MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
WASTEWATER & SEPTAGE ADVISORY BOARD

Mike Campfield, Vice Chair
Gina Jorgensen
Thomas Stoelting
Archie Giddings
Helen Munoz
Tom Healy, Chair
Ronald Phillips

REVISED AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING
MSB Assembly Chambers
350 E. Dahlia Ave
Palmer, AK 99645

Thursday, July 28, 2016
2:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
   A. May 4, 2016 (regular meeting)

VII. PRESENTATIONS (*Approximately ten minutes per presentation*)

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person*)

IX. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS
   A. City of Wasilla – Mr. Archie Giddings, P.E., Public Works Director
   B. City of Palmer – Mr. Chris Nall, Public Works Director
   C. City of Houston – Ms. Gina Jorgenson, City Council Member
   D. Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility – Mr. Mark Corsentino, PM Supervisor
   E. Matanuska-Susitna Borough – Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E., Environmental Engineer
   F. State of Alaska - DEC- Mr. Oran Woolley, Wastewater Engineering Associate

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

XII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Article from the Frontiersman dated May 8, 2016 entitled Borough could someday turn waste into watts

XIII. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

XIV. NEXT MEETINGS
- A. September 8, 2016
- B. November 10, 2016

XV. ADJOURNMENT

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the MSB Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Tom Healy chaired the meeting.

II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUOROM

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mike Campfield, P.E.
Archie Giddings, P.E.
Tom Healy – left at 2:55
Helen Munoz
Ronald Phillips
Thomas Stoelting

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board members absent and excused were:

Gina Jorgensen

Staff and Agency Representatives in attendance were:

John Moosey, Mat-Su Borough Manager
Debbie Passmore, Board Administrative Support
Butch Shapiro, Solid Waste Manager
Terry Dolan, Public Works Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Today's agenda was reviewed by the Board and discussed.

1. Add Dr. Abi Assadi, P.E., Clark Technology under VII. Presentations
2. Remove the June 1 meeting and add a July 28 meeting under XIV. Next Meetings

No objection and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Archie Giddings

V. AUDIENCE INTRODUCTIONS

Randall Kowalke, Assembly Member
Molly Boyer, Executive Director of Valley Community Recycling
Brian O'Connor, Frontiersman
David Lundin, P.E., HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC
Chris Bowman, P.E., HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC
Bill Stokes
Tom Wolf, CH2M Hill
Cory Hinds, CH2M Hill
Howard Hindin
Vladimir Scheglowski, PE, Clark Engineering Corporation
Kazem Oskoui, Clark Engineering Corporation
Dr. Abi Assadi, PE, Clark Technology

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. Minutes for the April 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

VOTE: The minutes were approved without objection.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Vladimir Scheglowski, PE, Clark Engineering Corporation
Mr. Kazem Oskoui, Clark Engineering Corporation
Dr. Abi Assadi, PE, Clark Technology

VIII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*Three minutes per person)*

Bill Stokes

- Used to work for the DEC. Was the Environmental Manager at a pulp mill called Sitka before that. They had the only working anaerobic digester
- Leachate is only caused by one thing: water. Believes that water is the problem
- Thinks we should dig a trench and fill it with clay to block out the water; RO filter
- Turning septage into a useable solid is easy
- Is willing to be a resource if we'd like his help

Eugene Carl Haberman

- Appreciated the informative presentation
- Was disappointed that there was no presentation in the information packet for the public to see now instead of waiting until after the meeting
- Cautioned us that we need to hear from the public more often during our meetings before we make any decisions
- Welcomed us to have questions for the public before we get into something big and bad like the ferry
- Spoke about the reports from agency and staff; thinks the public should be able to speak after those
- Mentioned that the AAB passed a recent resolution that asks for the public input before each decision they make

Howard Hindin

- Lives in the Summerwoods neighborhood
- Encouraged this board to consider a different location for the septage/sewage treatment facility down at the landfill
- A public notice was recently sent out to about 1,200 residents who live near the landfill regarding expansion of the landfill
- Since the landfill is in the core area, in the sensitive area. He thinks it should be located someplace else
- It makes sense to him that the Borough should team up with either the City of Palmer or the City of Wasilla and partner with them to build a facility to take care of that
- Met with the DEC on April 11 and Ms. Holland said the DEC will not approve a treatment facility next to the landfill

IX. AGENCY AND STAFF REPORTS

A. City of Wasilla – Mr. Archie Giddings, P.E., Public Works Director
   a. Nothing since our last meeting
   b. As far as the audience comments, the City of Wasilla doesn't have the capacity to take on anything outside the city limits

B. Matanuska-Susitna Borough – Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E., Environmental Engineer
   a. We are actively pursuing both septage and leachate treatment options with Public Works, the Landfill and the Assembly

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

XII. NEW BUSINESS

None

XIII. INFORMATIONAL HANDOUTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

A. Next meeting's deadlines

XIV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mrs. Helen Munoz

Our meetings are publicized in the Frontiersman
Has been on this board since 2012
Is not making a dime for all of her work but is doing it for the next generation
Yes, she's uptight because she feels most people don't care
She apologized for being upset and outspoken

Mr. Archie Giddings

Thanked our presenters
Wants to learn more about it

Mr. Tom Stoelting

Thanked our presenters, too
Looking forward to learning more

Mr. Ron Phillips

Had an interesting conversation with Oran Wooly recently

He made the comment about him having a problem with the leachate and septage treatment being combined. Doesn't want the contamination to create a bigger problem

Has a question about the cost that's going to be passed on to us as pumpers for getting rid of it. Wonders if we are going to be supplementing the cost for treating the leachate

Currently the tankers are going past our homes with heavy metals and other hazardous materials. Believes it would be far better to keep it near the landfill as opposed to trucking it and having a haz mat situation happen at our doorstep

Understands that someone has to pay for it but, as a pumper, would hate to be paying for the extra cost of treating the leachate.

Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.

Thinks we are all on the same page for what our goals are

We'll keep working on this

Is interested in this new information; this technology is taking place in other parts of the world but maybe is new and different for us in Alaska so there's lots to learn

We'll definitely take a look at it

XV. NEXT MEETINGS

A. Thursday, July 28, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the MSB Assembly Chambers

b. Thursday, September 8, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the MSB Assembly Chambers

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. by Mr. Mike Campfield, P.E.

_____
Mr. Tom Healy, Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Debbie Passmore, Board Administrative Support

Frontiersman May 8, 2014

Borough could someday turn waste into watts

Board hears testimony on possible smaller, greener septage and leachate plant

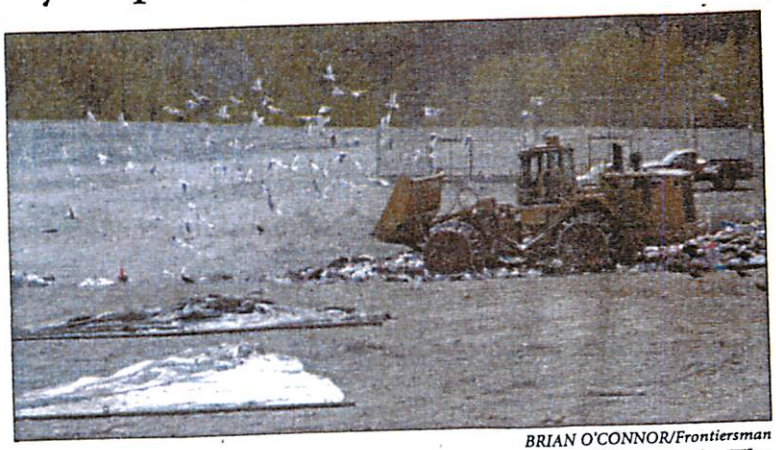
BY BRIAN O'CONNOR
Frontiersman.com

PALMER — Yesterday's newspaper and last night's dinner could one day power light bulbs or help grow Valley crops.

That was the message from a Minnesota-based Clark Engineering, who made a pitch to the Mat-Su Borough Wastewater Advisory Board Wednesday afternoon for a cutting-edge design for a proposed septage and leachate plant.

Leachate in this case means the liquid byproduct of the borough landfill, and contains the fluid that drains off of compacted trash when rainwater falls through it. Septage is the fluid removed from a septic tank.

Both plants would use a proprietary set of membrane filters to remove contaminants, ultimately producing water clean enough to drink without using chemical additives. A system that could filter 2 million gallons of leachate each year — the borough produces about 1.4 million gallons each year presently — would fit in a 10-foot by 13-foot footprint, said Kazem Oskoui, a representative from Clark. The plant would be modular, meaning capacity at the plant could be scaled up, and additional components could be added to adjust changing EPA regulations. The facility could be accessed and controlled via a smart phone.



BRIAN O'CONNOR/Frontiersman

Heavy equipment works on the Mat-Su Borough Landfill recently. The borough is currently looking into a plan that could eventually turn its septage and leachate from the facility into a source of electricity.

"We don't really need acres of land, we don't need a lot of ponds, or anaerobic, aerobic digesters, we don't need any of those things, no pretreatment whatsoever," Oskoui said.

The borough generates about 14 million gallons of septage per year, and the plant would be able to handle about 20 million gallons per year, Clark representatives said.

Borough officials hope the septage could be refined enough to generate biosolids for use on

See **WASTE**, *Page A4*

WASTE

Continued from Page A1

local farm fields. However, because septage is relatively consistent, while leachate can vary depending on what flows out of the dump, the two streams would need to be segregated, said Clark representative Vladimir Scheglowski.

"We understand that the farming community here is historic, and I wouldn't want to have leachate on my land," he said. "I'm sure they don't want to see it in their fields, either."

Clark estimated the leachate facility would cost $4.2 million, and the septage facility would cost about $7.6 million, for a combined cost of about $11.8 million. The company reported both estimates without a detailed engineering assessment of the site, and traffic issues along North 49th State Street — where weekend lines of trucks can sometimes be an hour long — could require the construction of an additional access point to the borough landfill to accommodate increased traffic.

Clark representatives also discussed combining wastewater from the borough with sorted trash and recycling, particularly paper goods. The combination would be fed to bacteria, which would devour it to consume methane, which could then be burned to generate electricity, said Abi Assadi, another Clark engineer. He estimated a plant working with the volumes generated by borough users could have a maximum capacity of about 4.5 megawatts. That's a relatively small amount compared to, for example, the 171-megawatt Eklutna Generation Station operated by the Matanuska Electric Association. Clark officials did not include a projected cost for the waste-to-energy option.

However, a proposal to resolve wastewater uncertainty, slow the growth of the landfill, and generate additional revenue is attractive, said borough environmental engineer Mike Campfield. The cost of integrating some wastewater and garbage treatment could add to the total cost, but might bear closer scrutiny, he said.

"You make money on two ends if you can make this happen, if the costs bear out," he said. "You save money that you can avoid by not building the next cell, not closing the next cell."

Officials have been examining alternatives for wastewater treatment since 2012. Wastewater is currently hauled to the Anchorage wastewater treatment plant, which operates under a special permit that allows the plant to release treated sewage into Cook Inlet. Anchorage officials have said they won't accept wastewater from the Valley over concerns that doing so could affect their EPA license.

Last year, the borough assembly selected the landfill as the best possible piece of borough-owned property on which to locate a plant. They also sought $22 million in loans from the state government to cover the cost of constructing such a plant.

The next meeting of the wastewater treatment advisory board will be July 28.

Contact reporter Brian O'Connor at 352-2270, brian.oconnor@frontiersman.com, or on Twitter @reporterbriano.