1000 East Sand Flats Road, Moab Utah 84532

**MINUTES—RECYCLING WORKSHOP OPEN SESSION**

Thursday, October 5, 2017

Held at Grand County Library Board Meeting Room

Board Members present: Mary McGann (Chair), Kalen Jones (Treasurer), Pam Hackley (Member), Janet Buckingham (Member)

Others Absent: Kevin Fitzgerald (Vice Chair)

Others Present: Deborah Barton (District Manager), Annette Myers (District Administrative Assistant), Brandon MacKay (District Facilities Supervisor), Brad Woodford (Green Solutions), Kris Westrum (Arches Nat’l Park Volunteer), Clair Core (Resiliency Hub), Jeff Adams (Resiliency Hub/TerraSophia), Beau Peck (Interwest Paper/Probaler Recycling)

As there was only one item on the agenda, these minutes reflect the discussions held.

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Chair Mary McGann at 10:03 AM as a full quorum was present.

**INTRODUCTION:** Chair Mary McGann requested all attendees introduce themselves and the entity they represent.

1. Brad Woodford provided all present a two page presentation that Green Solutions and Monument Waste are engaged in regarding their ideas for a solution to Moab Recycling. Brad Woodford iterated that he is either selling his business or shuttering it down in order to pursue other interests. He stated Dan Kirkpatrick, Monument Waste, was unable to be present today as he was out of town attending to other business.
2. Kalen Jones stated there is not yet a negotiated contract and the city staff will be working on a formal RFP or contract in the future. The city staff will need to address options and make recommendations to the city council. A franchise agreement for competition will take months to set up and enact.
3. Janet Buckingham stated she liked the proactive proposed solution by Green Solutions and Monument Waste. She believes the district still needs input on what the community is wanting for recycling and what they are willing to pay for recycling
4. Pam Hackley stated the solid waste district has no authority or role in the discussion of a merger between Green Solutions and Monument Waste. She stated there is a concern that the recycling center continues to lose money. She has concerns about a single stream solution that takes jobs out of the community and wants more assurance on contamination rate as the material that is rejected will be in the Denver landfills which is not waste diversion. Retaining cardboard may be a good solution but she has concerns about the infrastructure to meet the production. She believes this is a good place to start more detailed discussion
5. Beau Peck gave input on recycling for large versus small communities. He stated smaller communities are determining they cannot afford to send material to a material recovery facility (MRF) because processing costs are climbing, significantly, due in part to the China ban. He stated MRF production rates will decrease as the speed for processing will have to be slower in order to decrease contamination of material processed which may lead to increased materials rejected and sent to a landfill. He stated about 50% of the domestic mills will not accept material that is generated from a MRF. The pressure on the industry will have a significant impact over the next three years but the end result will be a stronger industry and increased payment value for clean recycled material.
6. Kris Westrum asked how a single stream system is successful. She raised concerns about paying for the material to go to a MRF such as in Grand Junction. She expressed lack of knowledge on if any money was sent back to the community from a MRF to offset costs to process the material. She asked if the district could guarantee Monument Waste the ability to recoup investment costs in five to seven years.
7. Open discussion held on how to increase participation and make the program break even. Pay As You Throw (PAYT) coupled with recycling subscription was one idea to increase participation by incentivizing participation through decreased disposal rates for smaller amounts thrown away. Questions were raised on how to serve areas away from Moab itself, such as Castle Valley or Thompson Springs or some of the resort communities.
8. Deborah Barton was asked what was needed to accomplish study and goals and whether the analysis could be done by herself or was there a need for a consultant.
   1. She stated USU has a senior project group working with the district to help analyze the recycling center and give some options and estimates. The study is due by the end of December. Her next meeting with them is October 12. She will provide input to the board on what is to be expected from the USU project, what can be done in-house (by district staff), and whether hiring a consultant would be beneficial at this time.
   2. Annette Myers explained the computer, internet and file serve issues the office has been having and what she has been doing to resolve the issue with Frontier as the primary provider of the internet and network service as well as working with Max Technology on some of the problems in the file serve that occurred due to problems with Frontier service.
9. Mary McGann requested a general input from board members present on what goals and needs they saw for future actions to be taken.
   1. Mary McGann: Green Solutions/Monument Waste proposal appears to be a wood workable solution for waste diversion. She is interested in the input for the USU senior study and wants feedback at the next board meeting. She stated that Grand County council is having to cut back on funding and may not fund the recycling center with Transient Room Tax (TRT) monies since it loses money. She is torn between understanding the council’s concerns fiscally but knowing the environmental desires of the community to divert recyclable materials.
   2. Kalen Jones: Single stream may provide the best solution but due diligence is needed by city staff and by the district to engage with each other to determine best method to reach waste diversion goals economically.
   3. Pam Hackley: Requested the staff develop a set of options with recommendations. The options would include looking at the big picture as the board does not have a handle on all the factors to make a good informed decision. Any survey conducted needs to be succinct listing the problems and why the problems have/are occurring and suggestions on how to address the problems.
   4. Janet Buckingham: She commented that the problems in solid waste and recycling are pretty complex and trying to get that into small understanding sections is probably not possible. She asked what needed to be done to reprioritize Debby’s time. She would like more information on PAYT.
10. General Discussion held on having the staff present options with pros and cons and their recommendations for next steps to proceed. Three areas in particular should be considered
    1. If the recommendation is to enact Single Stream,
       1. does it need to be in cooperation with the city of Moab?
       2. What implications for outside the city limits?
       3. Should the district host a drop off for single stream or just be a cardboard recycling center?
    2. What implications would there be for enacting PAYT with a universal recycling pickup?
       1. What costs would the district incur?
       2. How would this system be phased in? Volunteer, mandatory, etc.
       3. How would the system be implemented outside the city?
11. Beau Peck addressed the group with some final comments on taking time to research all options and to use caution in deciding how to reach diversion goals. He emphasized that for the district to continue any type of recycling, even cardboard only, would require investment in replacing old, obsolete equipment such as the baler.
12. Deborah Barton was asked to provide feedback on potential options with pros and cons and what her recommendation for the next steps would be. Based on her report, a decision will be reached as to another workshop with date and time.

Kalen Jones moved/Pam Hackly seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 am.

Respectfully submitted

Annette Myers

Administrative Assistant

In conjunction with

Deborah Barton

District Manager