

**MONTGOMERY-OTSEGO-SCHOHARIE SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE:** June 30, 2005

**LOCATION:** MOSA Administrative Complex, Howes Cave

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Donald Lindberg  
Edward Wesnofske  
Charles Buck  
Raymond Halgas

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gilbert Chichester  
Melissa Morlang  
Meredith McNeil  
William Strevy

**1. Opening**

Chairman Lindberg opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the May 5, 2005 were unanimously approved.

**3. Eastern Landfill Repairs – FEMA Application**

Gilbert Chichester reported that an application with FEMA for the repairs to the Eastern Landfill has been filed and he has been working with Barton and Loguidice as well as representatives from both FEMA and SEMO. There are three approaches to the repairs. The first approach is to estimate the cost of putting the landfill back into the same condition that existed before the slide. The second approach is to put crushed stone in the washout area and create a diversion ditch upslope to mitigate the chances of a washout happening again. FEMA requested a price for the first two approaches.

A third approach would be to create more diversion ditches around the entire landfill. The engineering costs associated with estimating the third approach was \$5,000 to \$7,000. Mr. Chichester asked FEMA the probability of the third approach being accepted given the likelihood of it costing significantly more. FEMA agreed that it was not likely that it would be approved and agreed not to have the engineers estimate the third approach.

FEMA was looking for another alternative that cost the same as the second approach. The engineers felt that the second approach was the most appropriate, as did DEC. FEMA proceeded to develop the paperwork and reviewed it with Mr. Chichester. During the review a significant difference in the quantity of material was uncovered. Mr. Chichester is currently working out the differences and will not begin work until it is resolved.

FEMA had initially requested the Authority to seek proposals for engineering services for the project. Mr. Chichester explained that Barton & Loguidice is the Authority's engineers of record. Mr. Chichester feels that the actual work on the landfill will likely need to be bid out. Because the labor will be at prevailing wage, Mr. Chichester felt that getting quotes for equipment rental should be sufficient for FEMA.

Mr. Chichester felt that timing was an issue. Many contractors are not available this time of the year. Additionally, the Authority is subject to the risk that more rainfall will occur before the wash out is repaired resulting in further damage to the landfill.

Barton and Loguidice has informed Mr. Chichester that they do not feel that it is necessary to go to bid, as additional costs would be incurred unnecessarily. The Authority has performed other landfill repair work of this nature and have done so successfully.

Donald Lindberg asked if Dan Herrick and one contractor could do the entire job. Mr. Chichester stated that it would require two MOSA employees plus a contractor.

Edward Wesnofske felt that there was enough of a risk to leaving the wash out open that the Authority should move forward with the repairs. The Board could determine that it should move forward and go after the money when it is complete.

Donald Lindberg felt that if the state agency was giving the Authority the most trouble then perhaps the state representatives should be notified.

Gilbert Chichester stated that the engineers indicate that with enough rain the soil in other areas may become saturated and another wash out will occur. The Authority will continue to have similar wash outs on an on-going basis around the entire landfill.

Raymond Halgas suggested that the current repairs might be too large of a project for the Authority to handle. Mr. Chichester stated that the job was not too difficult but it would take longer with MOSA staff performing the work. Barton and Loguidice felt that the MOSA staff was more than competent to complete the task. Dan Herrick will need to be on site regardless of who is performing the work.

Gilbert Chichester stated that he would be meeting with FEMA, SEMO and Barton and Loguidice next week to finalize the plan.

#### **4. Staffing Recommendations**

A summary of proposed changes in the current staffing pattern as it relates to Buildings and Grounds and Equipment Maintenance was reviewed, as attached hereto.

Raymond Halgas stated that he agreed with all of Mr. Chichester's recommendations, although the item relative to hiring a Director of Operations and Safety was being considered by the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Chichester stated that the first four Buildings and Grounds priorities for 2005 have been complete. There are some minor repairs left at the Northern Transfer Station. Once these items were taken care of work at the landfills will begin. Gilbert Chichester stated that the preventive maintenance work at the Central Landfill would begin before work at the Eastern Landfill if the details of the FEMA application were not resolved.

Charles Buck stated that it was important that the Director of Operations and Safety be able to perform hands on work as well as manage the operations. Gilbert Chichester stated that the Job Description would address his concern.

**Raymond Halgas motioned seconded by Charles Buck to create a second maintenance position. The motion was unanimously approved. A "New Position Duties Statement" will need to be submitted to the personnel officer from which will result in a title for the position. The Governing Board will need to review and approve the title before any hiring can take place.**

## **5. Equipment Replacement Needs/Surplus Equipment**

A summary of equipment replacement needs was reviewed, as attached hereto.

Gilbert Chichester stated that there were pieces of equipment that needed to be declared surplus at the next board meeting.

Raymond Halgas stated that he did not agree with putting a sander and a plow on a truck as was suggested in item 1. He also felt that bulk liquids should be available at every site eliminating the need to equip a truck to transport the liquids from site to site. Mr. Halgas also stated that the truck should be large enough to handle to demands being placed upon it.

Charles Buck did not feel that the new truck needed a crane on it. By properly scheduling the work the appropriate truck could be made available.

Mr. Chichester was looking to the committee for agreement on the concept. The maintenance staff will be invited to a future meeting to work out the specifics on the purchase of a new truck.

Item 2 relating to the purchase of a new trailer was discussed.

**Raymond Halgas motioned seconded by Edward Wesnofske recommending the purchase of a new trailer with specific details to be provided at the next Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Item 4 suggests replacing the backhoe at WTS, which is scheduled to be replaced in 2006, be replaced at the end of 2005. This would facilitate the movement of the current backhoe at WTS be moved to ATS to address the winter service needs of the station as well as serving as a backup to the crane.

**Charles Buck motioned seconded by Raymond Halgas recommending the replacement of the 1999 Cat 416C backhoe at the WTS. Specific details to be provided at a future Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Item 5 related to the need to purchase a loader to be used as a backup at the Oneonta Transfer Station. Raymond Halgas suggested waiting for the design of the retrofit at the Oneonta Transfer Station before purchasing a piece of equipment for that site.

**Raymond Halgas motioned seconded by Edward Wesnofske recommended declaring the following pieces of equipment as surplus:**

**1991 Ford Escort – to be brought to the Schoharie County Auction**

**1991 Ford Pickup – to be brought to the Schoharie County Auction**

**1992 Ford Pickup – to be brought to the Schoharie County Auction**

**Cross Country Flatbed Trailer – to be brought to the Schoharie County Auction**

**Snow Pusher– to be brought to the Auction in Lansing**

**Case Loader– to be brought to the Auction in Lansing**

**The motion was unanimously approved.**

## **6. Scale Replacement**

Gilbert Chichester distributed two letters written to the Authority from Protech Scale Service relative to the scales at the Amsterdam and Western Transfer Stations, as attached hereto.

It was agreed by the committee that the useful life of the scales is 15 years and not 20 years as shown on the equipment replacement schedule. The committee felt that it was necessary to gather more information before deciding on a course of action.

**The committee directed the Executive Director to obtain prices for replacing the scale at the Amsterdam Transfer Station. Information relative to raising the scales in the impact on the scale house as well as the need for any other infrastructure changes should also be obtained. The Executive Director as also directed to obtain prices for replacing the scale and infrastructure at the Western Transfer Station.**

## **7. Schoharie Transfer Station Incident**

The committee discussed a letter received from Chris Rizzo relative the damage to his tires that he incurred while using the Schoharie Transfer Station, as attached hereto.

**Donald Lindberg motioned seconded by Edward Wesnofske directing the Executive Director to send a letter to Mr. Rizzo indicating the he owed the Authority the amount of his unpaid account balance. The Authority is not responsible for the damages to his tires.**

## 8. Northern Transfer Station Operational Changes

Mr. Chichester reported to the committee that dump trailers and dump trucks are utilizing the Northern Transfer Station. The purpose of the site is a convenience station for homeowners. Although the waste to be delivered to this site is primarily for bagged waste there are occasions when loose material is delivered. During the construction season homeowners have home improvement projects. Contractors are taking the homeowners with them to the site so that large quantities of material can be deposited as homeowner waste since contractors are prohibited from dumping.

During the tourist season the flow of material at this site increases. The site is not able to handle the flow with one trailer. In order to reinforce the purpose of the site Mr. Chichester is requesting that dump trailers and dump trucks not be allowed on the site.

**Raymond Halgas motioned seconded by Edward Wesnofske to prohibit dump trailers and dump trucks from utilizing the Northern Transfer Station.**

## 9. Safety Inspections

Gilbert Chichester reported that a representative from PESH from the Binghamton office did an inspection of the Northern Transfer Station a week ago. The result was a finding that the bathroom was dirty. She also felt that there were safety issues to address. On June 29<sup>th</sup> a safety inspector appeared at the Northern Transfer station and stated that there was an issue with tarping the trailers in that it should not be possible for the drivers to fall and hit the ground while tarping. Mr. Chichester was given the name of the inspector's supervisor and was instructed to contact him for a solution to the problem. Mr. Chichester placed the phone call and will be meeting with the safety inspection at the station to determine a solution.

PESH also performed an inspection of the Oneonta Transfer Station. Tarping was not an issue at this site because the tarping is done inside the building. Mr. Chichester will be getting a full report on all the inspections. Likely PESH will expect a safety manual be developed, training be given and procedures adopted relative to the new regulations associated with chemicals.

## 10. Other Business

Edward Wesnofske stated that he felt the MOSA Board should consider paying for the Household Hazardous Waste programs for the counties this year in excess of the amount reimbursed by the State. Charles Buck asked that it be determined if the state would reimburse for electronics waste collected as part of the household hazardous waste collection programs. The committee agreed with the concept. Mr. Wesnofske stated that it would be on the agenda at the next board meeting.

Edward Wesnofske also felt that the Board should consider accepting waste from non-profit groups that do clean-up projects as part of a public service. Members of the committee felt that there would be too much potential for violations. Mr. Wesnofske felt that if structured and restricted it could be controlled. He stated that he would work out more of the details and bring the concept back at a later time.

**11. Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Morlang  
Director of Finance and Administration