

MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF LANCASTER COUNTY VILLAGES
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113 – BILL LUXFORD STUDIO
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017
9:00 A.M.

County Commissioners Present: Todd Wiltgen, Chair; Bill Avery, Vice Chair; Deb Schorr; Roma Amundson; and Jennifer Brinkman

Village Representatives: Don Murray and Jerris Nider, Bennet Board of Trustees; Pat Rule, Bennet Village Clerk; Jill Hoefler, Firth Village Clerk; Silas Clarke, City Administrator, City of Hickman; Nadine Link, Malcolm Village Clerk; David Rohe, Malcolm Board of Trustees; Pam Pickard, Panama Village Clerk; Terry Brown and Zachariah Brown, Raymond Village Board; Nancy Niemann, Raymond Village Clerk; Ricky Robinson, Village of Raymond; Mike Werner, Mayor, City of Waverly; Stephanie Fisher, City Administrator/Clerk, City of Waverly; Ginger Neuhart, Deputy City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Waverly

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Pam Dingman, County Engineer; Brent Meyer, Weed Control Superintendent; Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office; Kyle Fischer, Lincoln Chamber of Commerce; Beau Ballard, State Senator Mike Hilger's Office; Joe Neuhaus, Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA); Darren Ivy, The Voice News; Nicholas Bergin, Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper

Todd Wiltgen, County Board Chair called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

MEETING WITH LANCASTER COUNTY VILLAGES:

A. RECYCLING AND THE NEW LANDFILL BAN – Donna Garden, Assistant Director, City Public Works & Utilities

Donna Garden, Assistant Director, City Public Works & Utilities, discussed the City of Lincoln's new recycling ordinance (see Lincoln Municipal Code 8.32) which bans corrugated cardboard from the City landfill beginning April 1, 2018 and how the new ordinance will apply to the rest of the County (Exhibit A).

Todd Wiltgen, County Board Chair, exited the meeting at 9:45 a.m. and Bill Avery, County Board Vice Chair, assumed direction of the meeting.

Additional information regarding the ban on corrugated cardboard and Recycle! Lincoln, an initiative to increase recycling, was also provided (Exhibits B & C).

Todd Wiltgen, County Board Chair, returned to the meeting at 9:48 a.m. and resumed direction of the meeting.

Silas Clarke, City Administrator, City of Hickman, asked who they should contact if their recycling bins are full. Garden said she will check with Gene Hanlon, Recycling Coordinator. Hanlon can also be contacted directly at (402) 441-7043.

Nadine Link, Malcolm Village Clerk, asked if there are flyers they could distribute to residents. Garden said they started an education program called "Recycle Right" in December and will be printing flyers in the near future. Link also asked whether Malcolm could request a larger cardboard container. Garden said they can as long as they have sufficient space available.

Pat Rule, Bennet Village Clerk, said Bennet's bins are also frequently full and people take their cardboard to the compactor or leave it on the ground where it becomes wet and can no longer be recycled. She asked if Bennet would be fined if that wet cardboard is hauled to the landfill. Garden said no, the landfill accepts wet cardboard. Rule inquired about funding for recycling. Garden said additional funding was included in the budget, particularly for educational efforts and extra bins, but said no additional staff were hired.

Nancy Niemann, Raymond Village Clerk, inquired about long-range planning. Garden said they will begin permitting for the site to the east of the landfill but plan to delay opening it for as long as they can.

Terry Brown, Raymond Village Board, asked how other communities "police" their recycling sites for household garbage. Rule said Bennet has an on-site attendant and have prosecuted for illegal dumping. Placement of game cameras to monitor drop offs was also suggested.

Commissioner Schorr exited the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

B. VILLAGE ROADS – Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Engineer

Pam Dingman, Lancaster County Engineer, discussed the County Engineer's authority within the rural communities. She said the County entered into an interlocal agreement and a cooperative purchasing agreement with the City of Waverly last year for a paving project within Waverly and felt both entities benefited. Wiltgen noted Waverly was provided the flexibility to reject its portion of the bid, if it deemed it unacceptable, and to hire a different contractor. Dingman said a second project did not work out as the

contractor's bids came in high and the two entities decided to proceed in different manners.

Commissioner Schorr returned to the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

Dingman noted she visited all four quadrants of the County last year in preparation for the One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program public hearing, explaining she wanted to make everyone aware of the proposed construction. She said she also attended city/village board meetings in four communities and encouraged attendance by representatives of the other communities that were in close proximity so there could be a dialogue.

Dingman also discussed the County budget process and the short timeframe for finishing plans and getting projects out to bid once the budget is approved. She said if communities are interested in cooperative efforts, such as road striping or asphalt overlay, they need to contact her department early on in the process.

Dingman said she was asked by the Village of Raymond to get a legal opinion on whether she had authority to do projects in the villages. She said she was advised she does not because that authority was not expressly provided in state statutes. Dingman said there are interlocal agreements dating back to the 1980's and 1990's where her predecessor shared the expense of roads that went through the cities and villages and explained the County is not in a position where it can do that any longer.

Terry Brown said the Village of Raymond would like to turn responsibility for 800 feet of West Raymond Road over to the County and would accept responsibility for 400 feet of Northwest 48th Street which runs through Raymond in trade. Wiltgen suggested the Raymond Village Board work with their attorney on a proposal to present to the County Board.

Dingman also discussed boundaries and annexations and encouraged communities to send plats that are on their fringe to County Engineering for boundary verification.

Dingman said rural communities with concerns about county roads or bridges may contact her directly at (402) 441-8332 or pdingman@lancaster.ne.gov. She said calls of an emergency nature, such as downed stop signs, should be placed to County Engineering's direct number (402) 441-7681. Dingman said that line is now answered 24 hours/7 days a week.

C. VILLAGE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Clarke said the City of Hickman has received a plat for 200 houses east of town and said they will work with County Engineering on access from South 82nd Street. He said

another development has come through on the northwest side of Hickman that will have 126 homes. He noted Hickman is the fastest growing community in Nebraska.

Dingman said the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) notified her in February that Lancaster County was being included in the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) program. She said it turns out the areas where they would like the County to implement a MS4 Permit Program are contained within the annexed boundaries of the City of Lincoln but said she believes the County will be included in the MS4 Permit Program in the future. Dingman said some consultants and contractors believe they are not required to do erosion control because they are not working outside the City of Lincoln and said that is not true. She said if the NDEQ sees that erosion control criteria is not being followed in sites out in the County, it could require the County to create a county-wide program which would be very costly. Wiltgen noted Hickman and Waverly could become urbanized areas because of their growth.

Brent Meyer, Weed Control Superintendent, said the Village of Denton has asked his department to provide weed abatement within Denton. He said Weed Control could provide this service for other small communities as well and said anyone interested should contact his department at (402) 441-7817.

Niemann said Raymond needs assistance with its website, which is linked to the County's website. It was suggested she contact Minette Genuchi, Administrative Assistant to the County Board, at (402) 441-7449.

Pam Pickard, Panama Village Clerk, asked whether any of the other villages were concerned with new requirements for lagoon systems. She said Panama has received an estimate of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to make its lagoon system in compliance. Clarke and Jill Hoefler, Firth Village Clerk, indicated their communities also have concerns. Hoefler said Firth just completed a lift station/lagoon rehab project that cost over \$600,000 and may need a treatment plant if it can't meet the parameters. She said Firth just approved a new housing development that will put even more strain on its lagoon system. Clarke said Hickman had to install an \$800,000 ultraviolet (UV) light system. Rule said Bennet was forced to build a \$1,500,000 treatment plant in 2006 and had to limit building permits.

Clarke urged the County Board to consider becoming a member of the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND), noting it could benefit the smaller communities. Wiltgen said the Board can revisit that issue.

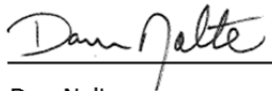
Rule reported that Bennet has a number of smaller housing developments going in, new park programs, and is working to update its Comprehensive Plan.

Mike Werner, Mayor, City of Waverly, said the Tractor Supply Distribution Center in Waverly has a \$13,000,000 expansion project and will be putting in a retail storefront. He

said limited housing options remain a problem and said Waverly plans to install a new sewer interceptor so housing can be expanded further east.

Hoefler said Firth's new housing development involved Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

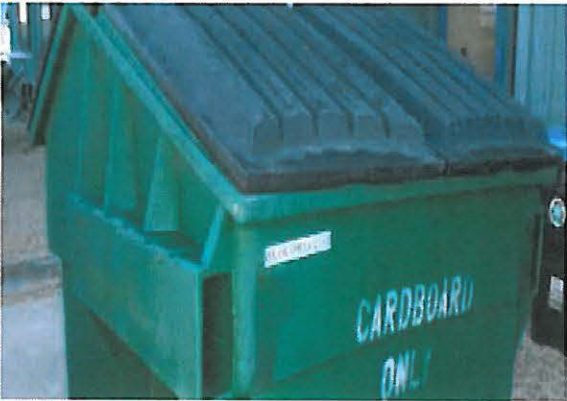
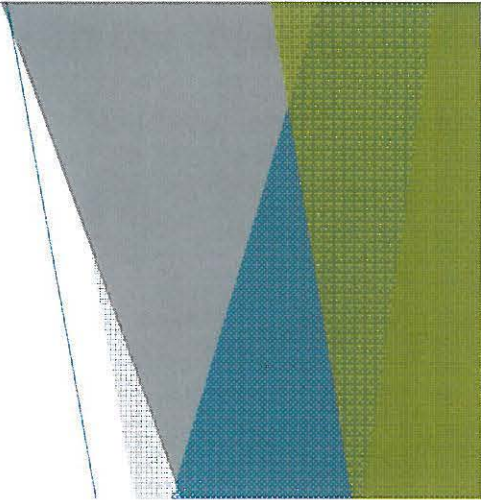
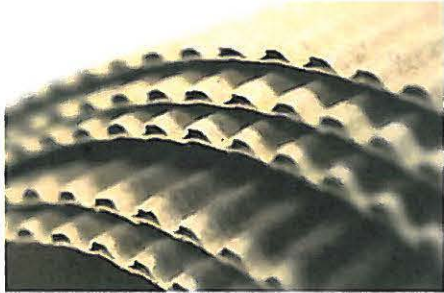
There being no further business, Todd Wiltgen, Lancaster County Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.



Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk



The Revised Ordinance - LMC 8.32



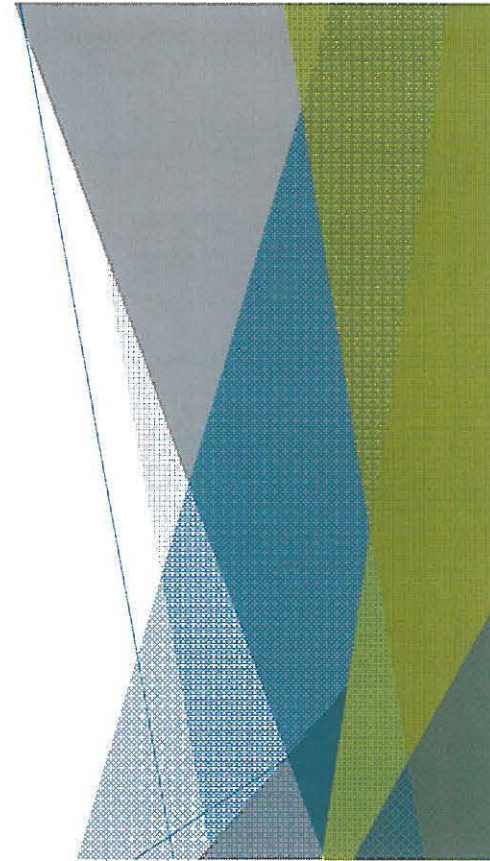
Recycling MAKES GREAT SENSE for Lincoln.....

- ▶ Lincoln consumers want convenient recycling choices
- ▶ Helps grow the local economy
- ▶ Reduces the expensive need to develop the next landfill
- ▶ Conserves natural resources
- ▶ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions



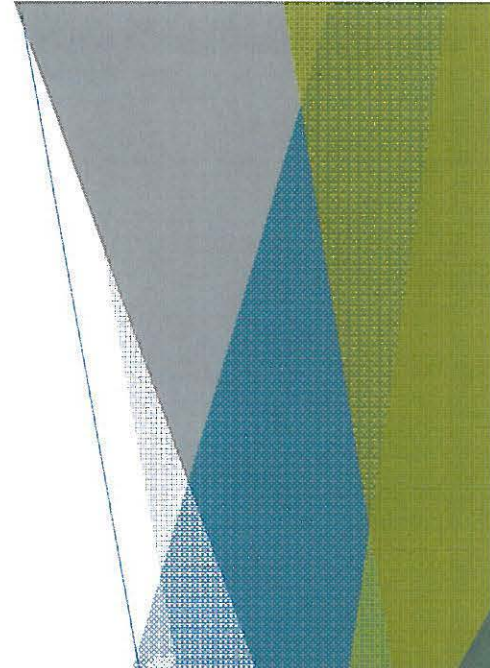
Recycling Proposal:

- ▶ Corrugated cardboard would be diverted from the Bluff Road Landfill in April 2018.
- ▶ All waste haulers would offer curbside recycling service to their residential customers.
- ▶ All waste haulers would offer recycling services to multi-family dwellings and businesses.
- ▶ The current public recycling drop off sites would be available to those who choose not to subscribe to curbside recycling services. Capacity will be expanded.
- ▶ If you currently subscribe to curbside recycling, no changes necessary.



Why Corrugated Cardboard?

- ▶ About 42% of the waste that goes to the Bluff Road Landfill by waste haulers in Lincoln is readily recyclable.
- ▶ The largest single recyclable is corrugated cardboard making up 9.5% of the waste that goes to Bluff Road Landfill by waste haulers.
- ▶ It is easily recognizable.
- ▶ It has a higher value in the market than other recyclables and the market is stable.



Your Questions.....

- ▶ May I continue to use the public drop-off sites? **Yes!**
- ▶ May I haul my neighbors recyclables to the public drop off sites? **Yes!**
- ▶ Will the capacity of the public drop-off sites be increased? **Yes!**
- ▶ Do I need a recycling collector license to haul from my small business (or my neighbor) to the public drop-off sites? **No!**
- ▶ Is a soiled or wet corrugated cardboard recyclable? **No!**

Changes... based on previous testimony

- ▶ You cannot get a ticket or a penalty - the ban is enforced at the landfill. (8.32.040)
Haulers are subject to fees if their load is unacceptable.
- ▶ Landlords are not required to provide recycling.
- ▶ Subsequent bans on newspaper and other paper removed from current legislation.
- ▶ Ban date delayed one year to April of 2018.⁶

Help Along the Way....

- ▶ We'll utilize the \$114,000 Grant for new roll-off boxes at our public recycling drop-off sites.
- ▶ We'll utilize the \$225,000 Grant for a comprehensive education program designed to help with the transition to the cardboard ban.
- ▶ Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program - helping businesses get started.

Recycling **MAKES GREAT SENSE** for Lincoln.....



- ▶ Lincoln consumers want convenient recycling choices
- ▶ Helps grow the local economy
- ▶ Reduces the expensive need to expand the landfill
- ▶ Conserves natural resources
- ▶ Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- ▶ **Questions?**

RECYCLE! LINCOLN



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When will the landfill ban on corrugated cardboard take effect?

The corrugated cardboard disposal ban will begin April 1, 2018.

What type of cardboard will be banned from disposal in the Bluff Road Landfill?

Corrugated cardboard will be banned from disposal in the Bluff Road Landfill. However, corrugated cardboard soiled with food wastes/oils, or that is completely wet, can be disposed of at the landfill.

Why target corrugated cardboard?

Corrugated cardboard is the largest single recyclable material disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill, making up roughly 9.5% of the waste that haulers take to the landfill. It is also a recyclable material that has both a high commodity value and a stable end-market.

Who will be affected by the disposal ban on corrugated cardboard?

Everyone who has their waste hauled to the Bluff Road Landfill will be affected by the disposal ban.

What should a resident do with corrugated cardboard?

- Reuse it, if possible.
- Recycle it at one of the public recycling drop-off sites.
- Sign up for a recycling collection service.

Can corrugated cardboard that has wood or Styrofoam glued to it be placed in the trash?

Yes, if the wood or Styrofoam cannot be separated from the corrugated cardboard.

What other communities have prohibited cardboard from landfill disposal?

Lincoln is the first community in Nebraska to ban the disposal of corrugated cardboard in its landfill. In neighboring states, Linn County (Cedar Rapids), IA, Fort Collins, CO and Sioux Falls, SD have banned the disposal of cardboard. The states of California, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and Vermont have banned the disposal of cardboard.

What is corrugated cardboard?

Corrugated cardboard is defined as three or more layers of paper with at least one layer of rippled (corrugated) paper.



Photo Source:
WasteCap Nebraska



Corrugated cardboard is the largest single recyclable disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill



A resident recycling cardboard at one of Lincoln's 29 public recycling drop-off sites

What will it cost to recycle corrugated cardboard?

There is no charge to recycle cardboard at a public recycling drop-off site. Recycling collectors will charge a fee for collecting recyclables at your home or business. Costs may vary between recycling collectors. Recycling collection subscription fees for a household could range from \$7 to \$12 per month.

Do public recycling drop-off sites have enough capacity to handle increased volumes of corrugated cardboard?

Larger containers will be placed at drop-off sites, and the containers will be emptied more often to ensure residents can recycle their cardboard.

Can a business take corrugated cardboard boxes to one of the recycling drop-off sites?

The recycling drop-off sites are for the benefit of residents. Businesses should contact recycling collectors to sign up for collection services, or take corrugated cardboard and other recyclables directly to recycling processors.

How will the corrugated cardboard disposal ban be enforced?

Waste haulers have an obligation to ensure they are not placing recyclable corrugated cardboard in their trucks destined for the Bluff Road Landfill. Personnel at the landfill will monitor the wastes brought to the landfill and require any recyclable corrugated cardboard to be removed. If a driver does not remove recyclable corrugated cardboard before arriving at the landfill, they will have the opportunity to personally remove it from their load into containers at the landfill or be assessed an unacceptable load fee of \$100.

Will a resident be ticketed if they place corrugated cardboard in the trash?

A resident will not be ticketed directly by the City. Residents should check with their waste hauler to determine if the hauler will charge additional fees if recyclable corrugated cardboard is found in the trash.

Will a landlord or business be ticketed if someone dumps corrugated cardboard in the trash container at their property or worksite?

Landlords and businesses should contact their waste haulers to determine if they will be charged additional fees if recyclable corrugated cardboard is found in the trash containers. The City will not directly ticket landlords or businesses.

RECYCLE! LINCOLN



Recycle! Lincoln is an initiative to increase recycling opportunities that expand the local economy and reduce the need for expensive landfill expansions.

- The 2040 Solid Waste Plan established a goal for Lincoln and Lancaster County to reduce the amount of waste disposed per capita in landfills.
- An action plan was developed to work toward these waste reduction goals. The action steps include:
 - » Expanding and enhancing recycling education,
 - » Requiring waste haulers to offer recycling services,
 - » Requiring recycling collectors/processors to report amount recycled annually,
 - » Assisting businesses establish new or expanded recycling programs through grant funding and technical assistance, and
 - » Prohibiting corrugated cardboard from being disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill.



The corrugated cardboard ban, effective April 1, 2018, will be a contributing factor to achieving waste disposal reduction goals.

- Corrugated cardboard is defined as three or more layers of paper with at least one layer of rippled, or corrugated, paper.
- It is the largest single recyclable disposed of in the Bluff Road Landfill, making up 9.5% of the waste that haulers take to the landfill.
- Corrugated cardboard will now be treated similarly to other materials banned from the landfill, such as diverting tires, batteries, appliances, and yard waste (seasonally).

There are significant benefits, locally and globally, to recycling right and recycling often.

- Locally, recycling reduces the need for expensive landfill expansions by saving landfill space, generating material sales revenue, and creating local jobs.
- Globally, recycling helps conserve natural resources and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Lincoln's Waste Disposal Reduction Goals

from the 2040 Solid Waste Plan

10% by 2018

20% by 2025

30% by 2040

Essentials to Recycle Right

- ✓ Know the recycling guidelines
- ✓ Empty and clean food/beverage containers
- ✓ Only recycle acceptable materials