

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE

SUMMARY

The Taskforce convened 3 times: March 30th, April 20th, and May 11th. Each community was invited to attend along with the rural public schools and key waste management stakeholders. Attendance was not strong, however, those that did attend were regular. Meeting minutes, as well as sign in sheets, are attached.

The Taskforce was able to visit and tour the Council Bluffs Recycling Center. This provided a setting of a local successful facility. Council Bluffs Recycling Center Staff participated in the Taskforce and provided valuable input on making a sustainable operation. Staff from the Council Bluffs Recycling center expressed that they are willing to expand their partnership with the County on waste management efforts.

The Taskforce reviewed and considered the Pottawattamie County Integrated Solid Waste Management Services Evaluation and the 2015 Solid Waste Survey. Emphasis was placed on comments provided in the survey (Q11). This provided an outline of key concerns and desires of a waste management facility within Pottawattamie County. First, the Taskforce identified issues/barriers to the success of the existing facility. Next, they identified what components are necessary for a successful waste management facility as well as what characteristics or pieces are needed to make each component successful. This process included identifying options for a waste management system within the County. These findings are summarized in the following:

		Must Have Components of a Successful Waste Management Facility					
		RECYCLING	HOUSEHOLD WASTE (MSW)	HOUSEHOLD HAZ WASTE (HHW)	CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS	WHITE GOODS	E-GOODS
		EDUCATION - a common theme needed throughout all components					
	Necessary Characteristics	Easy access, inside/drive thru; accept plastic, cardboard, tin, paper & glass	Includes tip floor and scale	Accepts unlimited amount	Scale and space to sort	Inside demanufacture of goods	Inside storage
Identified Options	Modify Existing Facility						
	Does it meet necessary characteristics?	O	X	X	O	O	X
	Comments	Only spot for container is at back of lot in floodplain - hard to see container	Dangerous drop into dumpster - grade of site is a big challenge to reconstruction	Limited space - can only accept XX amount	All goes to scrap hauler	All goes to scrap hauler	Currently accepted but not sorted - all goes to landfill
	Construct New Facility						
	Does it meet necessary characteristics?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Comments	Could include drive thru for easy access.	Could include tip floor and scale	Large infrastructure - accept more	Additional space would allow for material to be sorted and weighed (scale)	Additional space would allow for deconstruction of goods - ideally inside	Inside storage of 12 pallets
	Utilization of Satellite Locations						
	Does it meet necessary characteristics?	✓	-	-	-	-	-
	Comments	Partner with communities for sites					
	Partnership with Existing Services						
Does it meet necessary characteristics?	✓	✓	✓	O	O	D	
Comments	Currently being done	Currently being done	Currently being done	Intent is to sort and minimize	Will need to transport items to Council Bluffs	Partners have been identified	
		✓ = Yes D = Developing O = With Modification X = No - = N/A					

RECOMMENDATION

Based on discussion from the Taskforce, the needed programs require more indoor and outdoor space than available at the current location, therefore a new facility for waste management is recommended. It was deemed appropriate that the new facility be located on a hard surface road and within 5 miles of Oakland on Highway 59. The facility would include all must have components identified by the Task Force (as noted in Table 1). All materials would be at least received at the new facility and dispersed, as appropriate, from there. It is important to partner with the Council Bluffs Recycling Center, and existing service, when possible.

A new site should include 3-5 acres to allow for an appropriate layout and expansion of services. Interior space is necessary for a tip floor, drive thru recycling drop off, demanufacturing of white goods and storage of several components (white goods and e-goods). Sufficient outdoor space is needed for bulk mulch, deconstruction and separation of construction debris, as well as adequate area to grow.

The collection of recycling is the most popular of the components. Users have noted it is important that more types of materials are accepted and that containers are easy to locate. The Task Force recommends identifying 2 satellite recycling locations (metal containers located outside of the facility) that accommodate collection of recycling.

Current facility staff would be able to run the proposed facility at start up and manage all components although additional training is likely needed and growth would be anticipated.

The addition on an outreach coordinator is imperative to the success of waste management within the County. This position should be tasked with grant writing, compare Iowa waste management fee structures, and engage the public, communities and schools in waste management education.

When considering successful facilities in the region, two important points surfaced: ease of use of the facility and additional programs. User input also emphasized keeping the facility near its present location. The Taskforce believes that these three points will increase the overall usage of the facility.

ATTACHMENTS

Meeting #1 Minutes

Meeting #2 Minutes

Meeting #3 Minutes