

MINUTES

**Scotland County Board of Commissioners
Landfill Work Session, November 21, 2005
Scotland County Annex, 231 East Cronly Street, Laurinburg, NC**

At 4 p.m., Chairman J.D. Willis called the Landfill Work Session to order. Commissioners in attendance: Chairman Willis, Vice Chair Betty Blue Gholston and Commissioners Leon Butler, Charles "Scoofer" Jordan and Joyce McDow. Commissioners not in attendance: Commissioners John Alford and Clarence McPhatter. Staff in attendance: County Manager John A. Crumpton, Finance Officer/Assistant County Manager Kevin Patterson, County Attorney Edward Johnston and Clerk to the Board Ann W. Kurtzman. Commissioner Jordan delivered the opening prayer.

Chairman Willis welcomed everyone in attendance. He said there would be a slight change in the agenda, and the Commissioners would go into a brief closed session.

Motion was made by Commissioner Jordan and duly seconded by Commissioner McDow to go into Closed Session held in accordance with N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6) to consider qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointments, or conditions of initial employment of a present or prospective public officer or employee. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Closed Session was held in the County Manager's Office.

OPEN SESSION RESUMED

Commissioner Alford was in attendance when the Landfill Work Session resumed.

Mr. Paul Crissman, Environmental Programs Manager with the NC Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, discussed the history of landfills in North Carolina, the differences between a lined and unlined landfill and future trends in solid waste.

He said the State started counting garbage in the early 90s. He said garbage by the ton continues to increase every year. He said the State every year is making more garbage on a per capita basis. Mr. Crissman said one person created about one ton of garbage in the early 90s. Today one person creates about 1.25 tons. He said the State goal to reduce municipal solid waste by 40 percent in 2001 did not occur.

Mr. Crissman discussed the State rules and regulations established through the Solid Waste Management Act of 1998, which now governs landfills. He said no unlined landfills are in operation in the State, only lined landfills, which have no groundwater issues like those of unlined landfills. Mr. Crissman said there have been some leachate issues at lined landfills, which have been resolved. He said lined landfills have a great performance and success rate. Mr. Crissman added that groundwater improves because of the State's cap requirement.

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Mr. Crissman discussed the permitting process for a regional landfill, which is lengthy and complex. He outlined how the State goes about inspecting and auditing regional landfills. He said the State has a strong program in place in order to ensure landfill operators are doing what they need to do.

Mr. Crissman said the biggest advantage to importing solid waste is the source of revenue it would create.

Mr. Crissman said a properly managed landfill that receives proper daily cover and is well-compacted presents little in the way of an odor problem. He said birds are attracted to the site because of warmth from the methane, and as a rule, the State has not had a problem with birds.

A question and answer session ensued between Mr. Crissman and the Board of Commissioners.

He said Waste Management works hard and assiduously not to have any infractions because it is in the company's best interest to be good at what it does. The regional landfill owner/operator monitors the site for 30 years after closure, and the State monitors the owner/operator. Mr. Crissman said he is confident in the State cap requirements.

Responding to a concern about how toxic waste is prevented from entering the landfill, Mr. Crissman said there are household toxic wastes that wind up in the landfill but not large-scale industrial waste. He said operators are certified to recognize hazardous waste. Mr. Crissman outlined the screening process for detecting hazardous waste.

Dr. Greg Richardson, Solid Waste Consultant to Scotland County, discussed the municipal solid waste decision and the position that now faces the County. He described landfills as the "cash cow in the solid waste industry."

Dr. Richardson said a municipal solid waste operation provides a revenue stream that allows a community to do other things that it could not otherwise do. He said the governing body must decide to go on doing what it is now doing or work with a company that can bring in the waste. Dr. Richardson said his job is to protect the water from the waste.

Dr. Richardson said the most dangerous landfills are small ones. He said North Carolina is unique because of the high standards imposed upon all landfills that accept municipal solid waste.

Dr. Richardson said if the governing board agreed to host a regional landfill, it would control where the waste comes from and what can be negotiated as a host fee. Other positives, he said, would be in savings provided the landfill took over the current landfill and also accepted the community's municipal solid waste at no cost. "The integrity of the facility will be watched by the State once it is closed," he said. "What would remain after closure would be a robust, wild-engineered hill."

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Dr. Richardson agreed that the main impact of hosting a landfill would be the truck traffic. “You would be gaining an income stream, and the downside is the trucks.” He added the trucks are already evident in the area with I-95 running through the community.

Dr. Richardson said the Commissioners would garner support if its worth it to the community as a whole to host a landfill. He warned that the most resistance would occur once a site is determined.

County Manager John Crumpton outlined the impact a multi-state regional landfill would have on Scotland County.

The transfer station would no longer accept solid waste, which would have a minimal financial impact.

The C and D landfill could continue to operate until it ran out of space.

Yard waste composting would continue to be collected and disposed of separately.

County Manager John Crumpton outlined the impact a multi-state regional landfill would have if it located in Richmond County.

Municipal solid waste would probably no longer be accepted at the transfer station, which could be converted to a maintenance/storage facility. This would affect 1 to 1.5 employees.

The C and D landfill might close earlier than anticipated, which would have a large financial impact on the County and affect 6.5 employees.

An alternative to yard waste composting would have to be determined since there would be no revenue from the local landfill to subsidize the operation.

Mr. Crumpton provided the Commissioners with a Scotland County Landfill Benefits summary based on the acceptance of 3,000, 4,000 and 5,000 tons a day.

The County Manager said he and Chairman Willis received a letter from Republic, who would like to submit a proposal to site, permit, develop and operate a regional landfill in Scotland County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Alford and duly seconded by Commissioner Jordan to recess to 7 a.m. November 30, 2005 in the parking lot at 231 East Cronly Street. Vote: Motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann W. Kurtzman
Clerk to the Board

J.D. Willis
Chairman