

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021, **Via Zoom**

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson & David Pannucci; **Members:** Hazem Hijaz & Neil Ortwein; **Staff Members:** Leslie Huhn & Diane Palik; **Council Liaison:** Tom Carocci. **Attendees:** Kurt Bresswein, Maurice Kasmiroski, Patricia Hulsizer, Victoria Ophof-Cordaro, Donna Louder, George Gress, Atom Kallen.

Mr. Brown stated for those who may be attending for the first time, what we do is go over each agenda item, and then a committee member can ask a question. Astor and Dave will answer the questions. If nobody jumps in, Dave will keep running through his report until we wrap up. The committee will then be asked if they have any questions. They will be answered by the Landfill or by Scott. Once the committee is done with the agenda, then typically it would be open to the public and you would need to raise your hand and Diane would see that, and when she unmutes you to present your question, you would state your name and address and proceed with your question. For anyone who is participating today, the agenda and back-up information is on our website.

Mr. Pannucci reviewed the monthly tonnages for March:

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>
MSW	14,399.82	15,555.13	24,520.77
C&D	4,975.63	4,780.65	8,783.90
Residual (Total)	1,403.96	1,155.71	2,463.37
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alternate Daily cover	1,472.93	2,912.82	4,692.01
Sewage Sludge	499.15 (2.19%)	456.84 (1.84%)	800.03 (1.94%)
Out of State (Total)	10,618.77 (47%)	15,031.89 (60%)	23,856.33 (58%)
Recycle	9 (89%)	6 (83%)	11 (82%)

Mr. Pannucci said there were four Form U Submittals from March 25, 2021 to April 13, 2021, all were contaminated soil. Mr. Brown said is it a different type of soil? Mr. Pannucci said the 507 is a type of petroleum and the other ones were others. Mr. Hijazi said do you know the amount you are getting for this waste? Mr. Pannucci said he doesn't know it off the top of his head. The annual contaminated soil jobs would be hitting the residual total line or the alternate daily cover.

Mr. Pannucci said the annual groundwater trend analysis, they are doing the second quarter sampling event which is scheduled for May 24 – 27, 2021. For the correspondence and report, there were BRE Fees, Facility Report, Baptiste vs. Bethlehem LF (Dismissed Claim), Abatement Well Reports, Residual Waste Reports, and LFG-3A April Reading Report. There was a DEP inspection on March 29, 2021 with M. Glogowski and three Host Municipal Inspections in April with Scott Brown and Jake Schray. Mr. Brown said the first one he was away that day. Mr. Pannucci said he'll change it, you can strike that. Mrs. Huhn said that's the one she asked Jake to go out and do the inspection.

Mr. Pannucci said there were 3,193 total trucks with 72 overweight's, 66 warnings, and 6 suspensions. For Flare Operations and Gas Collection, the LFG glare is the main GCCS. Bethlehem Landfill continues to communicate with SCS Field Services with any routine or non-routine maintenance to maximize LFG production and minimize odors. The March Average Flare Flow was 3,201 SCFM. There were no shutdowns or malfunctions the month of March. Mr. Hijazi said it was running continuously, no shutdowns. Mr. Pannucci said that is correct.

Mr. Pannucci said the North Slope Road has not needed repairs. The swale has not needed repairs. The abatement system continues to operate and discharge to the Bethlehem WWTP. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired or replaced as needed. The flow rates continue to be monitored and reported. Intermittent malfunctions of the well pumps and controls are repaired or replaced as needed.

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Mr. Pannucci said there was one radioactive load for March (I-131). This waste stream met level 1 requirements and was disposed of onsite. The SE Realignment Construction Activities, waste operations were in SE-2AB Phase I. There were three complaints for March.

Mr. Hijazi said he wants to go back, but with the overweight trucks, warnings and suspensions, that's a chronic situation. If you guys could keep an eye on that, he sees while the warnings, suspensions and overweight's are going up, the suspensions are staying the same or coming lower. He would expect the number would increase in the same way. Mr. Pannucci said the way they have it set up is you get three warnings, then you are suspended. That means we aren't getting as many repeat offenders. The suspension isn't going up, so the warnings are working for those particular drivers. We took in almost 1,000 more trucks than in February and the number went up by nine, it's definitely a high number and always on their radar.

Mr. Hijazi said he doesn't want to beat a dead horse. He said can we look at little bit at the complaints. Mr. Pannucci said the two additional from last meeting were the two on March 31st so he believes they did follow up on them. There was a drive-by, he's not sure when, but they investigate it on their site. We didn't notice anything on the site itself that would have led to those odors that they saw. They weren't made aware of them until after the fact. Mr. Lawson said the odor complaints, they find out days later and they are tough to investigate a couple of days later. They know it came from Priscilla, she knows how to contact them if she's getting the complaints, then they can investigate in real time; otherwise, when it's a week later, it's tough. Mr. Brown said Jake went out two days later after the complaints were filed and he really didn't catch any strong, intermittent whiffs. There was a slight intermittent gas east of Ringhoffer on Applebutter, but it came and went and he stayed there for about 10 minutes. It really wasn't anything strong that they could detect, and it's pretty much on the landfill itself when he was taking his tour. There weren't any strong odors at that time. He said he was out today and did his tour and he got a good odor at the Waste Treatment Plant as usual, and the only other major odor was he drove by the landfill entrance and he didn't catch anything there. He caught his first garbage odor but that was up by Swint's and there were two trash trucks sitting out in front of Swint's facility. He did that before his inspection and then he did another drive by after the landfill inspection and went through Steel City to catch any odors there and he didn't get anything at Steel City and again nothing on Applebutter Road when he moved back around again, then nothing at Swint's and the one trash truck that was full was gone. Onsite it was really good, probably the best, up where they finished up the capping to address the NOV from April. They were on top of the capping for a little while and didn't catch any gas odors which occasionally they would catch a whiff, and that's above where the gas was causing the ballooning that was going on before. That was good and they were within probably 75 yards but a little bit above where the trash working face was, there was no odor at all, less than you would smell on a normal site visit. Down at the office he didn't smell anything down there, so there definitely wasn't anything present today.

Mr. Hijazi said following up on your inspections, you had an inspection on April 2, 2021, and in your report you mention there was some windblown litter. Mr. Brown said that's the inspection Jake went out on when he was on vacation. They noted some litter on the previous reports and they contacted a company to come and try to get some of the litter out of the trees, but it was out of the normal person's reach, and also they cleared a lot of the trees from the current cell operation to the east pretty much to the permit boundary line. A lot of those trees are gone so the garbage is gone also. Astor and Dave said they were on Sue's property the last couple of weeks cleaning out litter from what they could reach and that looked much better than when he was out, which was a month ago. He's sure it's better than when even Jake was out there. They have made very substantial progress. Mr. Hijazi said he wanted to make sure the landfill was taking care of that as in the note it said, as Mr. Garcia stated, they had retained services of a professional tree service and he wasn't clear whether Mr. Garcia hired them or the landfill. Mr. Brown said Mr. Garcia works for the landfill and they retained someone but the company has not been out to the best of his knowledge. They are backed up. Mr. Pannucci said this time of year, the tree service is backed up at the moment. They have them lined up but they are a few weeks out at this point. They will have someone climb those trees and get the bags out.

Ms. Victoria Ophof-Cordaro said she saw on the inspection report on April 6th, it says the North Slope access road was not observed and then it further states that there were excavators repairing leachate seeps on the North Slope. Can you give some further detail on that and indicate why the North Slope was not inspected. Mr. Brown said he

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thinks you mean the April 2nd inspection, the report may have come out on the 6th. The North Slope if they haven't had substantial rain events which cause problems on the access road, they don't always go down there if nothing has changed other than a few wells being monitored at the North Slope Road. There's no vehicles or equipment, pickup truck or Gator traveling on that road. Mrs. Huhn said that April 2nd inspection was a special inspection that she asked someone to go out specifically for concerns, so that would not be the normal inspection where they would go out and do all their key points, so the North Slope would not be included in that inspection. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said she was just concerned because it seemed like it wasn't inspected which she understands if it was a special call, but then in addition it talks about Mr. Garcia reporting seeps in the North Slope. Mr. Pannucci said the North Slope Road is different than the North Slope. That road is behind the landfill maintenance shop whereas the North Slope they are referring to is on the landfill footprints. That's two separate areas.

Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said what happened with this seep and what was going on with that. Mr. Pannucci said those happen from time to time at landfills. Leachate, water that makes its way through the landfill sometimes finds a path of least resistance and makes its way out so basically when they see those, they'll go in with an excavator and dig them out so the leachate has a path to make it back down to the waste mass into the leachate collection system.

Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said is there any monitoring as to how much water leaches out and escapes before you are able to send it back to the landfill. Mr. Pannucci said it's a negligible amount, not really monitorable. It's really like a spot that they would notice on the outside slope, so it's a small quantity, but something that needs to be addressed. When they notice it, they address it. Mr. Brown said it's not something that leaves the landfill, it stays on and is still overtop the liner itself. There's just a point where it could break out on the surface, but when they dig it out, they are digging straight down, it's almost like a French drain, they put stone in and it helps it get back down in. It's not leaving the landfill or even a lined area of the landfill.

Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said regarding the litter cleanup, it refers to Jacobs Professional Tree Service, and she just wondered if the landfill had contacted other companies to see if there was somebody who could come out on a sooner time period. She says this as she is trying to get tree service done at her property and she called up a few different companies and Jacobs was the furthest out to come out to do tree service on her property. There were other companies that were able to come and get estimates to do things quickly. She's wondering if the landfill had done diligence and actually have gotten a few quotes and called around more than just Jacobs. Mr. Pannucci said they did and if you have any recommendations that you had better luck with, they will be happy to take those. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said she had Jacobs give an estimate and also Joshua Tree and she's getting tree limbs cut. Mr. Pannucci said that's the other thing, these guys need to climb the trees. He didn't do the digging in, but will see if they called Joshua Tree. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said they are certified tree specialists the same level as Jacobs and they have tree climbers. Mr. Pannucci said he will write that down. They did call other outfits and they ended up with Jacobs. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said do you know who else you called. Mr. Pannucci said Gerhart's who does their landscaping currently, but again, he didn't make the phone calls so they will get with the team who was working on that.

Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said the other question was the inspector noticed the smell and he described it as a faint smell, is there any weight of measure on that smell and how thick it is. She knows we have a policy to report things to the DEP if there is a smell, so she was curious if the smell was reported to the DEP as the engineer had observed it himself. Mr. Brown said they typically don't contact DEP, most of them are a light intermittent smell and to answer your first question, it's very subjective, there's not like a number. They take their training for the certification and they don't take them into rooms and say this is a strong odor, light odor, intermittent odor. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said she was just curious if there was a tool that the DEP uses to measure. Mr. Brown said they don't. He's never seen them use any kind of a tool. If there's a strong enough gas, they have gas meters. They will judge the odor. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said from her perspective, if there's an odor, it should always be reported. If you can smell it, it's very subjective and your description of faint is different than somebody else's description of faint and as a resident, she doesn't like any smell. Maybe the committee can look into that. If our own Hanover Engineering detects smells, it should be reported at least that's what she would hope the Township would want to do.

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Ms. Donna Louder, said regarding the seepage, can somebody tell her when the smells occurred. She's thinking about if you received odor complaints on March 31st and they were fixing the seeps on April 2nd, do you think that was part of the odor complaint? Mr. Pannucci said from where the odor complaint was, it's on the other side of the hill. He's thinking it would not be a contributing factor.

Ms. Louder said the report mentions you are stockpiling alternative cover, can someone tell her what that alternative cover is? Mr. Pannucci said its soil. It's the ones he listed in the reports, the contaminated soils, they can stockpile a portion for cover within the lined area. Ms. Louder said what was the makeup of that? Was there any sludge involved in this? Mr. Pannucci said no. They are considered contaminated by the testing, but as far as odor goes, if they were odorous they would bury it and get it covered to mitigate any odors. It wouldn't meet any of their internal requirements to use as cover.

Ms. Louder said does the sludge have an odor if it gets wet. Mr. Brown said yes, it's going to have some odor, but most of the sludge itself gets buried right away. Mr. Pannucci said its sewage sludge and definitely has an odor to it but when it comes in, they bury it and get it covered immediately. Mr. Brown said you guys even have certain times you try and do it after the rush hour in the morning and stopping it at a certain time before people come home. Mr. Pannucci said the goal there is to get it in while there's a good amount of waste to cover as if you get it too early or too late you may have already packed that garbage in so by doing it in the middle of the day we are able to make sure we have material to get it covered.

Ms. Louder said did you receive any sludge on Saturday, the 10th? Mr. Pannucci said we had one load. Ms. Louder said they had stepped outside and it smelled like a manure truck was parked in their backyard. The odor was there for a couple of hours and then it dissipated. The wind was coming in the direction of their home, so she can guarantee it was coming off the landfill. It ended and went away within hours so her thought was if somebody was manuring their property that odor would have stayed for at least three days. Otherwise it had to come off from you. Please, please and she sees you took in an extra 400 tons, please, please, please cut back on that alternative coverage because now we are discussing that odor on top of seepage odors, on top of gas odors, on top of garbage in the wind, so you're basically stirring the pot for the residents again.

Mr. Lawson said the manure odor was not them; it's probably the farms around them this time of year. Ms. Louder said that's not the point. The bottom line is you got a truck load of that stuff in and that truck load sat on top of the hill. She can see your trucks driving back and forth, she hears the clanging of your tailgates, the noise is atrocious anymore, so the bottom line is, you are up in the air and that wind catches it, it's coming into the little gulley they live in, so 800 tons is too many tons. Back it off a little bit, please, and she hopes Council hears her because this is something they need to address. You do not want to stir the pot with this.

Ms. Louder said there was secondary tanks on 6, 7 and 8. Six is up and 8 is up, is there a reason why 7 isn't up or what's going on with that. Mr. Pannucci said why 7 isn't up? Ms. Louder said 7 has zero on it for the secondary flows; 8 has 643; 6 has like a 2. She's happy with that. So 6 has a 2, 7 has a zero and 8 has 643. There shouldn't be anything in that secondary flow. Mr. Pannucci said that is correct. As we talked before, that's been going on for, you guys could probably tell him how long, as it was prior to him even starting there. Ms. Louder said Laressa always brought up that there's a possibility of a tear in the liner. Mr. Pannucci said that is not an inaccurate statement, and that's why when we talked the last meeting, the secondary collection system is there as a secondary protection. Ms. Louder said she understands why it's there. Mr. Pannucci said that's why the secondary is there and it's collecting bad leachate that could be making its way to the secondary or the stormwater making its way into the secondary. It could be a combination of the two. They've looked at it, they don't have a smoking gun so he's not going to say it's one or the other but between the primary, the secondary, and the clay liner underneath that, and the groundwater monitoring wells around the facility, we have a lot of things in place to insure the groundwater is not being contaminated. That's the ultimate goal.

Ms. Louder said is there anything on the litigation with BRE? Mr. Pannucci said they have a mediation scheduled at the end of the month, so hopefully they will come to an agreement with them and they will be able to start moving forward with the Aria construction.

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Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said she was thinking about the question she had about the odor and she thinks there is an odor sensor, like a remote odor sensor that we could use to try and keep monitoring of that odor and how strong it is and how frequent it is. She understands it was there for 10 minutes and we had one faint smell, but she's just thinking it makes sense to have a remote odor sensor. She took a quick look and it seems other landfills use it and it's a quite a common thing. Do we have a remote odor sensor and if we don't why can't we get one. Mr. Pannucci said do you know what they are using as he's not really aware of that. Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said she muted herself as she has some background noise, so she just googled it. If it's there on google then it's pretty common. She would be hopeful you look into what options you have for a remote odor sensor and see if that's something we can install. Mr. Pannucci said we can take a look.

Mr. Hijazi said he doesn't know if there's a meter per se that will tell you...odor is something subjective to human beings. A meter would have to rely on certain parameters that it would measure certain chemicals or that could produce a smell and the sensor would have to measure these parameters. It's definitely something worth looking at but it's going to be a measurement of a chemical, of a methane, of a hydrogen sulfide, something along that line. Mr. Pannucci said hydrogen sulfide would be the one probably most common constituent that other sites would measure off site to detect that. Nothing is methane even though it's the highest concentration of landfill gas, it's technically odorless so measuring methane is not really a good telltale. They've done a lot of studies at other landfills, so it's a challenge to Victoria's point, or everyone would have these things in place.

Ms. Louder said there are canisters that can be put out in the yard but the problem is, they have to be acceptable to be used for the odors. Back in 2015, there was an air quality study done in Steel City by DEP. That should be on the Township records. If they don't she does have a copy of that. Every stone is being unturned regarding this, the bottom line is the standards of this landfill need to be kept in order and that is what needs to be done. They are not allowed to have the odors leave the property and if they do, the DEP gets called and they get fined. Then they just get a smack on the hand and you pay them. The bottom line is the landfill standards need to be maintained. They need to be told what the standards are or remind them as she's sure the DEP lets them know. The bottom line is every hoop has been jumped. She doesn't know if you were involved in 2015, 2014, 2013, but if you go into the history of the landfill, or even if you google her name into the Morning Call or anything else, you'll see everything that has been done. It's up to you but the bottom line is everything is on record on the landfill. You have to do a lot of history on it. It's all been done; unfortunately, another study by the DEP, we can ask for that and that would be great in whatever area our neighborhood is having the major problem since it seems to be spreading wider and wider other than Steel City.

Mr. Hijazi said regarding the secondary flow, LMC-8, this has been a chronic issue and he's not sure what the solution for it is. The DEP is aware of this, have they mentioned anything about it to the landfill? Mr. Pannucci said no. If there's an issue in the primary liner at this point, it's under 400' of garbage at this point, there's no real way to repair that. If there's stormwater in the anchor trench, on the outside, then that's something that could be rectified with some effort, but to back what his original point was, that's why they have a double liner system in PA. You have two lines of defense and other states don't have that. Mr. Hijazi said he understands.

Ms. Ophof-Cordaro said just to answer the question about Sensidyne Gas Detector Pumps, they seem to be a type of odor detector that can be specific to the type of gas that's released and the different types that are released from the landfill. That's just one particular one. Another one is Ozone Gas Detector Pumps. They don't make these things if nobody uses them. They are specific to landfills as that was her search regarding landfills. We are just talking about this now, but hopefully at the next meeting we can talk about it, if she can find it, she's sure the landfill can find it. Hopefully we'll see what happens next month.

Patty Hulsizer, resident, said they still do continue to smell the dump over here, just so you guys are aware of it. You can drive on Applebutter Road or Ringhoffer Road at any given time and you can smell the landfill. She travels that road pretty often as well as her husband. They can still continue to smell it, you can smell it from the storage buildings all the way up to the red barn, it is a distinct smell. They've been smelling this for multiple years. She has to agree with Donna, there was an odor here on Saturday. Her husband grew up on a farm and he smelled it at 5:30 a.m. and it definitely smelled like manure, so they drove around the farms in the area and he noticed a

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different. They checked out all the farms over on Farmersville Road. He believes they may have been dumping sludge at the landfill, possibly not coming from the farms. He knows the difference in the smell. He has to agree with Donna, the smell was here from 5:30 a.m. and it had dissipated about 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You could smell it as it was a very, very strong odor and different than the methane gas they smell and the landfill gas they smell. She doesn't know where it was coming from. It was here Saturday and Sunday, both days starting around 5:30 a.m. and lightened up between 10:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. As the hours went on, the smell continued to get fainter and fainter. Multiple residents were on their website and everybody was smelling it. They were smelling it all the way over in Miller Heights. They were smelling it over in Freemansburg. They still don't know where the smell was coming from or what caused it but she still does continue to smell the landfill. The people over here are tired of calling DEP. They are getting tired, nobody is doing anything to help so she wanted to have this on record.

Mr. Hijazi said in conclusion what Donna was recommending if the landfill can receive less of this material, it would probably be more beneficial for everyone, so Dave, Astor, please consider that for your future operation. Mr. Pannucci said they hear you, they'll take a look at it.

Ms. Louder said thank you Haz, that's the answer; that has to be the answer. She remembers Astor saying something to her the first time she was introduced to him at the Township and he said this is a landfill that has the closest proximity to a residential area, so please keep that in mind when you are making major decisions for the landfill. She would appreciate it and thank you Haz so very much for that comment.

Ms. Hulsizer said in regards to tree services, she owns a tree service. They are booked way out, but there are many tree services out there that could come in there and do that in a week if the landfill just calls around. They were in there many, many years ago removing those bags and it is very, very time-consuming. Lots and lots of climbing. Jacobs was in there the last couple of years and her tree service turned them down as it's a lot of climbing. She knows if you guys make a few phone calls, you will find some tree services that are out there that are only out two or three weeks so do your homework.

Mr. Brown said the next meeting is Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. The meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.