

Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority  
Newton County Historic Courthouse, Commissioners' Boardroom  
1124 Clark Street, Covington, Georgia 30014  
Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

## MINUTES

The Newton County Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) held a Regular Meeting on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Boardroom on the Third Floor of the Newton County Historic Courthouse.

The following SWMA members were present:

Kent Campbell, Jr., Chairman  
Linda Hanna  
Jack (Buddy) Morgan  
Stan Edwards, District 1 Commissioner  
Ronnie Cowan, SWMA Vice Chairman, District 5 Commissioner

Also present were:

Laurie Riley, Secretary  
Megan Martin, Attorney  
Kevin Walter, Solid Waste Manager

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Kent Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

### **Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Campbell led everyone in observing a moment of silence and then in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Agenda Adoption**

Commissioner Stan Edwards moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Buddy Morgan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

### **Citizen Comments on Agenda Items**

None were offered.

### **Approval of Minutes from SWMA Regular Meeting on 6/17/21**

Ms. Linda Hanna moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. All voted in favor except Chairman Campbell who abstained from the vote because he was not present at the meeting on 6/17/21.

### **May Landfill Tonnage Report**

Mr. Walter explained the report. (See attached.) He said that paid volume coming into the landfill has averaged 346.10 tons per day for the month of June. Unpaid tonnage from Convenience Centers averaged 41.32 tons per day. The 2022 budget is based on 275 (paid) tons per day.

Mr. Walter said that last month's amounts were more normal and that this month's amount bounced up. He said there has been no decline in volume since price increases on July 1. He said he expects monthly tonnage to be in the range of 315-350. He is hopeful that the \$30 minimum fee will reduce citizen trips and small time hauler trips to the landfill. His goal is to have fewer customers but the same tonnage. He will continue to evaluate amounts.

**Financial Status Report for Solid Waste for Month 12 of FY2021**

Mr. Walter referred members to the attached report. Net income is at \$3,224,247. Expenses remain below budget projections with landfill expenses at 77.6% and Convenience Center expenses at 80.7% (when expected to be at 100%). Equity in pooled cash is \$5,838,110.07. Mr. Walter said he is pleased to be in a healthier financial position, but there is still much debt.

**Summary of Final Expenditures for Professional Engineering Services—FY 2021**

Mr. Curtis Reynolds of Harbin Engineering gave a report stating that Harbin had finished FY 2021 with \$651,388.37 in expenses. (See attached letter dated July 9, 2021.) The original budget was \$687,500. He asked for a budget increase of \$22,500, but did not need the increase. He said that the reasons for finishing the year under budget were weather delays and savings on groundwater monitoring. Mr. Reynolds estimates that the closure project will be finished in September.

**Approval of Task Order Budget for Professional Engineering Services—FY 2022**

Mr. Reynolds presented a list of environmental monitoring services and five tasks for approval. (See letter dated July 13, 2021.) He said that the Authority's contract for Professional Engineering Services set an annual limit of \$750,000. Each task is assigned a budget. Task 3—Phase 8A Construction has the largest assigned budget at \$315,000.00. Mr. Reynolds said that it is critical to get this task completed in FY 2022. Mr. Walter said that Task 3B (Phase 8A Construction Quality Assurance Testing) will be completed by Bunnell-Lammons Engineering, a subcontractor. He said the work is very specialized.

Mr. Walter said that Task 4 (Entrance Concept and Minor Modification) is a dire need. However, with the \$750,000 annual limit on the contract, funding is not available for a full plan design. He said he and Mr. Reynolds have budgeted enough funds to get the minor modification in to the State. He said plans will include a dual scale and a new office, both of which are critical needs, with the number one priority being the new scale.

Mr. Reynolds said that Task 5 (Design and Operation Plan 5-Year Update) is due to the State by January 2023. Landfill expansion will require a major modification. Major modifications require public hearings and meetings with the EPD (Environmental Protection Division). The application must be submitted by January 2023. He anticipates that it will take about a year to get a permit for the project. At this time, he is not proposing any changes to policies, ordinances, or landfill capacity.

Mr. Morgan asked how long it would take to get a permit for the new landfill entrance project. Mr. Reynolds said he would expect a response from EPD in three to six months. Mr. Walter said that the entrance project did not involve major requirements such as public meetings. He said that he expects the EPD to question plans for a transfer station and where the road goes. He said that he expects the EPD to treat the office and dual scales as routine matters. Mr. Walter said the design for the entrance project could begin within six months. He would like to get a better idea

of costs involved and make recommendations for funding sources. He said it will take a year to build.

Mr. Morgan asked how long it would take for design and approval and if a year plus to break ground was a reasonable expectation. Mr. Reynolds said a plan can be ready in three months and that a year is reasonable. Mr. Walter said he wants to break ground in the Spring, but the focus needs to be on the new cell first. He wants to come back to the Authority in six months with a proposal for the entrance project.

Mr. Walter said that the landfill is running smoothly and the closure project is going well but is very complicated. He said the closure will last 25-50 years without any erosion or leachate problems.

Mr. Reynolds said that Harbin can add more team members if the Authority wishes to accomplish tasks faster. Mr. Walter said that he prefers that Harbin Engineering completes the work rather than subcontractors.

Chairman Campbell asked to clarify whether the remediation project is still on hold. Mr. Reynolds said that it is temporarily on hold because there is nowhere to put the waste from the project until the new cell is finished. He said the remediation project deadline from the EPD is 2027.

Chairman Campbell asked whether funding for the remediation project is included in the task budgets. Mr. Reynolds said that if it needs to be included it will fall under Task 1 (Consulting and Engineering Services) and will be handled by Peed Bros.

Chairman Campbell asked about completion of Phase 8A. Mr. Reynolds said that the goal is March of 2022, but he is pushing for earlier.

Mr. Walter said the plan is for Peed Bros. to work first on the closure project and then switch to 8A. He said the cell to be constructed after 8A will be much bigger. He wants to hold the remediation waste for the next cell. He said there is still 300,000 cubic yards of waste to be excavated and that the waste is stable in Site 1.

Chairman Campbell said he is concerned about rising costs in the future and wants to be sure that Peed Bros. will honor the pricing amounts in the original contact if the project is put on hold. Mr. Walter said he would discuss the matter with representatives from Peed Bros.

Commissioner Ronnie Cowan moved to approve the task orders and budget as submitted by Mr. Reynolds. Mr. Morgan seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### **Citizen Comments**

None were offered.

#### **Executive Session**

Executive Session was not necessary.

#### **Remarks from Authority Members**

- **Commissioner Ronnie Cowan** asked about reappointments to the Authority.

Authority Attorney Megan Martin said that reappointments are on the agenda for the next BOC meeting. She said she sent an email to the BOC explaining the appointment process.

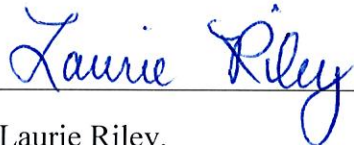
**Adjourn**

With a motion to adjourn from Ms. Hanna and a second from Commissioner Cowan, all voted to approve, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

**Attachments:**

- June 2021 Daily Tonnage Report
- June 2021 Financial Reports
- Harbin Engineering Letter, July 9 re: Summary of Professional Engineering Services for SWMA
- Harbin Engineering Letter, July 13 re: Professional Engineering Tasks for FY 2022

Attest:



Laurie Riley,  
Secretary



Kent Campbell,  
Chairman