



**MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Upper Valley Waste Management Agency met in special session on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the Yountville Town Council Chambers. Chair Mohler called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Chair Mohler, Member Cooper, Vice Chair Cottrell (arrived during Public Comment) and alternate member Chouteau; Member Pedroza was excused.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Mohler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

During this period, anyone who wishes to speak to the Authority Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction that is not on the agenda or to request consideration to place an item on a future Board agenda, may do so at this time. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation.
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL TAKE NO ACTION AS A RESULT OF ANY ITEM PRESENTED AT THIS TIME.

Geoff Ellsworth, former Mayor of St. Helena, commented on his concerns on various UVDS White Hall Lane issues. He also provided his notes as a handout.

Elaina Trucker, resident of the City of Napa, stated she wanted this board to know she supports the landfill closure and is closely watching the closure proceedings.

Frank Leeds, neighbor at White Hall Lane for many years, stated lack of continued oversite is concerning.

Dane Cook, 16510 Cabernet Lane, mentioned the very loud noise disturbance and odors coming from the site.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

Public Comment:

Sandy Thompson, 1457 S. White Hall Lane. Suggested a change to the minutes regarding the adoption of rates. The Board did not request a revision to the minutes.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of the June 24, 2024, regular meeting minutes.

B. BOARD MEETING DATES - 2025

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval and Adoption by the Board of the proposed meeting schedule for calendar year 2025.

C. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) FOR FOOD RECOVERY INSPECTIONS

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval and authorization for Agency Manager to sign a MOU for Napa County of Napa Planning, Building and Environmental Services, Solid Waste division, to conduct SB 1383 mandated food recovery Tier 1 and Tier 2 generator inspections for Upper Valley Waste Management Agency (UVWMA).

Approved Consent Calendar items 5A, 5B, & 5C: AnneC, SC, MM, and AnnaC.

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6. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Staff to provide an update on the status of activities relevant to the Act.

Agency's staff, Amanda Griffis, summarized staff report and highlighted some sections of the agenda report.

Alternate Member Chouteau asked if the household hazardous and electronic waste collection event happens in St. Helena as well and why did it not happen this year?

Amanda responded that the St. Helena event took place at the Rutherford facility and that it occurred in the Spring (April) 2024 and was a combo event for the first time with Hazardous and Electronic Waste and Shredding.

Alternate Member Chouteau asked where the additional location for organics disposal would be, if everybody complies and volumes exceed local capacity?

Amanda responded the location is Quackenbush in Clear Lake.

Vice Chair Cottrell asked about how the lid flip audits are trending and how are the findings and education being shared with those residential/commercial accounts?

Amanda responded that when bins get tagged during the audit that many times the customer reaches out to the Company directly on how to then comply. Commercial audits do receive one-on-one feedback.

Public Comment:

Chris Malan asked about the new state bill on the single use plastic bags and if there is a campaign in Napa County to ban single use bags. What is being done to comply with the requirements of that bill?

Steve responded that SB54 recently passed but it is very early in the process, and it is still in the process of implementing the regulations that CalRecycle is trying to put together. Most of these regulations go towards the (bag and packaging) producers and changing the packaging they create. There will also be some requirement for waste haulers to collect new recyclables, which will be done, as required. The problem being there is no market for some of these items that the bill requires we collect. We will do what's required and collect them as required but there is no place to send them.

7. FRANCHISES' BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Franchises' Status

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager and Company to provide an update concerning the implementation of franchises' activities.

Agency Manager, Steve Lederer introduced this item. Steve also clarified the duties of this agency, during the closure process.

Company's Carlos Ramirez presented and reported on new technology being implemented on their trucks to identify overfilled containers.

Chair Mohler asked for clarification on "overage waste" and how is it handled.

Company's Carlos Ramirez explained this is anything beyond what the bin can hold below the lid line.

Anything sticking above the bin's lid that does not allow the lid to close, that generates an overage fee that is estimated based on overage amount noted by driver (and now the new cameras).

Public Comment:

Frank Leeds, asks if these new cameras will record garbage and leaks from the trucks on the highway?

Company's Carlos Ramirez responded these cameras are specifically to capture the overages.

Company's Adam Gooderham also added these cameras will help deter poor garbage habits of overfilling and added their trucks are one of the newest fleets in all of California and these trucks do not have any of the issues mentioned.

Geoff Ellsworth adds he hopes the new Company will have better solutions to issues and is hopeful the public's suggestions are recognized to allow for all to work together.

Adam Gooderham, Division Vice President for Waste Connections, presented on the status of the Clover Flat Landfill. Dave Brown, Engineer for Waste Connections discussed the permit process and next steps.

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Chair Mohler asked for more info on the State Closure fund.

Company's staff explained the existing Financial Assurance process for ensuring there are funds to close and then maintain the closed landfill.

Chair Mohler asked about the mentioned required public hearings and where will they take place?

Company's staff explained these are under County jurisdiction and there will be several public hearings as required by County administrative processes.

Vice Chair Cottrell asked about the volume of traffic on the buyback redemption area and recycle center.

Company's staff responded that non mandatory recycling will continue until landfill closure. The buyback center receives plenty of foot traffic, but company is running out of space. One solution is the successful mobile buyback which is happening at a sister location in Ukiah. Goal being to reduce the foot traffic to the landfill.

Vice Chair Cottrell asked if CalRecycle, Water Board, and LEA will have oversight on the Financial Assurance process and will they be part of the closure.

Company's staff responded yes; each agency will monitor the process.

Vice Chair Cottrell asked if Company could confirm that there are active investigations at the landfill by the various agencies?

Company's staff said there are things they are not allowed to comment on due to the ongoing investigation.

Alternate Member Chouteau asks if the Company has done an analysis on the number of trucks and VMT associated with the landfill closure.

Company's Adam Gooderham said they have looked into this and noted there will be additional trucks on the roads due to the longer distance to Potrero Hills Landfill.

Member Cooper asked post-closing, what disruptions are to be expected?

Company's Adam Gooderham responded there really should not be any disruptions to collection service.

Member Cooper asked per the franchise agreement will there be any increase in costs?

Company's Adam Gooderham stated any increased costs are at the burden of the company.

Member Cooper mentioned there is some concern about placing the buyback at the Calistoga Fairgrounds.

Company's Adam Gooderham stated that was a location being looked at but still too soon to know. Wherever they decide to locate they will ensure there is no safety issues, including the mobile buyback option.

Chair Mohler added that this contract does note that if solid waste is hauled somewhere else it will not impact rate payers, and this agency has no oversight of the landfill closure.

Chair Mohler asked if staff could respond on mandatory service customers and the option to opt out and to self-haul and to where?

Agency Manager Steve Lederer added we do not tell people where to self-haul. They will just have one less option. We do not regulate self-haul.

Vice Chair Cottrell asked about the methane capture at Clover Flat and electricity being generated for about 800 homes in Calistoga and what will happen to that equipment with the closure?

Company's Adam Gooderham stated the facility currently is not producing enough methane to provide electricity consistently.

Public Comment:

Geoff Ellsworth, former Mayor of St. Helena, stated it is encouraging to see the closure at the landfill for health and safety benefit to the community, UVDS workers, and Napa Valley Watershed and Environment.

Chris Malan, Executive Director of the Institute for Conservation and Advocacy and Education stated she is interested in the use permit modification for Clover Flat.

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Dane Cook, at Cabernet Lane, does not want idled trucks by her property with overloaded items, instead of going to the landfill, due to this closure.

Elaina Trucker, with Sierra Club, asks that the new Company move on to clean operating vehicles due to the increase of trucks needed in our communities and hopes to avoid seeing idling trucks.

Chris Malan, module 5B is the current active module at Clover Flat and right above it is an active landslide that slid into 5B, which she states is a danger to water quality. Suggests to Waste Connections that they monitor this area.

Agency Manager, Steve Lederer mentioned there will be future discussion on the fleet, and to discuss how the closure affects any future changes to White Hall Lane. Other items discussed included rates, confirming garbage has a home, trucks on the road, self-haul, buyback center, and discouraging illegal dumping.

Alternate Member Chouteau asks what happens with the employees (with the closure)?

Company's Adam Gooderham responds they are very transparent with their employees and keep them informed of what is transpiring and all will remain employed to run current operations for at least the next 2-3 years, and then consider offering jobs with their sister companies in the surrounding areas.

Also wanted to comment on the EV comment and mentioned the Company is exploring adding 5 electric collection trucks to the fleet to arrive by 2025 and hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

B. Waste Management Companies' Issues

DISCUSSION ITEM: This is an opportunity for the franchisee(s) to discuss/raise any items of concern they may wish the UVA to consider.

Nothing to report.

8. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Manager's Report

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager to provide a written update on the status of current activities.

Agency Manager, Steve Lederer summarized staff report. He also mentioned the process of sharing any public comments received after the meeting and sharing them with the Board members and also sharing them here at the next meeting.

B. Reports from Jurisdictions

DISCUSSION ITEM: Reports by the member jurisdictions of current information relevant to the Agency:

- i. Napa County: Thank you to Amanda for her assistance with the small winery glass recycling issue and look forward to the solution.
- ii. Calistoga: Looking for direction on creating the required ordinance to comply with the mandatory commercial collection requirements. Agency Manager noted that copies of similar ordinances have been provided to City staff.
- iii. St. Helena: Nothing to report.
- iii. Yountville: Thank you to Calistoga for their part in increasing shredding. Thank you to Amanda for keeping the Board informed on totals received at the various events in each jurisdiction.

C. Future Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEM: Discussion of any items Board members wish to have addressed at a future meeting date.

None

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9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Agency Board of Directors will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 1:30p.m. in the Yountville Town Chambers or as noted.

AYES: Anne C, SC, MM, Aaron Barak

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN (A): _____

ABSENT(B): AP

EXCUSED(X): _____

By: 

ATTEST: Steven Lederer, Manager of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency

KEY

Vote: AP = Alfredo Pedroza; AnnaC = Anna Chouteau; AnneC = Anne Cottrell; HBT = Hillary Bolt Trippe; IL-O = Irais Lopez-Ortega; MM = Margie Mohler; PK = Patrick Kenealy; RG = Ryan Gregory; SC = Scott Cooper;

The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations next to vote: Y = Ayes; N = No; A = Abstain; B = Absent; X = Excused