

Hamblen County/Morristown Solid Waste Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: February 21, 2025

Hamblen County Health Department Conference Room

Board Members Present: Tom Rush-Chairman, Chris Cutshaw- (Ex-Officio/County Mayor), Dennis Barnes-(Ex-Officio/Director), Mike Bell, Bob Garrett, Tim Horner, Matt Lacy, Ventrus Norfolk and Will Sliger.

Absent: Patrick McGuffin-Vice Chairman

Others Present: Amy Hemminger, Steve Bostic, Ron White, Joey Barnard, and Stephanie Clonce.

Meeting Called To Order: Tom Rush

Mr. Rush called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Due to the inclement weather, our board meeting was on a one-hour delay.

Public Comment/General Public Forum: None

Approval of Minutes: Tom Rush

Mr. Horner made the motion to approve January 17, 2025 minutes, and Mr. Lacy seconded the motion with all board members in favor.

Financial Report: Amy Hemminger and Tom Rush

1. Review of January Financials- Ms. Hemminger stated that the statement of net position includes in receivable the significant payment that has subsequently been made by Casella. Another large receivable was from the County for Ettl pay app #8; we have since received that payment from the county (that will show up next month). Bond proceeds are at nearly \$3.5 million (this represents the funds that are still available after pay app #9 for expansion). The third quarter tipping fees have been transferred as of February 18, 2025.
2. Mr. Rush stated that the interest rate at First Horizon is 2.15%, and the LGIP interest rate is at 4.42%.
3. Casella sent a letter to the board asking for them to waive or reduce their late fees of \$4,117.05 dating back to November 2024, which is over 90 days past due. After the board discussed this issue, it was discussed that if they waived or reduced Casella's late fees, they would have to do that for everyone. Mr. Lacy made a motion not to waive or

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reduce the late fees for Casella, and Mr. Horner seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

Manager's Report: Dennis Barnes

1. The TDEC inspection had no violations but had some recommendations from Paula Plont with TDEC that she wants the pump replaced at Class I because of a leachate leak before the expansion is done.
2. Mr. Barnes included pictures of GFL's rain cover on their landfill and what we need to put on our fifteen acres for protection. Mr. White from GFL stated that their cost was around \$25,000 an acre a couple of years ago. Mr. Lacy asked why this was not in our expansion contract to be done. Mr. Bostic stated that it was not included in the contract. Mr. Sliger asked how our water runoff was going to flow. Mr. Bostic stated that the Berm was at the bottom to catch the runoff. Mr. Bostic stated that they were going to cover it in a foot of clay to channel water away from the rain flap. Now TDEC does not want that clay on top of the liner. That is the only option from TDEC to protect the liner. A cost reduction in the bid for removal of clay they will approve. Mr. Rush asked how much of a net savings or cost there would be for the rain flap. Mr. Bostic stated he did not know, but he would get those numbers.

Engineer's Report: Steve Bostic

Mr. Bostic updated the board on the engineering projects going on at the Landfill (see attachment).

Mr. Bostic reported on the leachate sampling reports from Morristown Utilities.

Mr. Bostic stated that the well sampling for the Class III landfill will be performed when the sample bottles are received from the lab.

Mr. Bostic stated that the Sector L stormwater pond sampling is scheduled for the first acceptable (rainfall dependent) day.

Mr. Bostic stated that the next construction progress meeting will be on March 4, 2025.

Mr. Bostic stated that the design package had been resubmitted to TDEC for approval.

Mr. Bostic stated that through pay app# 9 we are now \$2.8 million over the bid because of soil excavation, and that does not include contingency.

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TDEC wants a resident project representative (RPR) who acts as the QA/QC officer on-site in the next 30 days. The road to the Class III landfill has been paved. Mr. Bostic will make a change order for the paving of the road, which is not in the contract, so that will have to be done. Mr. Barnes will be doing the weekly and quarterly inspections report on reading and monthly draining of water. This is from the last TDEC inspection.

Mr. Barnes stated that we have some fire issues in Class III, possibly from the lithium batteries from Jones Fiber. This has been going on for months and keeps getting worse. We have put dirt on it to smooth it out, and water makes it worse.

Mr. Sliger stated that the letter from Morristown Utilities is to inform and estimate the additional amount of leachate being collected. Mr. Bostic stated that it will help with the amount of ammonia. Mr. Sliger asked about the water being too clean using the rain cap. We may have issues with mixing leachate going into the sewer because it will be too clean, and Mr. Bostic stated that by the time it gets in the sewer and dilutes downstream it will mix with the rest of it. Morristown Utilities has portable testing equipment which should be cheaper for us.

Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic if LDA had resubmitted all the reports to TDEC. Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic when we should have a permit. Mr. Bostic stated that he had no idea when we would hear back from TDEC. Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic if we would have the permit this year, because the TDEC website stated it was a 16-to-32-month process. Mr. Bostic stated that he thought we should have the permit this year, but it may be 2026 before it is approved. Mr. Lacy asked what we were going to do with all the equipment that is at the landfill now. Who will pay ETTL to move their equipment and move it back when we receive the permit? Mr. Sliger stated that we have around 100,000 yards of material left, but they will get to a point where they or we cannot do anything else without taking on extra risk because we do not have a permit. Mr. Bostic stated that there is a cost in the bid for ETTL to demobilize that we would have to pay for and to bring them back when we have the permit. Mr. Lacy stated that we put the cart before the horse in this.

Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic about getting the Berm test back, and he stated that they came in the first of the week and we are putting a report together for it.

Mr. Sliger stated that last month we talked about the change in the geologist. What is the plan on handling the karst material? Mr. Bostic stated that they plan to drill a pattern around it by making a big hole to see how extensive the void is, fill the hole in, and collapse it. That was the recommendation from Geotech.

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Mr. Sliger asked Mr. Bostic how much airspace is left in Class I. Mr. Bostic stated that they will fly the AER in the next couple of weeks. Class III has about 4 years left in it. Mr. Sliger stated that he had been here a year and when we first started talking about Class I it had about 18 to 24 months left. Mr. Sliger stated that according to his figures we should have 6 to 12 months left. Mr. Bostic stated that is why they were going to fly it again to get better numbers. Mr. Bostic stated he should have the numbers at the next meeting. Mr. White of GFL stated that to get the permit faster we should divide it up into different sections. GFL had to do that.

Mr. Sliger stated that back in December he asked how long it would take to get the deficiencies back to TDEC and was told two weeks by Mr. Bostic. Now we are at two months. Mr. Sliger stated that the goal line continues to move, and we are sitting here with the ground removed and we are stuck doing nothing because we have no permit in hand. Mr. Sliger asked the board if we could get an update of the progress of the permit every two weeks by email or something else, so we do not have to wait until the monthly board meeting. Mr. Rush stated that it was reasonable. Mr. Sliger stated that we are still asking the same questions every month. Where is our permit, what is the timeline, are we going to be responsible for paying for liner storage, just a few of many. The current reality is that we are spending \$15 million plus, and we still have no clue when we are getting our permit. Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, we have taken on a significant amount of risk. At this time, we must act swiftly to get this issue resolved, or we will find ourselves having this same conversation a year from now.

Mr. Sliger stated that we know LDA has hired GEO Services to work with them and TDEC on this project, and Mr. Sliger thinks it would be in our best interest to bring GEO Services into the picture for meetings and things so we could all be on the same page. This should lighten the load for LDA some. On that note Mr. Sliger recommended that we hire GEO services directly, take them off LDA's budget, and pay them directly. Mr. Bostic stated that GEO services was working with LDA every day, and a lot of TDEC's comments were based on the Geo hydro report. Mr. Bostic stated that we were welcome to do what we wanted to. Mr. Sliger stated that he thought it would be to our best benefit to have GEO Services on board to help us cross the finish line with this permit. GEO bills LDA, and it is passed on to us. Mr. Rush asked Mr. Bostic if LDA had a contract with GEO Services that would cost us more money to get out of. Mr. Bostic stated that there was no contract so we could hire them if we wanted to. Mr. Rush stated that he thought it would be beneficial to invite a representative of GEO Services to the next board meeting and ask for a proposal from them to discuss before we hire them. It will need to be on the agenda for the March board meeting. Mr. Cutshaw stated that we need to do everything we can do to get this project moving. Mr. Capps stated that we would have to know

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exactly what you want from them and how we need it. Ms. Hemminger confirmed with Mr. Bostic that the LDA fees related to the expansion budget which were budgeted at \$225,000, included \$75,000 in pass-through costs, to GEO Services. It was requested that Mr. Bostic provide the expenses that have been spent to date with GEO Services in the current fiscal year. Mr. Bostic stated that it was all GEO. Mr. Rush requested that someone from GEO Services be invited to the next board meeting. Mr. Rush stated that the board would need a proposal and a quote for consideration including GEO Services' contract for review and approval by attorney Chris Capps. It is unknown when storage for the liner will end, and other costs are spiraling out of control. Mr. Sliger wants to change his motion to authorize Mr. Barnes to negotiate with Geo Services on a proposal on our regular testing and monitoring, whether monthly, quarterly, or annual basis per TDEC requirements that they would be presented before the board and to discuss bringing them on outside of LDA to work alongside LDA with TDEC regarding our permit, until such time we have it, within their field of expertise and scope work. Mr. Sliger approved this motion, and Mr. Horner seconded the motion with all members in attendance in favor except Mr. Bell.

Unfinished Business: Tom Rush

1. Mr. Rush stated that we would need a policy for the ACH electronic debit and credits to send to the State comptroller's office for approval. Mr. Rush asked if our attorney Chris Capps could write up a policy for that, so we can send it to the comptroller for approval. Mr. Lacy made a motion for attorney Chris Capps to draw up a policy to send to the comptroller for approval and work with First Horizon. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion with all board members present in favor.

New Business: None

Adjournment: Tom Rush

Mr. Lacy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Garrett seconded the motion with all the members in attendance in favor.


Mr. Rush adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

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Tom Rush-Chairman



Chris Cutshaw-Mayor