

South Dallas County Landfill Agency
2021 Annual Meeting
March 21, 2022

The South Dallas County Landfill Agency is located on the northwest side of the City of Adel and spans about 68 acres of abandoned clay pits. The permitted service area is the City of Adel and the Metro Waste Authority (MWA) service area (all cities and the unincorporated areas in Polk County, the cities of Dawson, Linden, Minburn, Perry, Redfield, and Waukee, and the unincorporated area of Dallas County; the cities of Mingo and Prairie City in Jasper County and the city of Jefferson in Greene County). Municipal solid waste is only received from the City of Adel. Construction and demolition waste may be received from the entire planning area through a reciprocal agreement with MWA. The landfill also accepts recyclable materials.

The portion of the site that has been or will be used for waste disposition occupies approximately 42.5 acres. The southwestern fill area was capped and closed in 1992 (11.34 acres). The northeastern vertical expansion fill area was reopened in 1992 (12.36 acres) and is also now closed. Phase 1 of the horizontal expansion to the West began operation in Fall 1998 and is now filled and has intermediate cover. Phase 2 construction was completed Spring 2005 and also is now filled and has intermediate cover. Phase 3 was constructed in 2011, was partially filled, has intermediate cover, and is part of a redesign to direct water away from both Phase 3 and Phase 4. Phase 4 was constructed Fall 2017 and continues to receive waste while the first layer of waste is placed on Phase 5. Phase 5 (a portion of the old SW Area) was constructed during the Fall of 2021 and is currently receiving “choice” waste that protects the liner and leachate collection system.

The landfill’s permit was renewed for another five years on January 11, 2021.

The Annual Meeting and staff appreciation event, that includes a public information session providing an update on environmental issues and on operations for calendar year 2021 as well as a recognition of the contributions of staff to the successes of the landfill, was not held in January, 2022, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Operations include a disposal area for garbage, an area for brush, and an area for recyclable materials. GPS installed on both the compactor and the dozer continue to be valuable to make sure space is used to the fullest extent. Major equipment is budgeted and upgraded on a schedule to maximize the efficiency of operations; replacement occurs approximately every five years, depending on hours of usage, to minimize repair costs as equipment ages. 2021 saw the replacement of the compactor. Long-range budgeting for expansion and equipment is practiced to provide for the future disposal of waste.

Revenues decreased for fiscal year 2021 by 4.1% due to fewer gate receipts over the prior year, reflecting less building activity in Adel. Expenses increased by 3.1% because of increased salaries and benefits and operational expenditures. The Landfill continues to aim for efficiency, while funding current operations; planning for the construction of future cells and equipment

purchases; and reserving funds for the eventual closure and post-closure requirement for landfills.

IDNR approved a revised treatment agreement with the City of Adel on August 24, 2021, that allowed the Landfill to discharge additional leachate to the City's wastewater treatment facility, updating the previous treatment agreement from December 2002. Over the years, the Landfill has expanded with additional waste cells, each with a Flexible Membrane Liner lined-base and leachate collection system to better collect and reduce remaining leachate in the cells.

SDCL's Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan that was approved by IDNR on September 19, 2020, continues to be implemented. The Action Plan included educational components like developing stickers for the Ankeny Sanitation totes to encourage proper recycling; with the assistance of the Adel Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the informational stickers were placed on the City's residential totes Summer, 2021. The Recycling Stickers Project received the Air Force Recruiting Service Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of outstanding support of the Air Force Recruiting Service and dedication to the ideals and principles of the United States of America, dated August 31, 2021.

The Landfill continued to sponsor the Spring Household Hazardous Materials (HHM) event, held annually with Metro Waste Authority support and the assistance of the Adel Lions Club members with appropriate COVID-19 safeguards. In April 2021, ninety-two residents dropped off almost 3,000 pounds of various household wastes that would otherwise have been landfilled, including batteries, oil, paint, pesticides and other items, compared with the 2020 HHM Event, which brought in over 5,300 pounds from 178 residents.

The Landfill meets all of the requirements of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, complying with all State and Federal regulations. A testing schedule for contaminants and methane gas is maintained. The reclamation of the SW Area continues under the permission of the IDNR; while the excavation of the SW Area is only partially complete, the Landfill was able to add the completed western portion of the excavation into the development of Phase 5 during Fall 2021 and Phase 5 is currently receiving waste.

The Landfill received the 2021 Innovative Project Award from the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations at the Annual ISOSWO Conference held on October 6, 2021. The Award recognized the Soil/Waste Exhumation, Soil Reclamation, Air Space Reclamation, and Subtitle D Compliant Cell Development of the SW Area.

Patrons are encouraged to read much more about the Landfill on the Landfill's website: sdclandfill.questoffice.net

Prepared by Shirley McAdon, SDCLA Board Chair