

Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC) Quarterly Staff Report
Paul Berry, DRC Manager/ Operator
Monday, November 14th, 2016

My last quarterly report was at the August 8th General Meeting. My next scheduled quarterly report is scheduled for the February 13th, 2017 General Meeting.

Operations and management

Labor

Jeff Irwin wrapped up his summer season at the end of September, Larry Landry and Nat Drumheller are assisting during the shoulder season and Nat Drumheller has agreed to run the DRC in my annual absence in January-February. The Labor Pool is only for one year and the 2017 DRC Labor Pool announcement was posted on the 9th of this month and will close on December 8th. Differences in the 2017 Pool from earlier ones is that the number of Pool members will be capped at five and there are pay steps depending on the applicants previous experience at the DRC. As I have written in previous reports the Pool is cool and has allowed a more flexible schedule for both myself and the various assistants. I would like to thank the Council for your continued support of this program.

New Bobcat A770 All-wheel steer loader

It has been great putting the new A770 to work. It is a larger machine with more horsepower than the older 763 skid-steer loader so it can manage a larger bucket and more efficiently move dirt. All-wheel steer means that all the wheels turn when you turn and it disturbs the ground a lot less than the older skid-steer machine. Additionally with its solid tires and nearly 5 ton weight it can effectively be used as a landfill compactor – get out there and drive on the construction/ demolition (C/D) inert waste. This is very handy and it helps me better compress and manage the C/D material. Of course, being a bigger machine it consumes a lot more diesel. The older machine is smaller and uses less diesel which is good for some applications. I can see holding onto the older 763 skid-steer loader for as long as practical for jobs which it is better suited for and for back-up. The 763 needs a new radiator and muffler and I have ordered these parts and will schedule a repair after they have arrived. When I was working on the FY17 budget I did not adequately account for the additional repair and fuel expenses for two loaders and I will be requesting Lori that \$ be moved between the DRC's expense accounts to cover these additional equipment expenses.

The compost scene

It was actually dry enough at the end of October's dry spell to screen all the compost in the Quonset – a rare opportunity in the fall. The composting yard was still very muddy and only the older 763 loader was able to do the work. Our newer A770 loader is simply too heavy to work through the mud. As I'll cover later in my section on capital projects it is very important that the composting yard be repaired this next spring. Composting is an important tool for volume reduction and waste management (and for making compost ...) so it is very important to have a functioning yard.

Speaking in Ketchikan on September 20th

I was invited to speak in Ketchikan on September 20th as part of the annual Southeast Environmental Conference hosted by the Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Central Council). This conference goes for a full week but I only participated in the day of my talk. The 20th was the solid waste track day and I was one of three speakers: Ted Jacobson who once worked at the Ketchikan Landfill and now works for EPA's RurAL CAP in Anchorage was the first speaker and provided an overall description of

the rural solid waste picture with its challenges and objectives. Reilly Kosinski who works for Total Reclaim which is the company that process all our TVs, computers, and light bulbs did the next talk about how to ship the materials they process and then I presented the story of our facility – both how we process the many waste streams (like food waste, baling cans, paper etc) and the story behind that process: how we started with open burning and aluminum can recycling 22+ years ago to where we are now – it is a good story. Anyway, the three of us provided the talks in the morning and then we participated in a tour of Ketchikan Landfill's operation later in the afternoon. I love landfill tours and I always learn from how other operations manage their waste streams. Ketchikan was the first community in Southeast Alaska to start exporting their waste. ~20 years ago Ketchikan was faced with a choice to either develop an expensive Class 2, lined landfill in a rainforest with hard, rocky and porous soils or export their waste to one of the large regional landfills in the Pacific Northwest (I believe there are two – one in eastern Washington managed by Republic Services and one in eastern Oregon managed by Waste Management). They chose to export and contracted with Republic Services and AML. Not all of Ketchikan's waste is exported – C/D waste is landfilled at their Deer Mountain facility. C/D is a pretty broad category but basically it is bulky, inert material with no animal or insect attractant qualities and poses no hazard to the environment. C/D is typically left exposed for weeks or months at a time and is only periodically covered with cover material. The DRC has a much smaller C/D waste “pit” but still has the same kind of program.

Ketchikan composts the biosolids from their waste water plant. This is not a huge amount of material and there were no odor problems that I noticed on that day. They retain the material for cover over their C/D waste cells. They have a large tub grinder for grinding up wood waste for use in the composting process. Ketchikan also has two incinerators for disposal of waste from cruise ships where MARPOL regulations are involved but most of Ketchikan's MSW (MSW is the stuff that passes over the scale at the DRC) is baled in one of two large, conveyor fed horizontal balers. The baled waste is then weighed and placed in a 40' shipping container to go on one of AML's barges. For a facility that ships waste it all boils down to your shipping costs and they always seek to get their shipping containers to their full weight. Ketchikan recycles cardboard, mixed paper and metals. In all cases it is always cheaper to ship a recyclable material rather than trash unless the recyclable is very light. They are looking at recycling plastics but have storage issues – it takes a lot of space to hold enough material to make one dense bale of plastics.

A couple more interesting points about the Ketchikan Landfill is that the cost for residential solid waste is covered by a flat \$18 a month fee that is part of your electric utility bill – if you have a meter, you pay the monthly fee. That \$18 covers your trash, recycling and hazardous waste. There is an additional fee for collection if the City picks up waste from your house and if you have C/D waste that goes for \$140 a ton which works out to \$0.07 per pound. The other cool thing is that around Earth Day for one week all the trash is free – all the sofas, boats, books and whatever else you can bring to the facility it will not cost you any \$. I think I was once told their first free week generated enough waste to cover a football field. This does a lot to keep illicit dumping from happening and is very popular.

Overall the Ketchikan visit was very informative. Central Council covered my transportation, meals and my room at the Cape Fox Lodge. It is events like this that make my job all the more interesting and give me a chance to make connections with people and learn. I may have the opportunity to give talks in Angoon and Haines in the near future.

The Ketchikan experience got me thinking – perhaps Gustavus could develop a household hazardous waste (HHW) program that used a flat fee that is a part of a residents electric bill to pay for itself (commercial use could have additional fees). HHW is expensive to ship and dispose of and that cost can deter people from doing the right thing with their waste. I think a flat utility fee would be a good way to spread costs to pay for a HHW service. As I write this

APT (our power company) has about 570 active meters. If each one was charged \$2 per month over the course of a year that would generate \$13,680 which is close to what I was quoted for a one time HHW event by Carson Dorn Inc. in January of 2015. Something to think about.

New Internet Service

On September 3rd Byte Networking LLC connected the DRC office to the Internet and I was able to cancel GCI's MiFi service. The new service is .5Mbps which is slow by big city standards but it is affordable and unlike the older GCI service Byte's service is steady and reliable. GCI's MiFi service was useless at certain times of the day especially during the summer.

2016 Community Survey

I worked with members of the Council on the development of the questions in the survey that pertain to the DRC and I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some clarification. In question 26 it says " ... and adding scrap metal storage yard." This really should have said a storage yard for recyclables not just scrap metal. This kind of storage is called "inflow" or "pre-processing" storage and one of my proposals is to move all the inflow storage that is now occurring inside the fence to a new area between the landfill fence and Boat Harbor road. This would put the inflow material closer to the building that processes it, clear up the balefill and landfill area and improve operator and customer safety as the operator frequently has to drive through areas where the public is parking to get at the inflow storage. I cover this more later in the section on Capital Projects.

Community Chest

Since my last report at the front desk has been Mary Williams with some fill in by Annie Mackovjak on Wednesdays, Liz Vanderzanden, Maribeth Jarvis (until she left for the season), Judy Brakel, Annie and Betsy Lesh on Saturdays. Sorters were in short supply for a while as the summer crew left and many of the winter ones will still at their seasonal jobs but for the past couple Wednesdays our winter sorters are back and sorting, purging and stocking the shelves with the latest donations. Since August our sorters have been: Bonnie Niemi, Denise Pratschner, Meadow Brook, Freya Doyle, Annie, Betsy, Kim Ney, Artemis Bona Dea, Becky King, Brenda Tencate and Lori Trummer. My thanks to these thrift minded souls.

Soon to start up at the Chest is a service where you can use your credit card to put \$ on your pay ahead card. The way it will work is that you take your card to the DRC to be swiped on the credit card machine and then DRC staff or a Chest volunteer will take that data to the Chest and write down that information on your pay ahead card. As part of this program we are encouraging people to keep a positive balance on their pay ahead cards at the Chest and requiring that all customers "keep it under \$20" regarding debt.

Regional issues: Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) & Juneau

On Thursday October 20th I was able to call into one of SEASWA's monthly board meetings to hear first hand what is going on with the organization. SEASWA is in the process of establishing a regional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection and shipping RFP and is in the process of establishing a scrap metal hauling contract with Waste Management after their one with Pool Engineering fizzled last year (before the service even began ...). The City and Borough of Juneau is in the process of awarding a HHW RFP for managing CBJ's HHW program. CBJ owns the HHW facility and the RFP is for a contractor run the program (collecting, packaging and shipping HHW). The contract will be for five years with five one year extensions. When the DRC has shipped HHW, which is rare because we do not

have a program (yet), we have shipped to CBJ's HHW facility.

Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

Briefly, the SWMP process is the vehicle I am using to plan for the communities future with regards to solid waste and recycling. I feel that it is very important that the City transition from being facility that uses its own landfill for disposal of our non-recyclable waste to one that incorporates the exporting of that waste to a regional landfill instead – much like the City of Ketchikan's program I described earlier in this report. This is because we have very limited space for our entire facility and if we do not plan now we are going to be scrambling in the future because there will be little room to landfill our non-recyclable waste. There is also risk that is inherent in landfilling solid waste: risk of groundwater contamination and of odor. The more waste you landfill the greater these risks become. This is a big planning process which I officially started in June 2014. It includes plans to improve access to the DRC, changing where recyclables are stored before and after they are processed, replacing our existing building with a larger one that is better suited to handle the waste loads that are flowing through it (and will flow through it in the future), improving the composting yard, dealing with HHW and other important solid waste issues.

To help interested readers understand this topic please refer to the report: "What was done in FY2015 - FY2016 (the first two years) Goals for FY2017 – FY2018 (the next two years)".

<http://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/government/committees/disposal-recycling-center/Planning/CY2016-DRC%20SWMP-extension-summary.pdf>

At this point in time I am developing projects that are within the plan such as rebuilding the composting yard and putting together a purchase order to do a topographical survey of the City's 11.9 acre DRC property.

Capital Projects

As part of every quarterly report I list the on-going capital projects at the DRC. These are stand alone projects costing more than \$5,000, require a scoping document and are not funded out of the DRC's operating budget.

With this report I would like to present a new format for these projects. Completed projects such as the purchase of the A770 All-wheel Steer loader are taken off the list and what is left are the active projects that I am seeking funding for or are underway. Individuals interested in the history of a project should read my previous reports.

Title: Pre-processing storage and site improvement project
Status: Awaiting funding. Scoping document adopted during the September 19, 2016 General Meeting. Project was first recognized by the Council on January 12, 2012 with Resolution 2012-02.
Priority: Driveway and storage area sub-projects - high
Summary: This project has four sub-projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driveway improvements, estimated cost \$10,000• Pre-processing or "inflow" storage area construction, estimated cost \$26,400• Storage bins and pallet jack, estimated cost \$18,000• Tree planting and misc. earth work, estimated cost \$3,300 The goal of this project is to improve access to the DRC with a circular driveway; to move all material storage out of the landfill/ balefill area (the original fenced area) to a new area between the fence and Boat Harbor Road; to purchase 50 collapsible

pallet sized storage bins and an all-terrain pallet jack; and to add 10 additional trees between State Dock Road and the DRC.

Estimated cost: \$57,000

Suggested funding source: FY2018 State of Alaska CIP and AMLIP savings

Scoping document and supporting documents:

<http://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/government/committees/disposal-recycling-center/reports/reports-to-the-city-council/2016/pre-processing-storage-area-driveway-and-site-improvements-scoping-documents>

Title: Composting yard grading, drainage and paving project

Status: Awaiting funding. Scoping document adopted during the October 10, 2016 General Meeting.

Priority: High

Summary: The composting yard has become difficult to impossible to use for much of the year due to the fact that it has become a deep mud-puddle in all but the driest times of the year. This condition makes equipment use very problematic.

Estimated cost: \$30,000

Suggested funding source: DRC AMLIP savings, supplemented by EFG money

Scoping document and supporting documents:

<http://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/government/committees/disposal-recycling-center/scoping-documents/composting-yard-improvement-project-scoping-document.pdf>

Title: DRC Topographic survey project

Status: Scoping document submitted to Council for the November 14, 2016 General Meeting

Priority: High

Summary: The goal of this project is the provide the City and the DRC with a set of planning and engineering tools to help make decisions about the current operation and the future of the DRC.

Estimated cost: \$9,000

Suggested funding source: DRC AMLIP savings

Scoping document and supporting documents:

<http://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/government/committees/disposal-recycling-center/scoping-documents/DRC-topographical-survey-project.pdf>

Title: Hazardous Waste Facility Project

Status: Drafting a scoping document for December 12, 2016 General meeting

Priority: Medium

Summary: The goal of this project is to purchase, install, and operate a portable containerized facility for receiving, processing, storing and shipping hazardous

wastes from households, State and local agencies, and businesses in Gustavus.
Estimated cost: \$43,000
Suggested funding source: FY18 State of Alaska CIP
Scoping document and supporting documents: none at this time

The end, thank you.

Report compiled by PNB on November 9, 2016