

Staff wants to speed trash transfer station work

By John R. Moses Jackson Hole Daily | Posted: Monday, November 28, 2016 4:30 am

Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling administrators have a big change-up in mind for plans to build a new trash transfer station and hope to use newly cleared land to speed up what was to be a phased, multiyear project.

While office expansion work at the division's Adams Canyon Road Recycling Center is near an end, staffers want to shake up plans for the multiphase transfer facility and literally break some new ground.

Speeding it up would increase public safety and could also save money, a staff report says.

"The transfer facility engineer's estimate stands at approximately \$8,040,000. Even a 10 percent decrease would amount to an \$800,000 decrease in project costs," the report by Division Chief Heather Overholser says.

The report reflects "serious concerns" about plans to build a new structure and then demolish the one next door while the public is using the facility.

The patch of land considered when the project was planned is small.

"At the time of initial planning, with very little available space on the site, a two-phase construction seemed to be the only option, albeit not ideal," the staff report says. "Since then the waste excavation project was moved up on the overall landfill closure project timeline and, as a result, we now have considerable space on the lower pad."

That space would allow the planned 480-square-foot compost building to rise in 2017 instead of the proposed 2019 date. It would serve as a temporary transfer station during construction of a permanent facility.

Administrators said they are drawing on recent experience with the scale house improvements.

"After going through the scale house construction with a temporary scale and scale house, all agree that, without the temporary facility, the project would have been enormously challenging and a safety risk for the county," the report says. "As such, staff is recommending construction of an interim transfer station in 2017, which will eventually serve as a permanent compost and waste diversion facility."

The compost facility is already in the project budget.

The interim transfer station would cost \$705,000, if it's a metal building, "and \$544,000 for a fabric building, including a 10 percent contingency, as well as a 10 percent annual inflation factor," the report says. "Although more expensive, staff recommends constructing a metal building to ensure structure longevity."

A bit of bad news in the report is about waste excavation costs. The contractor unearthed 70 percent more landfill waste than was expected, so administrators will seek more money.

With the adjustments, “the proposed estimated contract total cost is \$3,596,257,” the report says. “This new total project cost is clearly more than the bid amount of \$2.5 million; however, it is \$1.8 million less than the engineer’s estimate and \$170,672 less than ISWR’s project budget of \$3.8 million.”