international market research of mixed recycling commodity markets with the primary objective to understand what markets exist for ‘clean’, non-contaminated recyclables.
 2. Assess current recycling practices and waste composition of curbside recycling for each municipality. Collaborate to develop a standard list which simplifies what is to be recycled. The objective would be to increase the yield of best marketed materials.
 3. Review the feasibility for a publicly owned regional MRF, based on the outcomes of (1) and (2).

- What is needed today?
 - Recommendation to Board for staff to or not to pursue a regional municipally owned/operated MRF

- What a regional municipally owned/operated MRF could mean to Pinellas municipalities and their citizens.
 - Continued or possibly increased diversion of recycled materials from the SW Campus MSW waste stream, which supports the ‘zero waste to landfill by 2050’ mission and keeps tipping fees as low as possible.
 - A reduced overall cost to process in Pinellas or transport to HC for processing, as compared to private collection/transport/processing
 - The new MRF would be state of the art.
 - A capital investment will be required to build a MRF building and MRF equipment or to build a transfer station(s), support equipment, and transport vehicles.
 - It is assumed that initial capital funding would come from SW Enterprise Fund and be recovered over time as part of the recycled material tip fee.
 - A Countywide Recycling Ordinance would be needed for flow control to maximize operational efficiency and capital investment.
 - Municipalities and privates would be required to transport listed residential recyclable materials to one centralized MRF location, or one or more transfer stations.
 - Standardized municipal recycled material contracts could maximize participation, minimize contamination, and maximize market revenues.

- Background Data
 - RRS Market Study
 - Recycled Materials Composition Study
 - 2019 Countywide Residential Recycled Tonnage = 42,000
 - Estimated Countywide Total Residential Tonnage (with Ordinance) = 60,000
 - Statutes permit municipalities to codify mandatory recycling but cannot dictate how/where commercial businesses recycle.

- Pinellas vs. HC MRF
 - Pinellas MRF
 - Initial capital investment: \$30-40M
 - Operating Costs:
 - HC MRF Processing: \$60-70/ton
 - Transporting recycled materials to Hillsborough County (HC)
 - HC currently on the street for to construct a MRF building, with a third-party to purchase/install MRF equipment, operate the MRF, and market recyclables.
 - MRF will have capacity to take 60,000 tons from Pinellas by going from one shift to two.
 - HC also talking to other municipalities to gauge interest.
 - The estimated MRF processing cost is **\$60-70/ton**
 - HC will add **\$1-5/ton** for administration fee.
 - Revenues would be returned based on market price and percent participation (minus contamination)
 - HC plans to require MRF operator to conduct periodic composite studies for participating municipalities to assist with revenue/contamination reconciliation.
 - Requires the construction of one or more transfer stations in Pinellas.
 - The estimated capital cost to construct one large recycled material transfer station and support equipment is \$10-15M.
 - The estimated annual cost to operate a transfer station is **\$8-15/ton**
 - Transportation Costs
 - Estimated tons to transport per day is 200 (nominal 6-days per week).
 - Estimate round trip cost from Pinellas SW to HC MRF is \$420.
 - Estimated number of daily trips is 12-13.
 - Estimated average tons per load is 14.
 - Estimated annual transportation costs is \$900,000 or **\$15/ton**.
 - Need to determine best operations model (to outsource or not)
 - The estimated initial capital cost per transport vehicle (truck and trailer) is \$225,000. Four (4) would be needed – \$900,000
 - The estimated annual cost to maintain transport vehicles (10% of initial investment/year) is \$90,000.
 - Estimated fuel – TBD
 - Estimated driver labor cost (loaded salary) is - \$50,000. Four drivers needed - \$200,000.
 - Cost Summary
 - Initial capital investment: \$10-15M
 - Operating Costs:
 - HC MRF Processing: \$60-70/ton
 - HC MRF Admin Fee: \$1-5/ton
 - Pinellas Xfer Station: \$8-15/ton
 - Transportation: \$15/ton
 - Total: \$84-105/ton
 - **Revenues** are market driven and would be relatively the same no matter what alternative is chosen (private, Pinellas MRF or HC MRF).

- Recommendation
 - **Yes** or No: Direct staff to further evaluate the construction and operation of a regional municipal owned/operated MRF either in Pinellas County – or- construct a transfer station(s) and transport recycled materials to a Hillsborough County MRF.
 - If Yes, then recommend and support the development of a Countywide Mandatory Recycling Ordinance for:
 - residential (**yes/no**)
 - multi-family (**yes/no**)
 - commercial (**yes/no**)
 - If Yes, then recommend and support the development of standardized municipal recycled materials contracts to maximize participation, minimize contamination, and maximize market revenues. (**yes/no**)