

CLINTON COUNTY AREA SOLID WASTE AGENCY
MARCH 13, 2025

8 PRESENT

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Roll call was taken; those present were;

Clinton - Schemers
Camanche – Varner
Goose Lake – Mattis

Clinton County – Irwin
Andover – White
Lost Nation - Gilroy

DeWitt – Chrones
Delmar – Goodall

We have 8 votes present; 5 votes needed for majority and 6 needed for a super majority.

Clinton County made a motion to approve February 13, 2025 minutes. Andover seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS: NONE

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR: Clinton made a motion to approve the Unanimous Consent Calendar. Delmar seconded. Motion unanimously carried.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND EDUCATION REPORT – Brad Seward

- A. Legislative Update – See handout – Seward briefly talked about solid waste collection bill that had been proposed. Bill proposal has been pared back. Would have capped what increases governmental bodies could have increased.
- B. Clinton County Area Enviro Kids Date – the agency will again host the Clinton County Area Enviro Kids on the morning of June 7th.
- C. Vespene LF Gas Project Update - **ATTACHMENT # 1** -I have attached the communication from Vespene's Brett Arnold. Nothing has changed much in his latest update. He refers to the fact that Vespene is quote "waiting on things to settle and the rules of the game to become clear again" in Washington, D.C.

ENGINEER SITE REPORT – Spencer LaBelle of SCS: ATTACHMENT # 2

- A. Site-Wide Leachate Assessment - Seward and SCS have worked through the options for the improvements for the North Unit. RMC upgrade options have been provided to the Agency for review to coincide with North Unit improvements.

A South Unit report will be completed after the jetting, cleaning, and televising of the leachate collection pipes are completed. We have a quote from another local contractor that will be on-site on Tuesday, March 11th. Some locations will be difficult to get to.

DeWitt: What happens if they can't get this all the way clean?

LaBelle: DNR requires system to be cleaned every three years. Would have to alert and navigate with DNR. This crew would have a camera.

DeWitt: Camera work, is this a new requirement? LaBelle: No, trying to evaluate the condition of the pipes. May have a pinched pipe in the cell.

Seward: Should be able to determine if there is blockage. That will determine if we need to reroute around the cell in future development of cells.

LaBelle: We don't know if the rock around the perforated pipe is blocking the infiltration into the pipe, if the pipe is clogged, or the pipe is damaged. Trying to determine that.

Clinton County: How long is the span we're trying to get through? LaBelle: 850 feet with cleanouts on each direction, so about 450 feet or so each direction. (Potential contractor has approximately 1000 feet of reel). Clinton County: asked about needing a contract that states paying for completion percentage?

Clinton: Seward is already working with legal to have boiler plate contract language developed. Seward will talk more about this later in meeting.

Goose Lake: With 1000 feet of camera should be able to figure it out.

B. North Leachate Interceptor Trench - The draft CQA report is submitted to the Agency for review. Rittmer will be reseeding that.

C. Phasing Plan - SCS is working on a phasing plan to take Rittmer through the end of the year.

Rittmer has progressing with the installation of intermediate cover on the western portion of the active area and cleaning up the toe of slope. Once complete, the ADC Run-On/Run Off will be updated by SCS and finalized.

D. Landfill Monitoring Update - Well abandonment at the West Site is complete.

Quarter one methane monitoring was completed on January 27th.

A downed tree has damaged monitoring well PZ-6-R16 on the east side of the North Unit in the ravine. The Agency is working to remove the tree.

Quarter one groundwater monitoring is scheduled to take place in March.

E. Financial Assurance - Financial Assurance Documents have been sent to the Agency for review. Upon review and approval from the Agency the Financial Assurance Report will be submitted to the DNR by the April 1st deadline.

F. Expansion Design: Working to have survey completed prior to spring growth. Working on field work after April 1st for wetlands, archeology, and ecology studies.

Meeting with DNR taking place in March. Hydrogeological work plan is currently being developed.

LANDFILL OPERATIONS REPORT – BJ Bauman of Rittmer, Inc.

Operations have been going as well as they can with the weather. 5-6 days of intermediate cover work on west side. Litter picking operation taking place. We deal with this every year. South side cleanup will take place.

I have the proposal for the city sludge. I went through and quantified the material on the hill to be as 2000 tons. So, we're at \$50K. Not a dime over. It's going to be \$50K to move and incorporate based on the plan that was presented last month.

Then what we're asking for the sludge per ton, starting April 1st, not backdating it to January 1st, \$25 per ton to incorporate with the method in the proposal from SCS.

I thought it was going to be between \$50K and \$60K. It's right at \$50K. The math comes out right to that \$25 per ton. We'll work on that intermittently with the intermediate cover.

I did follow up on the rock crushing. There are multiple people that do crushing. The first quote came back at \$8.50 per ton, but a minimum of 10K tons. It could save the money for the landfill over time.

We can work to get that minimum down. Road projects could come. Maybe we pile it and get quotes.

Clinton: How much do you have sitting here? Seward: 250-500 tons is my guess. We've got about 1900 tons per year. We don't have a lot sitting around right now.

Bauman: we'll get some other quotes and see if we negotiate a lower tonnage and then present it to the board another time.

Clinton: could you sell it? Seward: I think we should internalize it.

DeWitt: What do we pay Rittmer per ton? Seward: \$15.50 per ton. DeWitt: I'm going to push back on this extra a little bit. What was taken in was taken in on the contract that you were aware of. The sludge is getting better and it going to disappear. I don't think we're going to be paying additionally, knowing full well that it was part of the contract already signed. We're not looking to create a separate category for this separate instance. I'm laying this out for more discussion.

DeWitt: I'm not there on that yet. It's not a long-term thing and it was already in the contract that was signed that everybody was aware of.

Bauman: We signed a contract January 1. As Clinton brought up last month, we've been asking for a plan. It wasn't until SCS presented the method to incorporate. At \$15.50, that's shoving and compacting garbage. It's a different application. It's not normal garbage. If you're saying you're not going to pay anymore, then we're going to dump right in the hill and drive over it. Because we have to take an excavator and dig a trench. The trenches with a certain amount of feet between them. We're adding a \$250-\$260 per hour machine to excavate out and re-compact in.

Camanche: It's causing more work.

Bauman: We didn't know that's how we were going to put this in the garbage. Nowhere does it say that in the contract. We had an issue with a large tonnage coming in. If I do place it in the garbage I would place it in the traditional garbage way.

DeWitt: As I understand it, that for the stuff in the pit/pile, not the stuff coming in. That would be the placed in the cell. The stuff that is going to continue to come in is going to be different quality.

Clinton County: Everything in place and going forward is to be placed in the manner of the plan. DeWitt: SCS is shaking his head yes.

Bauman: As it dries down it could be easier to use. I'm willing to be fair that says if it's a manageable product and we can place it in the garbage, then I'm not going to ask for more money.

Clinton: in 2015 the amount was approved by DNR. That was before your first contract. Nothing changed, it increased in amount. It is going to back off and consistency will change, too. Andover gave a great pizza analogy.

Andover: If I don't correctly make a pizza or the customer is not satisfied, I remake the pizza because I should have done it right the first time. I also feel like Clinton and the landfill paid for their knowledge. What did you guys do? We still paid you guys to do this. Why are we paying you again to do something we've already paid you for? Bauman: You didn't pay us for that tonnage to place that tonnage. That tonnage, we didn't decide to place that on the hill. What we said is where did you want us to place it?

Clinton: Who made that decision? Bauman: I can go back and look at the e-mails dated back and I looked back to the prior meeting. We asked where do you put this? We even went as far as putting in a pit on the west side. We tried multiple different applications.

Bauman: We're not monetizing on this coming across the scale. The issue is that we're having is that 2015 this stuff was dumped over the North face. I saw it. I built the cell. There was a significant amount of sludge around the pipe during Barker Lemar days, prior to SCS. I've brought this up before.

Clinton: there is some dispute that it was not the sludge caused the pipe issues.

Delmar: Some of the issue was the plastic beads from Equistar.

Bauman: You spent the money, which is the right thing. We get this plan that says we need to incorporate this in the landfill in this manner. Nowhere in the contract does it say to incorporate it that way. If you telling me you're not willing to pay me to incorporate the way the experts want it, then we'll just shove it into the garbage the normal way. That's what I'm hearing. Clinton: That's not what we're proposing. It does say in the contract that you will accept sludge. Bauman: the application of how we're applying it into the garbage.

DeWitt: What if you did nothing with the old stuff? The new stuff what just go into the garbage and gets pushed. LaBelle: It's moving slowly. Working its way down the hill. It has to be landfilled just like other trash. That is technically waste that needs to be buried. You have to place sludge in a way that it's structurally sound. Concentrated pockets of sludge can cause slope failure. There is what BJ indicated as 2000 tons of material there in a pocket.

Clinton County: Why can this product not be applied to fields? LaBelle: This is a Class Two sludge. I need to understand why that definition was made and the permit did not allow for that to be used as cover.

Clinton: Some farms in Michigan have been shut down because PFAS.

Delmar: It's here, I say we deal with it and move on. We're not going to ask Rittmer pick up the stuff and move it elsewhere.

Clinton County: If there is anywhere, we could divert that, then that might be helpful.

Andover: the problem in my mind is, you are the landfill operator. It was in the contract. Shouldn't be up to you on how to figure out how to disperse this properly. Why is this coming back as an extra fee for the landfill?

Bauman: For five years, we've been asking how to place this. The area is getting smaller. As applied in the garbage it grew. So, with the public potentially backing through it, there's no good way to get it incorporated without affecting everything else. You don't have the room. In my mind they do not accept it because it affects the landfill filtration and leachate. That's one of the situations. Where are you going to put the garbage trucks when you have to dig trenches? I did ask. It wasn't until the city helped with that.

Clinton: Let's say that mountain isn't there. What are you going to do with that plan?

Bauman: We dig the trench with the proper ratio of garbage to sludge. Then we remove the trash by digging a trench, place the sludge in the trench, and then slowly mix the garbage back in the trench. We don't use an excavator in normal garbage.

Clinton: I got you a plan, which you wanted. How do you prepare for sludge? Bauman: I'm going to dig a trench.

Clinton County: There are additional costs. Clinton: How do we know how to prepare for next week's tonnage. Bauman: Normal trash operations is a trash compactor and a dozer. Clinton: We're going to have to pay more because of stockpiling it more on the hill. Bauman: I said not a dime more than \$50K. I'm not backdating. Starting April 1st, I'd like to be paid for new tonnage for the application.

DeWitt: Whether it's the new or 2000 tons sitting there, you're asking for \$25 per ton. Because you dig trenches with an excavator with an additional person to run and apply it.

Andover: Are we going to be in same situation and pay again? Bauman: We've tried multiple things. It wouldn't be an issue if tonnage was low, but it was maxed. Do I think it's going to work flawlessly? No. I think we will

have sewage being tracked. But I don't have another solution. It won't be a perfect trench. We will have to plan ahead. Moving forward and it's a lower tonnage it will help.

Delmar: Is this going to get to the point where it's dry? Clinton: 90% solids. DeWitt: Thinking that could be in September? Clinton: If not before.

LaBelle: Polymers in place in the sludge to hold onto water. It's holding the water. As it gets drier, we will continue to monitor. How does rain impact material? Polymers are holding water in. Want to maintain a flat area in landfill as much as possible. That's why we continue to think ahead. Planning is integral when placing sludge.

DeWitt: is the current cell able to assimilate all the tonnage? LaBelle: Yes.

Andover: Does SCS only and consult hat we ask for or do offer suggestions when you see things? LaBelle: We've been offering suggestions, too. Helping with foresight and planning. All of these things play into each other, phasing plan, sludge plan, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM ANY AGENCY MEMBERS OR THEIR CONSTITUENTS: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** Employee Handbook Update / Potential Action **PROPOSAL # 1** – The proposed changes to the handbook have been sent off to Amy Reasner at Lynch-Dallas and the handbook has been returned to us for review and potential approval.

Clinton County made a motion to approve the handbook as presented. Clinton seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

Clinton – Schemers - Yes
Camanche – Varner – Yes
Goose Lake – Mattis - Yes

Clinton County – Irwin - Yes
Andover – White - Yes
Lost Nation - Gilroy - Yes

DeWitt – Chrones – Yes
Delmar – Goodall - Yes

Motion approved 8-0.

- B.** City of Clinton Sludge Update / Potential Action – This is on the agenda for follow-up discussion from the February meeting.

Clinton County: Now that we have a plan from SCS and it is different function. I feel we owe Rittmer something. I don't know the amount. We're handling it much differently.

Goose Lake: Might be avoiding future problems.

Clinton: Has an area been identified? Bauman: The plan identifies nominal distances. Criteria are given. Work back and forth with SCS.

Camanche: Was there any knowledge when signing the contract? You said no. I think that we owe something.

Clinton: I think we were working on this it just wasn't done before the contract. It was on the horizon.

Clinton County: What is the moisture level that it stops being an issue? Where's the point we don't have to do the special handling. LaBelle: I would say I need to run the slope stability models to figure that percentage out.

Clinton County: I would like to propose SCS come back with a percentage on that number, if I can get Rittmer to agree that we're not going to get charged anymore than \$50K. If we can come back and get

a number that becomes normal garbage. I don't think we quite enough information on when this becomes a non-issue.

Bauman: I don't know and I don't think they (SCS) know either. LaBelle: The sludge on the hill must be placed in the trenches. It's not 90% dry.

Bauman: I want \$50K to clean up the previous material on the hill. Then \$25 for sludge starting April 1st. That material would go into the trenches.

Andover: I'm hung up on these trenches. Are we going to have to pay again? Bauman: you won't have to move it again. My number one concern is tracking of material out of the cell. I'm not saying it's not going to work; it's not going to be a perfect trench. There may be some softer areas for a while.

Delmar made a motion to accept the proposal from Rittmer for the sludge (\$50K for the sludge pile on the hill and \$25 per ton for sewage sludge starting April 1st, 2025). Goose Lake seconded.

DeWitt: Is this going to be an addendum to the contract? I want a finite end to this. Bauman: If it can be landfilled or the percentage changes, then I'm willing to drop the price back. I only am paid for what I have to do.

Seward: Asked for clarification on the \$25 per ton after April 1st. Is this \$25 per ton in addition to the \$15.50 or is it a total of \$25 per ton for Sewage Sludge? Bauman: No. Seward: you're asking for \$9.50 additional per ton of sewage sludge. Bauman: Yes.

Clinton County: Motion should be amended to include this in the contract. I would also like SCS to help determine when this extra cost per tonnage stops (working with Rittmer).

Delmar amended the motion to include this proposal in the operations contract. Goose Lake seconded.

Clinton County: Should check moisture content.

LaBelle: To clarify, when trenches could cease? Clinton County: yes.

Roll call vote was taken.

Clinton County – Irwin - Yes
Andover – White – NO
Lost Nation - Gilroy - Yes

DeWitt – Chrones – Yes
Delmar – Goodall - Yes
Clinton – Schemers - NO

Camanche – Varner – Yes
Goose Lake – Mattis - Yes

Motion approved 6-2.

- C.** Update / Potential Action: BWC Leachate Line Jetting/Camera Work Payment – After preparing to make payment with staff an inquiry arose about the contract. After research took place, no contract was entered into. I then talked with the Executive Board and legal. Legal advised the lack of contract could be an issue and that if it went to court that we could be losing more money than we may gain by not paying the additional \$4k. I also talked with Clinton County's rep, who made the motion and he agreed.

So, in short, after discussions held, I believe to protect ourselves from paying more, then we should pay the \$11,710.38 instead of the \$7,316.46 we were going to pay.

I have reached out to our legal team for some simple contract language to help prevent this repeating itself.

Clinton County made motion to pay full amount of invoice submitted (\$11,710.38). Clinton seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

DeWitt – Chrones – Yes
Delmar – Goodall - Yes
Clinton – Schemers - Yes

Camanche – Varner – Yes
Goose Lake – Mattis - Yes
Clinton County – Irwin - Yes

Andover – White – NO
Lost Nation - Gilroy – Yes

Motion approved 7-1.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FISCAL YEAR 2026 Proposed Rate Increases

RESOLUTION # 1

The budget committee met in February and discussed some potential increases. The committee made the following recommendations for approval.

DeWitt: Thanked committee for work.

Clinton made motion to approve the rate increases as presented in Resolution # 1. Camanche seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

Camanche – Varner – Yes
Goose Lake – Mattis - Yes
Clinton County – Irwin - Yes

Andover – White – Yes
Lost Nation - Gilroy – Yes
DeWitt – Chrones – Yes

Delmar – Goodall - Yes
Clinton – Schemers - Yes

Motion approved 8-0.

B. Financial Assurance Proposal for 2025

PROPOSAL # 2

Before you is the proposed financial assurance payment/transfer total for 2025. This is slightly less than last year's total because of interest gained from the accounts. \$235,063 to be transferred to closure/post-closure account.

Clinton made motion to approve the Financial Assurance proposal for 2025. Clinton County seconded. Roll call vote was taken.

Andover – White – Yes
Lost Nation - Gilroy – Yes
DeWitt – Chrones – Yes

Delmar – Goodall – Yes
Clinton – Schemers - Yes
Camanche – Varner – Yes

Goose Lake – Mattis - Yes
Clinton County – Irwin - Yes

Motion approved 8-0.

EMERGENCY BUSINESS: The part-time scale attendant has announced her resignation.

DeWitt made a motion to adjourn; until April 10, 2025, at the Recycling Center at 6:30 PM. Adjourned at 7:56 PM.