

DECEMBER 1, 2020

A [Workshop Meeting](#) of the [Board of Lee County Commissioners](#), sitting as the Management & Planning Committee, was held on this date with the following Commissioners present:

Kevin Ruane, Chairman
 Cecil Pendergrass, Vice-Chairman
 Ray Sandelli
 Brian Hamman
 Franklin B. Mann

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Roger Desjarlais opened the conversation by saying that today's meeting will be to discuss how to plan for a full time population of 1 million people in Lee County. He then asked Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer to give a brief overview before turning the meeting over to Doug Whitehead Director of Solid Waste.

PRESENTATION

Topic: Long-Term Planning: Solid Waste

Presented by: Doug Whitehead Director of Solid Waste

BOARD DISCUSSION

Doug Whitehead Director of Solid Waste narrated a detailed [Power Point Presentation](#) on Solid Waste Long-Term Planning for Lee County. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Integrated Solid Waste System Overview
- Short to Medium Term Issues: Compost Management and Curbside Recycling
- Long-Term Plan for Municipal Solid Waste Disposal: Balance between Landfill and Waste-to-Energy (WTE)

Mr. Whitehead gave a comprehensive breakdown on the Lee-Hendry Landfill Final Disposal & Processing Facility day-to-day functions. He also stated that at times of outages due to performing heavy maintenance at the energy plant. The municipal solid waste (MSW) otherwise known as "wet garbage" is taken from Lee County directly to the landfill. The Compost Facility at the Lee-Hendry Landfill creates a soil amendment from mulch and biosolids and creates a state classified AA Fertilizer which is used by growers and nurseries across a three county area. Mr. Whitehead went on to explain why Lee County is a fully integrated system. Lee County processes everything the residents dispose of including: waste from flushing the toilet, wet garbage, recyclables and yard waste and we do it at a very favorable cost to the residents.

He went on to say that if we stay status quo with the current capacity, our recycling and compost capacity in Lee County will be exhausted by approximately 2026. The Lee/Hendry landfill on the garbage and ash side will reach capacity by 2040. Mr. Whitehead stated that Collier County has been asked to make other arrangements for their solid waste needs. Collier County has found a third party and is now trucking their solid waste up I75 to Charlotte County daily at less cost to them. Commissioner Hamman stated that he attended a Florida Association of Counties (FAC) meeting about a year ago and the Water Policy Committee talked about phasing out the practice of composting and land applying. The Commissioner asked Assistant County Manager Glen Salyer to please bring the rest of the Board up to speed on the regulatory requirements. Mr. Salyer briefly spoke about a Legislative Policy that encourages the state to fund exploration of new technology while allowing counties to process waste the way Lee County does.

Mr. Whitehead laid out four options for the Board to consider with the pros and cons of each choice.

The four proposed options brought before the Board today are:

1. Expand landfill capacity with no WTE expansion
2. Expand WTE Facility with no landfill expansion
3. Expand landfill and WTE capacity
4. Transfer excess waste out of County

Staff's recommendation to the Board is as follows:

- Continue Growing Biosolids Composting System
- Explore Feasibility of a South County Material Recycling Facility
- Expand the Lee-Hendry Landfill while Assessing Potential Waste-To-Energy

There was extensive discussion among the Board concerning the different options suggested by Staff. It was agreed that the decision needed to have the least negative impact on the environment as possible. It was agreed that there needs to be additional research into short term and long term revenue streams and expenses. County Manager Roger Desjarlais closed the meeting by stating that Staff would create an agenda report and provide a five (5) year revenue history, a schedule of contracts and an expense report before the Board at the next BoCC meeting on December 15, 2020 in order to codify the discussion today.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:47 p.m.

ATTEST:
LINDA DOGGETT, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Chairman, Lee County Commission