

DEQ changes landfill regulations

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BY: Jerry Abbott

New Department of Environmental Quality regulations requiring increased water monitoring and landfill lining will mean changes in waste disposal in Goshen County, the county commissioners learned at their meeting Tuesday.

Tim Eisenhauer, project engineer at Baker and Associates in Torrington, briefed the commissioners on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, which provides different options for the five parties to the plan: Goshen and Platte counties, Torrington, Wheatland and LaGrange.

The Wyoming DEQ regulations dictate increased water monitoring and the lining of all state landfills. Both the city of Torrington and Torrington Disposal Service will have to line their landfills in the coming years.

Eisenhauer said Wheatland will be out of the landfill business in two to three years. That city's current landfill will be at capacity in three to four years and, based on other studies, it does not have a viable location for a new landfill, according to Eisenhauer.

Baker and Associates' solid waste management plan is due July 1. Every community in the state with active landfills will have to be in compliance with DEQ requirements. Torrington has a determination letter to comply by 2012 to the new requirements.

"Volumes are critical," Commissioner Ross Newman said. "Wheatland is the wild card with what option they pick for solid waste collection, handling and disposal."

Eisenhauer said LaGrange and Guernsey are concerned about the cost of closing existing landfills. When the costs to monitor a closed landfill are added to the cost of picking up solid waste, budget estimates indicate residents' bills can reach \$60-\$70 per month.

DEQ is increasing the frequency of monitoring to quarterly to get better statistical data, according to Eisenhauer. He said LaGrange had three monitoring wells and was required to install four more, which is "a lot" for a town and landfill of that size.

Eisenhauer said that although the changes seem sudden, Wyoming is actually catching up in the area of solid waste management.

"It (increased requirements such as lining landfills) has already happened in other states," Eisenhauer said.

In other action:

In Goshen County Road and Bridge superintendent Gary Korell said the recently repaired section of the Hawk Springs Reservoir Road is holding up well.

He met with Rick Anderson, assistant Superintendent of Guernsey State Park, who is also responsible for Hawk Springs Reservoir. They discussed several topics, Korell said, including the possibility of turning Hawk Springs Recreation Area into a state park, limiting the number of overnight campers and the state parks buying adjoining land to expand the recreation area.

These topics were discussed with Domenic Bravo, Wyoming Parks administrator. Bravo said recreation areas are treated the same way as state parks, so there would be no advantage in changing Hawk Springs Recreation Area to a state park.

According to Bravo, Gov. Dave Freudenthal recently signed legislation that gives the state parks organization the same authority at recreation areas that they have at state parks. The planning arm of the state parks organization designs the number of overnight camping spots based on the individual camping area. Bravo said the number of overnight campers is limited so that all campers can have a "quality camping experience."

He confirmed there are 26 campsites at Hawk Springs Recreation Area. Bravo said state parks is always looking at ways to expand campgrounds to provide more area for the public as well as to provide a buffer between the campground and adjoining areas.

n County engineer Bob Taylor said the prison road could be striped this week. He said 95 percent of the paving on the road was done well. However, he is negotiating a refund for some poor quality areas.

n According to Taylor, he and county attorney Patrick Korell met with the city of Torrington on Monday regarding easements for the community gym project. Taylor said it is not a bad idea to have a 10-foot wide sidewalk around the building for egress from the different exits.

Commissioner Robert Ward said he is concerned about the additional \$30,000 - \$40,000 it would cost to move the sprinkler system and put in the sidewalk. He recommended looking at xeriscape landscaping. Commissioner chairman Jim Hudelson said the cost of moving the sprinkler system and adding a sidewalk could be included in the loan amount needed to renovate the building. He said it would be best to "do it right the first time."

Taylor said additional easements for such things as maintenance of the fire system and HVAC system are needed. He also noted that the city of Torrington is "very concerned" about adequate parking spaces for the facility.

n Taylor and county planner Mel Eaton met with the commissioners about vacating a portion of Main Street in Jay Em. Taylor said 190 feet west of Third Avenue on Main Street was platted but never constructed. Eaton said the Goshen County Planning Commission held a public hearing about vacating this portion of the Jay Em Main Street and five people attended but no objections were raised. There are no lots adjoining the portion of street to be vacated.

The planning commission recommended approval. The commissioners approved Final Plat Jay Em Replat 2009.

n Goshen County Sheriff's Office Capt. Bryan Morehouse briefed the commissioners about filling the county information technology (IT) manager position. Ninety-eight people applied for the position, and Morehouse said a man from Colorado Springs, Colo., has been selected.