

WASTE COMMISSION OF SCOTT COUNTY  
COMMISSION MEETING

Scott Area Recycling Center  
5640 Carey Avenue  
Davenport, IA. 52807

April 3, 2025

Members Present: Ken Beck (Scott County), Bob Gallagher (Bettendorf), Anthony Heddlesten (Riverdale), and Sally Rodriguez (Buffalo).  
Member Present via Zoom: Tim Kelly (Davenport)

Ken Beck called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of February 6, 2025. Sally Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Gallagher moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and Revenue/Expenditure Summary. Bryce Stalcup reported the treasurer's report fund balance through February 28, 2025, as of \$10.8 million. Stalcup reported overall revenue is up at 78% of the budget at 67% of the year, and overall expenses are down at 64% of the budget at 67% of the year. Stalcup highlighted that the Recycling Center revenue is below budget at 61% due to a loss of material from a hauler, but expenses have also been reduced. Stalcup shared that the operating expense is higher than the previous year. Stalcup explained this is due to more leachate management and hauling it to the wastewater treatment facility, and the increase in electronic material to refurbish in the reuse program at the Electronics Recovery Center with a new contract. Stalcup reported that debt services are up due to optical payments for the next seven years. Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heddlesten moved to approve the invoices. Stalcup noted large expenses and highlighted expenses for Altorfer Machinery Company for two bulldozers, Closed Loop for optical and cart payments, Housby Heavy Equipment, LLC for End Loader, Iowa DNR for solid waste fees, and Iowa Communities Assurance Pool for General Insurance. Heddlesten asked if there is any concern of losing insurance coverage in our industry with the increased risks of fires. Stalcup responded that measures have been put into place, such as the Fire Rover, and with low claims, we do not see any red flags for the immediate future, but it is continually monitored. Beck asked if the end loader was a new or used model. Brian Seals, Deputy Director, responded that the purchased end loader was a late model 2024 that still remained available with warranty. Beck requested information on the purchase from One Step. Megan Fox, HR & Communications Manager, responded that it was for the Bettendorf 2025 Calendar Mailer project and that the fees are reimbursed back from the City of Bettendorf. Beck asked for information on vendor purchase from R&R Repair, LLC. Stalcup responded that R&R Repair owns Excel balers, and this purchase was for pumps for the Excel baler at the Recycling Center. Beck asked for clarification on Southwestern Sales Company. Seals responded that it was for the purchase of two tarps for the tarp machine at the Scott Area Landfill. Beck requested information on the purchase from Vermeer Iowa & N. Missouri. Stalcup responded that it was for the approved purchase of a skid steer for the Recycling Center. Gallagher asked about the audit costs and if the payment to Eide Bailly, LLP for \$24,800 was for the full cost of the audit or partial. Bobbi Draheim, Finance & Administrative Services Manager, responded that it was a partial invoice with the full audit expected to be around \$39,000. No further questions. Gallagher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Stalcup presented the monthly operations and facility report. Stalcup shared an update on the 2025 priorities. Stalcup shared an update on the modification rule that the Iowa DNR came out with earlier in the year that would change the requirements for how a Landfill would need to be closed. Stalcup shared that this would be a significant increase in cost of roughly \$800,000 per year for closure that would

greatly impact the Commission. Stalcup reported that he, along with the Deputy Director and Finance Manager, met with Iowa DNR to go over the new rule and options. Stalcup reported Iowa DNR has rescinded the requirements for the Commission due to previous engagement in a Next Tier program for compliance following the discussion. Stalcup shared that the relationship with the Iowa DNR has always been in good standing, and continued discussions will continue to occur. Stalcup shared the project with WAGA Energy is on schedule with implementation to begin in late summer 2025 and a ribbon cutting with community celebration being planned for Fall 2025. Stalcup reported that personnel policies are being revised and worked on. Stalcup provided a legislative update on a battery bill that is in amendment for review to increase battery recycling and a proposed bill updated for solid waste named as a snowbird bill to opt out of collection services. Bryce shared that this bill will continue to be monitored and may have an impact on collection fees, safety concerns, and heavier traffic on roadways. Stalcup covered MSW numbers are still up from the previous year, and recycling tonnage is down. Stalcup shared the recycling markets are still higher than the last 10-year average, but still remain volatile. Stalcup showed the value per ton of recyclables is currently at \$131.09 and covered the commodity prices per ton. Discussion followed. Stalcup covered the slight increase in electronic tonnage due to a new business partnership that has significantly increased the reuse sales due to the ability to refurbish the business material. Stalcup shared that a partnership has been developed with the Davenport Schools to provide refurbished laptops to students and district staff who may need them, and will be looking for other community partners to give back to the community. Stalcup reported a drafted RFQ for legal services. Stalcup shared he will be reaching out to the Cities for feedback and assistance.

Gallagher moved for Consideration of Audit Services. Draheim reported that audit services have been conducted by Eide Bailly since FY20. Draheim shared that after talking with the finance committee, it is recommended to extend the agreement with Eide Bailly for FY25 – FY29. Draheim shared that there is difficulty finding audit services for government audits, and bids from Eide Bailly were previously lower than others for the services in the bid conducted five years ago. Draheim covered the annual fees for FY25 -FY29, starting at \$40,000 and increasing by \$2,000 each fiscal year through FY29. Heddlesten seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heddlesten moved for Consideration for Fork Truck Recommendation. Stalcup reported the recommendation to purchase an 8,000 lb. Caterpillar electric fork truck to be utilized at the Recycling Campus from Altorfer for the total price of \$80,118 with a 60-month extended warranty. Stalcup covered that this is planned for in the life cycle cost analysis for equipment needs to be replaced within 5-7 years. Beck asked about life expectancy on the batteries of an electric fork truck. Stalcup reported that the advertisement of the battery life expectancy is 7-10 years. Stalcup shared electric fork trucks are utilized at the Electronics and HHM facilities. Beck asked if it is unique to only receive two bids. Stalcup reported that the Commission request was unique due to the pound requirement. Rodriguez seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Stalcup presented on the FY26 Budget for review. Stalcup shared that approval will be requested at the next meeting in June. Stalcup covered Commission program growth and services, including customer numbers, construction plans for Cell 10, electronic reuse program growth, and WAGA Energy opening in FY26. Stalcup covered statewide tip fee comparisons and reported the Commission rate is the lowest Iowa Landfill Tip Fee, but shared the rate has to be highly competitive due to being a border state with Illinois with private landfills. The lower fee helps to keep waste in Scott County. Stalcup shared that the tip fee is a standard increase of 3% to match the city's budget plans. Stalcup shared that in FY26, recycling rates may change with Davenport and Bettendorf, and discussions will be held with the cities to manage and implement a flat recycling rate. Stalcup shared that a fee was not previously applied due to a 2016 agreement for cart payments, but payment will end at the close of FY25. Stalcup shared that the flat fee will remain lower than the cart payment. Stalcup covered the projected fund balances for the beginning of FY26 for closure and post-closure restricted funds, operating and debt reserve, and capital improvement funds. Stalcup highlighted the budgets by facility for revenue and expenses,

sharing that 62% of revenue is from tipping fees and the remaining 36% is for the selling of recyclable commodities. Stalcup shared the payment to fund for equipment replacement, cell development, and closure/post-closure. Stalcup highlighted the expenses that cover operating, personnel, public ed, DNR fees, debt service, and capital expenditures. Stalcup highlighted that cell construction is not a bonded project, and planning is continued so the construction can be paid for without bonds. Stalcup covered the Personnel FTEs budgeted for 69 individuals and the personnel cost of living allowance as 3.50% to align with the City and County cost of living allowance. Stalcup covered the FY26 Budget Summary showing an increased revenue in tip fees, contracts, grant/state reimbursements, but a decrease in recycling revenue. Stalcup shared a decrease in personnel expenses (due to optical install and operational changes) with an increased budget for operating, administrative, and DNR fees. Stalcup covered that the overall fund balance would be decreased by \$1.5 million, but explained that it was planned to cover all the capital expenditure projects. Stalcup shared the FY26 revenue budget with a significant increase anticipated in construction and demolition and special waste, and an increase in the LF Gas contract to manage the portion of the new gas system. Stalcup reported on the operating expense budget, sharing the decrease in the leachate disposal cost due to the recirculation and less leachate being hauled to the wastewater treatment facility. Stalcup mentioned a study that will be conducted to help manage leachate and final alternative options. Stalcup highlighted an increase in reuse costs and explained that this is due to the new business partnership, providing more items available for reuse. Stalcup covered the Administrative expense budget and highlighted the addition of travel and training budget to include additional training for staff to grow staff internally. Stalcup reviewed the DNR Fees that are based on the tonnage that is received. Stalcup covered the cell construction, equipment replacement and capital improvement plan, and funds. Stalcup covered the summary of fund balance for operating, capital improvement, closure, and post-closure, operating and debt reserve that is projected for the end of FY26.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the Scott Area Recycling Center. There was no public comment.

Heddlesten moved to adjourn. Gallagher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.