

**Solid Waste Advisory Board Meeting
October 20, 2021
Minutes**

The Solid Waste Advisory Board met in regular session on October 20, 2021 at the Logan City Environmental Department, 153 north 1400 West, Logan, UT 84321 at 3:00 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present:

David Zook – Cache County Executive
Holly Daines – Logan City Mayor
John Drew – Providence City Mayor
Damon Cann – North Logan City Mayor
Craig Hidalgo – Clarkston Town Mayor
Issa Hamud – Logan Environmental Department Director
Dean Adams – Citizen Expert Representative
Jeannie Simmonds – Logan City Council Liaison (non-voting)

Board Members Absent:

Shaun Dustin – Nibley City Mayor
David Hair – Millville City Mayor
Kelly Field – Lewiston City Mayor
Jordan Mathis – Bear River Health Department Director
R. Ryan Dupont – Citizen Expert Representative
Jon White – Citizen Expert Representative
David Erickson – Cache County Liaison (non-voting)

Others in Attendance:

Kathleen Alder – Providence City Mayoral Candidate
Jeff Young – Richmond City Mayor
Vic Little – Paradise City Mayor
Jeffrey Barnes – Smithfield City Mayor
Charles Wheeler – Hyde Park Mayor
Tyler Richards – Logan City Environmental Department
Christine Willie – Logan City Environmental Department
Emily Malik – Logan City Environmental Department
Chris Douglas – Collections Manager
Cody Standing – Cache County Executive Office Specialist

03:06:00

Call to Order

David Zook called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

03:08:00

#1 Approval of Minutes

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Cann to approve the minutes of March 29, 2021 and Mayor Wheeler seconded the motion. The vote in favor was unanimous, 6-0 (Holly Daines, Shaun Dustin, David Hair, Kelly Field, Jordan Mathis, R. Ryan Dupont, Jon White, and David Erickson absent for vote)

03:09:00

#2 Discussion of Green Waste

Issa Hamud presented on the Green Waste Boom that occurred last week. He covered the efforts being made by the Logan Environmental Department and Landfill to meet the increased needs. He also discussed the increased green waste collected over the past few years and the projected increases in the future.

David Zook asked if the increase seen in 2020 included the wind storm experienced.

Hamud responded that a portion of what was brought in from the wind storm was included, but that a large part was not counted. He then showed pictures of the stockpiles in each city as well as the amount of green waste at the landfill.

Mayor Young and Mayor Cann asked if Providence City had instructed people to pile green waste on the street, or if they had done so without approval.

Mayor Drew explained that residents were allowed to pile green waste in a parking lot set aside for that purpose, but that the demand was so high that it was being left on the streets or near the parking lot.

Board Members discussed the issue of limited space to pile green waste in each city and what individual cities have been doing to address the problem.

Kathleen Alder expressed concern that the truck that was supposed to be coming by each city daily had not been through Providence in a few days.

Mayor Little also had concerns about whether the truck was taking a full load when it went to Paradise.

Tyler Richards explained that with the limited number of available trucks, they were doing their best to get to each town on a daily basis. He said he would also check on whether or not the driver is picking up a full load from the bins as well as what is piled near them.

Drew shared that Providence had been paying a contractor \$10,000 per day for the last week to take loads of green waste from the city to the landfill.

Little explained that his residents have done their part in bringing waste to one location, and that they have used their own equipment to pile it. Now what he needs is access to trucks through the County to be able to transport the green waste to the landfill. He also suggested that if the grinder could be transported to Paradise, they could grind what they have and allow residents to use the chips.

Board Members discussed the difficulty of controlling dumping in their areas. It was also brought up the landscaping companies and contractors were using those dumpsites as well, even if they were working in other cities.

Cann explained that North Logan could no longer burn their waste, and asked if the Logan Environmental Department would reconsider the fee policy for industrial loads of waste to allow them to bring in large loads to the landfill.

Hamud stated that cities would not be charged that fee for bringing in large loads with their equipment.

Mayor Daines brought up the difficulty in balancing out extra expenses with the need to move waste.

Young suggested that a contingency plan should be established that includes a fund to help address costs in a storm such as this and bring consistency. He suggested designating areas for the North, Central, and South regions of the valley to allow for better coordination between cities and the County.

Zook said that there is a plan included in the County-Wide Emergency Action Plan, but that it is a great idea to designate dump areas for each region.

Board Members discussed having consistency in dumping regulations and whether the recent green waste fee increase is covering these emergency costs. The budget increase from last year was not intended to cover emergencies, but they certainly need to establish a fund to aid with this.

Mayor Wheeler suggested having a North and South dump site established only for emergencies.

Board Members discussed using the North Landfill in an emergency. The Logan Landfill had sent some loads there recently, but it had not been opened to the public.

Cities north of Smithfield could use this North Landfill to cut down on traffic and demand on the Logan Landfill.

Mayor Hidalgo explained that the primary concern with using this North location is the traffic that will be created in those towns. That landfill was never meant to be open use.

Board Members discussed how to control dumping at the landfill or other sites. Some suggested that it needs to be policed better and that law enforcement should be involved. This issue would include the North Landfill, as residents may not respect that it should only be used for emergencies and dump on the road there anyways.

Zook and Cann brought up that their goal is to provide a service to residents. It is suggested that perhaps cities can provide a higher level of service to residents by allowing them to pile green waste in front of their homes or local locations and having cities or the County pick it up in large trucks.

Zook brought up that the board should refocus on what to do right now, and future contingency plans could be discussed at a future meeting.

Hamud continued his presentation and addressed the impact of inflation on the Logan Environmental Department budget. This included increased costs for equipment, wages, and fuel. A new transfer station, landfill cell, and compost facility are also projects that are being worked on.

Hamud suggested that cities should adopt better tree management policies and a debris management plan. He also posed the question of how cities would move their stockpiles to the landfill. It is a possibility to lease another grinder, but this would be expensive. There is also the option to purchase a side-dump, treat green waste as garbage to lower costs, or purchase a new grinder.

Drew suggested that they should lease the grinder and chip in place, allowing residents to use those chips. The chipper that can be leased would need to be in one location for a week. In the future, the Logan chipper could be moved if needed.

Board Members discussed that it would be best to mobilize trucks to each city to move piles to the landfill and have everything chipped there. County and city vehicles could be used to help those cities without such equipment. It is suggested that land could be purchased or used for an additional emergency dump site, even potentially at the airport park. The question is asked if the Logan Landfill has enough space to fit all of the stockpiles from each city.

Hamud said that if the second grinder is used, there will be space by the second week of November.

03:56:00 David Zook and Mayor Hidalgo left the meeting. Mayor Cann was chosen as temporary vice chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Board Members discussed that the Logan Landfill will continue to pick up at the drop sites, it will be open to the public, and in two weeks cities can start bringing in their own loads.

Daines brought up that Logan City's crews may not be able to work on moving the stockpiles when they already have to work on leaf pick-up and other projects.

Jeannie Simmonds clarified whether cities would be in charge of moving stockpiles or if it would be done using County vehicles and crews. The time before things could be brought to the landfill would allow time to organize the pickup.

Board Members discussed that individual residents will still bring loads, but cities will keep their stockpiles until there is room at the landfill.

Daines brought up that Providence has already been solving their own problem by paying a contractor.

Cann agreed that they will have paid more to address this, but that in an emergency there will inevitably be inequalities between what is paid by cities. Right now cities need to help each other in spite of these, but in the long run this should be taken into consideration.

Board Members discussed that they will manage their own green waste on site for 3 weeks, then work with cities and the County to clean up their stockpiles. A long-term plan will then be considered. Some cities do not have the space to build up their stockpiles further, so those with limited space will continue transporting green waste to the landfill. The costs for Logan are discussed with running the grinder and pickup. Now is likely the best time to go to cities about increasing the budget to meet inflation and allow for a reserve fund. Costs between cities for this storm could be used to establish a required budget and reserve fund. This would also require the purchase of additional equipment now in preparation for the future. The short term plan was reiterated.

Dean Adams suggested that Providence City remind residents to bring their loads directly to the landfill to avoid running out of space.

Board Members praised Hamud and the Logan Environmental Department for running such an efficient operation under the circumstances.

Hamud continued his presentation on the new compost facility. Costs, location issues, and the timeline were discussed. This land could also be helpful in emergency situations. This project will be completed in 3 years.

Hamud discussed plastic waste and plastic bag policies. Logan City will be discussing a potential repeal of their current plastic bag ban and replacing it with a Plastic Waste Management Plan.

Young asked Mayor Daines what the City Council's current opinion was on this repeal.

Daines responded that the main concern was the inconsistency between cities for stores such as Walmart, which has a location outside of Logan. The Plastic Waste Management Plan would be consistent throughout the County.

Board Members discussed the lack of progress on this issue last year due to the pandemic. It was discussed at a previous meeting to have a County-wide plan. There is currently a fee for plastic waste if companies do not implement their own management plan. This is a similar fee to any contaminated waste that is brought to the landfill.

Young asked if this includes individual plastic bags.

Hamud replied that stores have been asked to either not use plastic bags or to charge 10 cents per bag.

Young asked if this policy was already put into place, or whether this still needed to be passed by the County Council.

Hamud explained that this has not yet been approved, but they intend to take this Plastic Waste Management Plan to the County Council for Approval. If Logan passes the ordinance for the Plastic Waste Management Plan, this would only directly affect Logan. This is focused on addressing stores and companies, rather than affecting consumers directly.

Cann shared a final thought that cities need to coordinate to meet emergency needs.

04:36:00

ACTION: A motion was made by Mayor Daines to adjourn and seconded by Mayor Wheeler. The vote in favor was unanimous, 5-0.