

## Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022  
Time: 1:05 p.m.  
Location: Lower Saucon Township

Attendance: **Bethlehem Landfill:** Astor Lawson & Cody White; **Hanover Engineering:** Scott Brown; **Staff Member:** Stacy Werkheiser; **Council Liaison:** Jason Banonis; **Present Member:** Hazem Hijazi; **Absent Member:** Neil Ortwein.

Astor Lawson reviewed the monthly tonnages:

|                       | <u>January</u>  | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u>    |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| MSW                   | 18,149.52       | 22,018.68       | 28,042.60       |
| C&D                   | 2,921.35        | 1,117.63        | 5,186.87        |
| Residual (Total)      | 4,896.24        | 2,952.30        | 2,788.01        |
| Asbestos              | 0.00            | 0.00            | 0.00            |
| Alternate Daily Cover | 3,554.02        | 4,211.96        | 3,470.23        |
| Sewage Sludge         | 465.11 (1.5%)   | 399.41 (1.2%)   | 714.29 (1.7%)   |
| Out of State (Total)  | 11,707.70 (39%) | 20,990.17 (68%) | 28,138.29 (70%) |
| Recycle               | 1(100%)         | 5(80%)          | 2 (100%)        |

Astor reviewed the Form U Submittals for March. Those were Klomax, LLC (Asbestos-Containing Waste) approved March 2022 and DSM Nutritional Product (Blasting Abrasive/Residue) approved on March 22, 2022.

Astor said the Groundwater 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter sampling event was completed at the end of February, and the list of correspondence that came in to Lower Saucon Township (LST) which included the Odor Complaint Log, PADEP, Hanover Engineering Reports, Flare Plan Approval, and LST notes. Mr. Hijazi asked a question (inaudible) about the what is being received on the Form U's. Mr. Brown said he gets them as well, and if there is something unusual, they will flag it. Mr. Banonis said he has not seen any that have been flagged for any particular issues. Mr. Brown said no, it has all been stuff that they have been accepted before. It may be a different producer, but the same material.

Mr. Marshall also said he received a comment about a new odor similar to animal waste. Astor said there were two complaints in the odor complaint log that were manure. Since he has been with the landfill, Astor said he went back and looked historically and at this time every year, the farms spray manure on the farms (he isn't quite sure of the process or how to say it). Astor said the DEP inspector (Matt Vipond) came out and spoke with the resident, and the landfill went out as well, and the inspector came to the landfill and went all around and everyone was confident it was manure except the resident. Astor said after reviewing timelines, it seems to be end of March/early April is when they spread the manure. Some residents realize it is the manure on the farms, but others do not. Mr. Banonis said Ms. deLeon brought this up yesterday – she said someone, maybe more than one person, had talked to her about it and he said he would bring it up. Mr. Marshall said she had also mentioned it to him. Astor said if you look at the log, he feels the report by Mr. Vipond is pretty descriptive and read the following “reporting manure-type odor, has noticed this a few times. This might be sludge coming to the landfill”. Astor said he thinks that was just the complaint they had in there. Unfortunately, they did not provide much information about it in their visit, but when you see the inspection report, it should be in there. Mr. Hijazi asked if they are receiving sludge, and Astor said yes, and in fact they looked that day and they did not receive any that particular day. When they do receive it, it gets buried immediately – Astor said it is a very small amount being 1% of their total waste stream. Astor said whatever they do take, it is a small amount. Mr. Banonis said it was suggested by Ms. deLeon that perhaps the landfill is using the sludge as cover, and he is assuming that is not the case and asked Astor to address this. Astor said the Synagro, they call it a sludge derivative, it is an approved alternative daily cover (ADC), it is non-odorous, or it's not supposed to have odor. It has had an odor as of late, but it is a totally different odor – it's almost like a burnt rubber type of odor. Scott Brown stated the word transmission. Astor said that it was smelled last time Scott Brown was on site, and they

Landfill Committee Minutes  
April 21, 2022

backed down on it a little bit until they figured it out because it didn't have odor for a while, but this last month or two they noticed it a little bit more. Mr. Hijazi asked if they used it as a cover, and Astor said yes, it is an ADC, and it is approved by PADEP and it is all submitted. Scott Brown added that the day he smelled it, it was being mixed with the soil and they were spreading it out added to the top of (inaudible). Astor said that is the blackwood material that they use for that with the compost – the Synagro is only for ADC. Astor said they do mix it with the soil as it can be slick to give some stability to the dozers so they don't slide on the slopes, but otherwise it is used on the flat. Astor said that is approved, and a totally different odor.

Astor reviewed PADEP Air Quality inspections on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Host Municipal was on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> with Scott Brown.

The following was also reviewed:

Commercial Waste Vehicles: 3,284 in March. They had 60 Overweights, 50 warnings, gave out 10 suspensions.

Flare: Outages due to power outages from PP&L, thermocouples replaced, and reset flare for auto tune. Astor added that he wasn't sure if they are aware, but PP&L is replacing the power lines along Applebutter Road and every now and then the landfill's power is shut off. Mr. Hijazi asked how many hours they were down? Cody said they received a report for total time down between all those dates, and said the longest was the thermocouple for 2 hours from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Mr. Hijazi asked if they can include the down time on the reports in the future. He said if it is a lot of dates, and adding the hours for the whole month, it gives perspective. Cody said he did in the last report but not this month.

North Slope: No repairs needed.

Abatement and Leachate Systems: Both continue to work properly.

Radiation Monitoring: There were 2 radioactive loads for March. One on March 22<sup>nd</sup> which was detected Iodine-131 and on March 31<sup>st</sup>, load was detected as Technecium-99 and both loads were disposed of on site.

Mr. Marshall asked how they get the leachate to the waste water treatment plant? Astor said it is a direct-line sewer as the sewage plant is close.

The Southeastern Realignment Construction Activities: Waste operations were still in SE-2AB Phase I in March, and that was finished up in March. Phase II started in April. The Cell 4-F is part of the final capping, getting that up to grade, and they are out of that now.

The Leachate numbers were provided in the packet.

Scott Brown did an inspection on this morning, and there was a lot of activity going on between PP&L out on Applebutter Rd. There were no odors along Applebutter Road except at the Waste Water Treatment Plant back to the Freemansburg Bridge in the direction the wind was blowing. He said they made very substantial progress on cleaning out the sedimentation ponds, the one directly adjacent to the South of the office. The rest of the facility looked in good shape, there was a little bit of windblown litter and there were pickers taking care of that. Other than that, it is looking good.

Mr. Hijazi stated he was not able to attend the last meeting, and he said Astor reviewed the March information but there is January and February data, and he asked in those two months if there was anything unusual or that needed to be referenced. Astor said no. As far as what they have going on in the fill, they have all of their projects as stated at the beginning of April, they started the basin cleanouts, continuing to work on the final capping, they completed the cell. End of February/early March they finished the actual construction of the cell. Last week, they received the certificate to go into the cell, and these are the biggest things to note. Astor said from February to March, there was an uptick of out-of-state waste, but he expected to see that drop back down because that was more of an intercompany situation. The other things he wanted to put on the radar after, and he did speak with Chief Barndt about this. Both Matt Vipond, their enforcement, and Astor noticed that there is a section off of Ringhoffer Rd. where there is some illegal dumping going on. There is one spot that they went and cleaned up. Chief had a Corporal go out to the site, and it is actually the City of Bethlehem. Astor wanted to make them aware should they receive any complaints. Astor believes he (Chief or Corporal)

Landfill Committee Minutes  
April 21, 2022

was going to reach out to them and let them know there was illegal dumping going on. Astor said if there are any more issues, they will go pick it up. It is located just before Sherry Hill Road. The contents were a bunch of clothes, and sadly, it looked like most of it could have been donated.

Astor also said they continue with the demolition of some of the houses on Applebutter Road. They are waiting for some of the permits to do stuff on Skyline, but that goes with some of the stuff they started last year with the complaints from some of the properties. This is moving forward now that the weather is better. Mr. Hijazi asked if all of the inspections from January, February, and March were all good? Scott Brown said there were no new violations, and Astor confirmed that as well. Astor said the only one they had was in January where they went over the surface emissions, and that had to do more with their future than current because they are adding new materials to the plans that they also added to Chrin and Keystone landfill. The DEP itself wants to basically increase the landfill's frequency for surface emission monitoring from quarterly to monthly, but it is not just Bethlehem. Astor said it is a new thing they are doing across the board to everyone. They started with Chrin, then Keystone second, and now they have been added. Mr. Hijazi asked if they will be doing it monthly now? Astor said they will be with the approval of the Northern Realignment. Astor said they want them to do monthly surface emissions, submit isopachs, and colored maps. Mr. Hijazi said it is more, but more protection from the complaints. Astor said they discussed it with Roger Bellas, and they are for it. Mr. Banonis asked if there was an update on the realignment? Astor said nothing official, but he hoped to hear something soon. Mr. Hijazi asked if there was any update on the gas being used. Astor said there is construction on the pad, built a retaining wall, that is why the power is out today because they are relocating the transformer box. It is moving along and they anticipate to start at the end of QTR 1 of 2023. Mr. Marshall asked if this was for methane collection? Astor said yes, right now they are flaring but they are building and RND plant. They will take the gas, scrub it, pipe it over to UGI and put it back on the grid for gas. Mr. Marshall asked for a timeline. Astor said around end of QTR 1 2023 or early QTR 2 – about a year from now. Mr. Banonis asked if they were provided data as to how many households would benefit - how much gas would go into the system that consumers will use? Astor did not know, but Mr. Banonis said it would be interesting to know. Astor said he knows he did it with the power plant, so he curious what they say for the gas. Astor said he will find out.

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m. The next meeting is July 21, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.