

Custer County Commissioner Public Hearing
Temporary Closure Stanley Solid Waste Transfer Site
Stanley, Idaho
February 22, 2023

The Public Hearing was opened at 3:00 PM in the Stanley Community Center by Commissioner Chairman Wayne Butts. Those present were Commissioner Wayne Butts, Commissioner Randy Corgatelli, Commissioner Steve Smith, Clerk Lura Baker, Road & Bridge Supt. Brandon Jones, CEDA Administrator Jolie Turek, Acting SNRA Ranger Kate Olsen, Jane McCoy, Deputy Sheriff Greg Pitts, Mike Goitiandia/Clear Creek Disposal, Stanley Mayor Steve Botti, Michael Powell, Jeffrey Hall/Stanley Chamber of Commerce, Kimberly Peters/Stanley City Hall, Joel Peterson, Ron Pumphrey and Deputy Clerk Tina Hawkins. A sign-up sheet was provided for those that wished to testify.

Chairman Butts verified that this Public Hearing was properly advertised and notices posted as required by law. This "Temporary Closure of the Stanley Solid Waste Transfer Site" is caused by notification from Blue Mountain Refuse/Wendell Gohn that he is unable to find or hire employees to operate the site, in addition to not generating enough income to cover the site overhead. A Special Commissioners meeting was held on 6/3/2022 at the Stanley Transfer Site. Mike Goitiandia/Clear Creek Disposal was invited to look at the Stanley transfer site and given the opportunity to take over the operation. Upon looking into the operation and site, Clear Creek Disposal turned down the offer. Blue Mountain Refuse notified the Board of Commissioners that he would not be renewing the Stanley contract at the end of the year. With no obvious solution, we are forced to temporarily close this facility.

Chairman Butts then opened the Hearing for comment, requesting each person to give their name and residential address.

Mike Goitiandia: I own property at 1015 Eva Falls, Stanley, Idaho. I live in Stanley part of the year and operate Clear Creek Disposal that serves people of the region with refuse disposal. I would like to verify your description of the meeting that was held last summer, but add that in addition to the problems listed, there is a lot of site infrastructure cost that needs to be replaced or rebuilt before "anyone" could operate the site.

Chairman Butts: thanked Mike for bringing the additional site infrastructure needs and costs into the discussion.

Jane McCoy: I live in Stanley and have lived here most of my life. I would like to know more about the issued involved. I understand that Stanley has been fortunate enough to get by as long as we have. I foresee a huge illegal dumping problem if this service is no longer available and I'm concerned about what the area will look like once the site is closed. I would hope somehow an agreement could be worked out with Clear Creek Disposal. Idaho County has several small locations dispersed through their county, that are enclosed by chain-link fences and each site has 3 or 4 dumpsters inside and are emptied periodically. Could this be a possible

solution? The temporary title of this concerns me, although I understand we do not want to close it.

Chairman Butts: responded that he cannot answer the "temporary" question as there are too many unknowns at this time. The requirement for site fencing comes directly from the SNRA. All County property has liabilities, and free public access could lead us into larger problems. Idaho State Statute requires a County to provide a location for the citizens to dispose of their refuse, and there are sites in Challis, Mackay, & East Fork. As Chairman Butts recalls the total fees collected on the final day that the Stanley site was open Blue Mountain Refuse collected \$39.00. If the County was to charge enough to the residents using the site to actually cover the operational costs, you would come uncorked. We then thought it would be a good fit for Mike/Clear Creek Disposal, as he is already providing services in the area. If you are one of those residents that currently uses the solid waste site, you might want to look into getting service from Clear Creek Disposal.

Jane: Mike, I am correct in assuming that this will cost the residents a lot more as you are unable to empty the dumpsters here and will be required to haul the refuse out?

Mike: Since the "land-fill" site was closed, Clear Creek Disposal has been hauling all their refuse over the hill to southern Idaho. When it first became a "transfer site" we were actually doing the hauling for Custer County. When the current Blue Mountain Refuse program began we continued providing service in the area, with all our refuse being hauled out. There is not enough revenue to pay for the labor, let enough to pay for the infrastructure, hauling or equipment. It is wonderful to offer such a service, but it is not affordable.

Jane: I understand that services need to be self-supporting. Would you consider seasonal use because of the uptick of garbage in the summer?

Chairman Butts: Anything is possible, and we appreciate all suggestions.

Commissioner Smith: The major problem is finding employees, and during the summer season they too want to be out recreating. I don't see that changing.

Clerk Baker: The funding for seasonal use would be much harder. With no contractor on site it will be much more difficult.

Mike: I love this valley and area, and I knew this was coming. I have been in the Disposal business my whole life and have not changed my pricing structure. Anybody can have affordable waste collection in the Stanley area. They have been able to in the past, they can currently and they will be able to do so in the future. Affordable is something that covers the actual cost of collection. Currently the fees charged are not coming close to covering the costs, and Blue Mountain Refuse has been subsidizing the site for the residents. I understand the desire to have the Stanley transfer site, but if the fees charged were to actually cover the costs, folks would no longer be taking their trash to the Stanley site.

Jane: I just don't want to see garbage all along the side of the road, because there is no place to dispose of it, but I do understand the quandary you are involved in.

Commissioner Butts: As a resident that recreates in the area during the summer, I have seen places that people are throwing their trash into out on the SNRA. The SNRA is not doing anything about this behavior.

Steve Botti: Stanley Mayor. Is there a tax assessment to help support the solid waste transfer station?

Commissioner Butts: There is a \$50 solid waste fee on the taxes that goes into the solid waste program, and is used for equipment, scales and buildings.

Steve Botti: Is there anything that could be done with these funds to make Stanley viable?

Commissioner Butts: We our goal is to upgrade the larger Mackay and Challis sites by building "tilting floors", where refuse can be sorted before being compacted and hauled out. We would love to be able to affordably haul our solid waste to Jefferson Co. We have been very fortunate not to have had any problems hauling to Lemhi Co. along the Salmon River during the winter. The Mackay solid waste (and eventually Challis waste) could be sorted, compacted and then hauled to the Jefferson county landfill in much larger truckloads. This would be much more affordable once the infrastructure is put into place.

Steve Botti: I am very concerned about seeing an increase in illegal dumping in our area, once this site is temporarily closed?

Clerk Baker: Illegal dumping is increasing right along with the increase in recreational use everywhere in Custer county. There is an open solid waste transfer site on the East Fork road, yet there is trash all along the road clear to the top end at the forest boundary.

Chairman Butts: The difficulties of keeping solid waste sites open were reviewed along with the BLM Right-of-Way permit for the East Fork site. Considerable negotiations were required to keep the site agreement mutually beneficial.

Jane: Requested the Commissioners consider a special summer seasonal opening, say in June, July and August.

Michael Powell: Is the closest public solid waste transfer site at the East Fork?

Clerk Baker: Yes, that will be the closest site when the Stanley transfer site closes the end of April.

Chairman Butts: The Commissioners felt it was important that a public hearing be held and thanked everyone that attended.

The hearing was closed at 3:30 pm.

Attest:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lura Baker".

Lura Baker, Clerk

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne E. Butts".

Wayne E. Butts, Chairman