

Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, July 21, 2022
Time: 5:05 p.m.
Location: Lower Saucon Township

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

Astor Lawson reviewed the monthly tonnages:

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
MSW	25,077.32	24,732.32	24,474.75
C&D	6,310.04	5,009.96	5,546.46
Residual (Total)	1,066.60	1,219.50	2,867.26
Asbestos	0.00	0.00	0.00
Alternate Daily Cover	2,947.27	2,584.41	2,950.06
Sewage Sludge	631.46 (1.7%)	743.64 (2.2%)	810.00 (2.2%)
Out of State (Total)	10,296.95 (29%)	21,887.61 (63.8%)	22,816.68 (62.2%)
Recycle	6 (83.33%)	7 (85.71%)	4 (75%)

Astor reviewed the Form U Submittals for June. Those were Port Imperial LLC (Contaminated Soil) approved June 2022, Semmel Excavation LLC (Contaminated Soil) approved June 2022, NYC School Construction Authority (Contaminated Soil), Gregory Packing Inc. (Plant Trash), Avantor Performance Materials (Contaminated Soil).

Astor said the 2nd Quarter sampling event was scheduled and happened May 23rd to May 27th. For the May correspondence we have the Bethlehem Landfill (BL) Odor Complaint, and today we turned in the Q2 Facility Report as well as the Host Fee check. In April we turned in the Residual Waste Report for Q1, the Abatement Well Report for March 1st, and the BL Odor Report as well.

PA DEP and Host Municipal inspection dates for all three months were reviewed. He said there has been an improvement with the DEP inspections; they have been happening more frequently. He said they have been good inspections for the most part, and the Landfill Committee has seen all of them as they come through. Jason asked, generally, what sort of feedback is the BL getting back from DEP in April, May, and June. Astor said for most of the months they were out, they were all good. He said there was one hiccup in March or April with the cover, but this was something the BL was already transparent about because they were hauling in soil from Brads to get the cover stockpile up. Otherwise, they are generally pretty happy. Astor said there have been no odor complaints since May 14th. Jason mentioned it has been two months so that's good. Especially during the summer when people are outside, weather is warmer, and there is more humidity. Astor agreed this would be prime time if they were to receive. Astor mentioned that two of them listed, and after speaking with the DEP inspector, they were from the manure from the farms on the other side of the river. Astor said the DEP inspector was pretty confident the odor was coming from the farms and not the BL. Astor said since he has been with the BL, and historically, the farmers seem to put this out in April/early May and this same thing happened the prior year. Jason said he thinks a big part of the improvement is that the cells closest to Steel City were closed.

Astor reviewed the final capping schedule. They should be caught up by the end of the summer with the schedule they gave DEP, and moving forward, they will be covering the sections in a timely manner as they

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should have been prior to Astor joining the BL. There will be liner over everything in the summer, and they will be in line with the schedule they gave the DEP when the BL received the Notice of Violation.

Astor reviewed the total trucks for each month in April (2930), May (2816), and in June (2953).
Overweights: April (45), May (68), and June (42). Warnings: April (41), May (53), and in June (38)
Suspensions: April (4), May (15), and in June (5)

Jason asked if they can contribute anything to the uptick in May. He also noted that the volume went up a bit in May, and then June dropped back down. Astor said it depends on how much companies are educating their haulers. The BL provides handouts and education such as the Traffic Compliance Plan and the Overweight Rules. They have seen the numbers drop since they have been pushing more education out, but every now and then they have companies or truck drivers that try to ignore it, so they will receive a suspension for 3 days and then they start to pay attention. Astor said the suspensions do help, and that is why he thinks the numbers went back down in June. Jason asked if they are suspended from all Waste Connections facilities, or just yours? Astor said it would just be theirs in PA. If the truck driver chose to go to Brads Landfill near Pottsville, they actually fine them because they are responsible for the truck.

Astor reviewed the flare and noted there were no shutdowns for June and the flow was 3,466 SCFM. Cody reviewed when flare was down. Astor recalled Haj had asked for this information at last meeting.

- April: 7 hours and 48 minutes., which is less than 1% of total down time for the entire month which was 720 hours.
- May: 2 hours and 44 minutes, which is less than 1% of total down time for the entire month which was 744 hours.

Cody said the down time is practically negligible for what is going on that month.

- June: No downtime.

Cody said May's average flow was 3,247.

Astor added that last month he was asked about the gas plant coming online and he looked in to. The equivalent of what that will power is about 14,000 homes. Astor explained they extract the methane from the landfill, and Archaea is building a plant to take the gas from the landfill and will clean it, and then sell it into the pipeline until UGI or another utility....Peter asked what exactly is done to it? Astor said that Archaea would be able to break it down better as the exact process, but in layman's terms they take the gas, scrub it/clean it, and send it to a utility company via the pipeline. Astor explained this also decreases emissions to keep the gas from leaving the landfill and going into the atmosphere, creating odors, and other the other side of it, it is also providing sustainable energy, providing revenue to the BL and the Township. Peter added this is good.

Scott Brown reviewed his inspection that took place the morning of the meeting. He said Applebutter Rd. is in good shape, and the only odor he had was at the wastewater treatment plant that went up to the Freemansburg bridge area which is close to Steel City. He reviewed road condition: light dust (Jason added it has been very dry and Scott confirmed), no litter – just a few bottles but nothing to speak of as it would be the same as any other road. The installation of the posts for the permanent fencing is complete which is south of the active landfill disposal area. The netting will be going up next. The south slope capping material is down, and then north slope is graded and ready to continue. He also noticed something good on the reports. The LMC-8, the secondary flow, is dropping way off which is good. Astor said he thinks most of that equates to the stormwater as it has been dry. Scott said it had been a little bit of issue in the past in the prior months. Scott said he isn't sure if it has been finishing off that part of that cell and tying it in as there is not seam there anymore.

Scott said the landfill in general is in very good shape. It looks clean, there is the small construction area where they are doing an active filling. They are correcting one part of the one area that was overfilled with waste and they are removing that and getting it down to the proper grade and disposing of it in the new waste area. Other than those two activities, that is it for the construction going on.

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Astor mentioned that DEP has gone fully electronic with their reports, and he wanted to know if we can accept reports on a CD, email a PDF, Dropbox rather than delivering them in a binder. The information submitted with be the same, but to provide it digitally. Astor said he believes the Host Agreement states that it needs a binder and 8 CDs and this is dated 2001. Astor said with most places, and even with the DEP, they want all digital and no paper. Discussion regarding transitioning to digital took place. Jason asked if anyone wanted a copy, the files could be transferred to a USB and that would be better for both. Astor added the date would be searchable. Astor added most are quarterly, and the big one is the Groundwater Report at 15,000 pages in 3 binders that is delivered to the Township. Jason asked what the 8 CDs were for that they submit, and Astor said he believed they were for Council, Township Manager, Township Engineer, and two committee members. Storage at BL was discussed since they are already digital.

Jason asked Township Staff to look in to this, and establish a process. Peter also added he things we should try it. Astor said he is happy to provide the report in any format, and added we are the only place receiving hard copies.

Astor stores the data on server, and we would also have electronically. Peter asked how far back records go because we have a lot of binders on site. Astor said some items are 7-year retention but others are life of the site, which is a lot of stuff that is delivered to LST. Astor said they have all records that LST would have in paper, and we can work together to get digital copies with him over time. Jason gave example that DEP may need it for any environmental issue in the future to see what happened in the past. Peter asked wouldn't they go to BL directly. Astor confirmed yes, and DEP would mostly have the data too. Jason said our interest in having the data may be financial regarding an audit review regard the Host Fee to compare the tonnage vs. revenue.

All agreed CDs will be submitted by BL to LST going forward. Astor said let's discuss how it is going at next meeting, and Jason agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting is October 20, 2022 @ 1:00 p.m.