

Red Hill Community Liaison Meeting



Date:	Wednesday 3 August 2011
Location:	Meeting Room, Red Hill Waste Management Facility
Start Time:	6:00 pm
Finish Time:	7:15 pm

Attendees

Community Members

- Jenny Johnson (JJ)
- Stuart Holmes (SH)
- Patricia Holmes (PH)
- Jeane Reed (JR)
- Dennis Reed (DR)
- Geoff Knights (GK)
- Phil Langley (PL)

EMRC Staff

- Brian Jones, Director Waste Management Services (BJ)
- Tanya Beinhauer, Site Manager Red Hill (TB)
- Steve Fitzpatrick, Manager Project Development (SF)
- Rachael Lovegrove, Manager Waste, Environmental Operations (RL)
- Ben Rowland, Environmental Advisor (Waste Services) (BR)

Apologies

- Peter Jensen

Budget

- BJ advised residents that Council adopted the 2011/2012 budget on 21 July.

Litter

- TB is currently in the process of obtaining quotes for the installation of CCTV cameras at the gate of the Red Hill Facility.
- BJ has contacted Main Roads about additional signage stating Red Hill opening times on Today Road. Main Roads response was unsupportive due to issues of driver distraction and the City of Swan officers indicated concerns that the lay by could be used to dump litter if drivers realised the site would be closed.

Litter Blowing Off Transpacific Trucks

- BJ has forwarded GK's previous complaint to Transpacific.
- GK stated that BJ's previous suggestion of obtaining the license plate numbers of offending trucks is difficult due to the speed of the oncoming traffic. BJ suggested that if the time is noted this

could be matched with the Red Hill Weighbridge times and the offending truck could still be identified.

- GK also stated that Keep Australia Beautiful, the City of Swan and the police have been ineffective in regards to this issue and rubbish blowing off trucks has been “a buck passing exercise” between agencies. He stressed that this issue needs to be addressed as far as possible and that one possible solution may be installing cameras in public areas.

Illegal Tippings

- Another incident of illegal dumping was mentioned to have occurred at the lay by at the junction of Roland Road/Toodyay Road.

Noise

Landfill Gas and Power Noise

- SF provided an update on the noise study in relation to Landfill Gas and Power (LG&P). SF stated that silencers were installed at LG&P after a noise study was conducted in 2008, however further noise assessments were not done until the recent EMRC noise study. Since the results of the EMRC noise study, LG&P have undertaken further assessments and acknowledge that modifications need to be undertaken to the roof exhaust fans to reduce noise emissions. SF stated that LG&P were arranging for an acoustic engineer to inspect the fans to advise of the detailed works that need to be carried out to rectify the situation.
- PH stated she was dissatisfied with the night time noise emanating from LG&P. This was seconded by PL who highlighted the level of procrastination on the issue. PH said she is frustrated that she is not able to open the windows at night due to the noise and will go to the DEC if nothing is done (BJ spoke to LG&P on 9 August regarding this issue).
- BJ suggested that residents should email LG&P to encourage them to act and confirmed that LG&P are creating more noise than allowable.
- PL asked whether noise is a DEC regulation issue. BJ replied that it was, however an early morning phone call to LG&P may be a more efficient way of getting fast action.

Red Hill Machinery Noise

- TB reported there had been a complaint regarding noise from the site. TB had gone over to the complainant's property but no one was home and she was unable to confirm the source of the noise. However, she did note that there was construction work being undertaken on a nearby property.

Odour

- JR reported that there was a strong odour detected at her residence on the eastern boundary at 2pm that afternoon. TB advised that it may be possible that this odour came from the Greenwaste Area. TB would check with the Site Supervisors what operations were occurring around that time and report back.

Fauna

- BJ requested the latest Ibis numbers from BR. BR advised that the latest count was about 30 Ibis on site.

- TB advised the community members present that a litter of new baby bandicoots had been seen onsite. In response to a query regarding cats, she stated that three to four feral cats have been caught onsite within the last six months and that these cats arrive on site in the skip bins.

Dead Long-Necked Turtles

- RL advised that three dead Long-Necked Turtles were found by PL in the dam in Christmas Tree Creek. The dead animals had been sent to the Animal Health Laboratories for pathology and toxicology tests. The pathology tests showed no signs of trauma or predation and the liver tissue analysis showed no toxic levels of metals or minerals. Further tests were conducted for botulism as this is a common cause of death in turtles. Results showed that the botulism toxin was present in all three animals and was determined as the cause of death. RL explained that botulism is prevalent in most soils and will proliferate under the right conditions (i.e. low water levels with high levels of decaying organic matter).
- PL thanked RL for the prompt response and follow up on the issue.

Revegetation

- RL advised that 1.2 hectares have been rehabilitated on the Class III, Stage 12 landfill cell with 3,500 native tubestock and over seeding of native herbaceous varieties. Though a few of the seedlings had been eaten by kangaroos there are signs of new growth and recent rains are likely to improve the survival rate.

Groundwater

- RL advised that the June groundwater sampling round has been completed. The new bores within the National Park have been commissioned and no contamination was found near Christmas Tree Creek. The contaminant levels in these new bores are below the recommended freshwater guidelines and the plume is receding.

Water Corporation

- BJ stated that the Water Corp project has not progressed since the previous meeting and is unsure when the trials will commence.

Resource Recovery

- SF reported that, in late June, presentations were given on anaerobic digestion technology and resulted in a good discussion. Two presentations are available from the EMRC website (www.emrc.org.au/resources.html). Questions and answers will also be provided on the website.
- SF stated that the Community Partnership Agreement has also been completed. Eighteen comments were received to which SF is to respond next week. These comments have resulted in a few adjustments to the Agreement. The Agreement will be presented to Council for endorsement later this month.
- SF also reported that the baseline modeling for the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) was

finalised on 31 July. EMRC has not been presented with the results yet, however once they have been received, they will be discussed at a Community Liaison Meeting. SF has met with DEC regarding this modeling. The environmental scope was discussed at an EPA board meeting and it was suggested that this should be amended and restricted to two technologies. The EPA will also commit to an assessment timeline. Public review is expected to occur late this year or early next year.

- BJ reported that EMRC will most likely borrow money for funding the RRF and since EMRC's member councils would have to guarantee loans the quantum is dependent on future council boundaries and populations within the boundaries.
- PL asked what were the current opinions on energy capture/production technology for Red Hill. BJ and SF responded that possibly pyrolysis or anaerobic digestion would be used, however cost is an important consideration. A range of factors will be considered through the tender process and proven technologies will be weighed up.
- SF stated that there was currently \$30 to \$40 million in reserve for the RRF, but there could possibly be up to \$80 to \$100 million required.
- The Council would prefer to own the Facility so operating costs could be contained.
- Incineration is viewed as the most expensive technology. SF stated that it is a proven technology, however it is also the most controversial and requires substantially larger volumes of waste than those being received at Red Hill to be economically viable.

Other Business

- SF reported that a feasibility study was being conducted on importing scheme water up Toodyay Road to Red Hill. BJ added that we currently use on-site water storage and water from Midland Brick.
- GK mentioned that there was soil on Toodyay Road leading from Red Hill's entry gate. He questioned whether trucks are using the on-site tyre wash. TB said that she would investigate.
- GK also asked when the last clean up of Toodyay Road took place. TB replied that the road has not been cleaned for some time and she will contact the Justice Department to see if labour could be allocated. She will also contact Main Roads about the frequency of the contractor cleanups. Main Roads can be contacted on 138 138. GK stated that Main Roads don't seem to care and that the litter problem along Toodyay Road is not going away.
- GK also mentioned from GPA feedback, that residents were being told by Red Hill staff that they were overloading their trailers with mulch which was coming across as being overly miserly with their free exchange of mulch volumes. TB said she will talk to staff about trailer mulch volumes and emphasized that as long as the trailer load is within limits there should be no problem.

Actions

- SF to contact Dave Veeney (LG&P) in regards to progress on noise attenuation works on the rooftop exhaust fans.
- TB to check with Red Hill Site Supervisors as to what operations were occurring at the time of the odour complaint.
- SF to respond to comments made on the Community Partnership Agreement.
- TB to investigate if trucks are using the tyre washdown bay prior to leaving site and whether the tyre washdown is in good working order.
- TB to call the Justice Department and Main Roads to organize a clean up of Toodyay Road.
- TB to talk to Red Hill staff regarding the filling of trailers with mulch.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held:

Date: Wednesday 5 October 2011

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Meeting Room, Red Hill Waste Management Facility

Please RSVP to Lauren Panizza for catering purposes:

Phone: 9424 2228

Email: lauren.panizza@emrc.org.au