

Minutes of the November 7th, 2016 meeting of the Red Lodge Recycling Committee

In Attendance:

Diane Dimich – Chair
Corey Thompson – City Council Representative
Clare Witcomb – Outgoing Secretary
Ed Lambrecht
Gordie Blevins
Heather Iselin
Guest:
Julia Jones – Republic
RLACF Representative – Katelynn Essig

Corrections to minutes from the October 3rd meeting.

The correct spelling for Geordie Blevins is as follows- Gordie Blevins

An employee at Beartooth Industries was let go because of an incorrect statement made about curbside recycling.

Rewind was mentioned at the 10/3/2016 meeting.

Sam Hoffman collecting cooking oil was mentioned at the 10/3/2016 meeting.

Ed moved and Gordie seconded that the minutes of the 10/3/2016 meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Old Business

Julia Jones from Republic explained the existing contract between Republic and the City of Red Lodge.

She explained the current program. (See Katelyn's notes)

Katelyn's notes

Recycling Board Notes

11/7/16

Questions to Julia

1. **How is the current contract billed for garbage pick up?**

Republic Services is responsible for residential trash pick-up for 1,370 homes by way of City contract; paid for via taxes. Outside of the residential contract, commercial businesses pay directly to Republic Services.

1. **What is the current recycling program that some businesses in Red Lodge participate in? Single Stream Recycling? How many businesses in Red Lodge currently participate in some form of contracted recycling through Republic? Is single stream available to residents? and if, so how much does it cost?**

- Wednesday and Saturday open to public
- 6 businesses come during off hours to drop off recycling
- Michael - picks-up 4 businesses

Single stream recycling is an all-in-one recycling option. They take aluminum, tin, plastics 1-7. For residents, it is a twice a month pick-up option for \$15.36 a month. For commercial businesses, Republic will pick up once a week, twice a month, once a month or as needed. Cost for commercial is determined on the size of collector. Currently, there are 26 of the 147 commercial businesses and 5 residents. For every commercial business, \$5 rebate each month goes back to the City for the loss of business at the Recycling Center. There is no residential rebate at this time.

1. **Can we track how much recycling has been hauled out of The Recycling Center over each of the past 5 years?**

- Julia has a spreadsheet to show us how much has been hauled from Red Lodge Recycling going back to 2013. The amount collected is going down. In 2013, our rebate was \$6,830. In August 2016, we've collected \$1,300.

- In 2015, there was a big drop-off likely due to Norm. Republic Services was going to drop off cardboard for it to be bailed but Red Lodge Recycling could not handle the load so they quit doing that and started offering single-stream.

1. Can we track how much recycling has gone out of Red Lodge with the single stream recycling from Republic?

Don't have an answer for this question

1. How much money does Red Lodge receive per pound for aluminum cans, tin, plastic, cardboard, paper, etc? Does Republic expect that number to be stable, increase, or decrease? How much more revenue would the city receive per year if cardboard weight increased 500 pounds a month, or does Republic pay the number of bundles?

Just have a few notes from this

- Price of commodities changes monthly
- Cost of 1 ton of trash to go to the Landfill - \$21
- Cost of 1 ton of Single-stream to be recycling \$91

- Commodity prices

- Mixed plastics – not worth much
- Separate HDE and PTE Plastics - \$115/ton
- Cardboard - \$96/ton
- Plastic Film is worth a good amount but it is hard to do because you need so much quantity

1. What problem(s) does Republic see at the Recycling Center?

- The center needs to work on educating the community and bringing in good commodity.
- Make it simple; keep community members involved
- Prioritize way-finding (signage)

1. Does the cardboard at the Recycling Center have to be baled? Can it just go into big bins at the Recycling Center to be hauled off?

Not sure I have this right - There is no cost benefit to doing this; the commodity needs to be baled.

1. Who gets the revenue from the cardboard that is picked up from our local businesses by Republic and by-passing the Red Lodge Recycling Center? The businesses that use this service already pay a fee to Republic, so do they receive any revenue or a reduced pick-up fee from Republic for providing this service?

For every commercial business paying for single stream recycling, \$5/month goes back to the City.

1. Is there a benefit for the city for the businesses that have the recycling bins? For example, reduced landfill charges.

The current rate of recycling for businesses in Red Lodge is actually cheaper than the trash rate.

1. How often does the city get revenue from Republic for the recyclables picked up from Beartooth Industries?

Once a year

1. Would it be possible to put recycling stations in a couple of places in town, the kind that are semi-trailers with slots for cans, paper, and cardboard? If so, how much would it cost?

We could but it would cost \$300 per lift of a 3-yard bin. Residents could share single-stream bins.

1. Does the city receive money for the 24-hour recycling bins that are located outside Beartooth Industries?

Don't have an answer for this one – yes?

Additional Notes

Costs at The Recycling Center

- \$26,000 paid to the City for employees to work at the Recycling Center
- 3 bailers provided by Republic Services
- \$125/\$150 monthly charge for new bailer

Food for thought

- You could have a City employee bail recycling on off hours at The Recycling Center.
- Not much movement on the Montana state law to reduce waste
- When rolling out a new recycling program, 10% will sign-up for regular recycling and 50% will sign-up for single-stream recycling.
- Residents could share single stream bins
- Re-educate people to pay for recycling
- New Kodiak cans will probably take 6 months to all be replaced

Earth First Recycling in Billings

- Residents receive small Rubbermaid totes that must be sorted - \$14/month

Markets to be tapped into

- Post Office – Republic Services can provide services but is there a law?
- Senior Center
- Elderly community
- Hotels

Ways to increase recycling

- Do a compost collection in town
 - Rocky Mountain Compost in Billings can come down and shred it and take it back
- Can use it in Red Lodge
- Right now, we do a twice a year yard waste pick-up – we could skip this and have a year-round drop-off
- Collect metal at the Recycling Center – Republic could provide a 3 yard dumpster to collect old washers, dryers, etc.

Funding

- TBID – Tourism dollars for infrastructure
- Bottling Association – waste diversion