

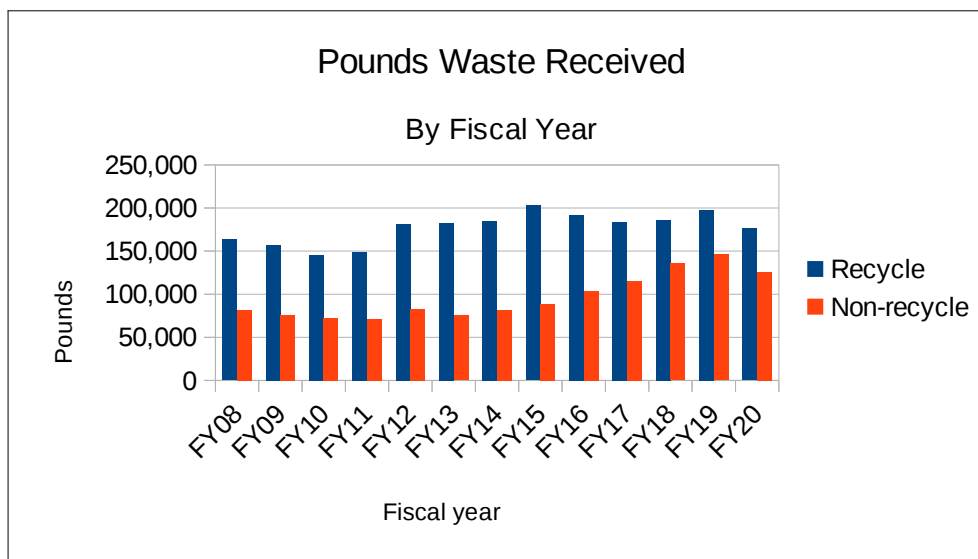
**Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC) Quarterly Staff Report**  
**Paul Berry, DRC Manager/ Operator**  
**Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

My last quarterly report was at the November 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. My next quarterly report is scheduled for the May 10<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

### **General Operations and Management**

#### Labor

Applications for the 2021 DRC Temporary Labor Pool were submitted, reviewed and finalized in December. This year's Pool is comprised of the three people who submitted applications: David Cannamore, Paul Dzubay and Kenneth Magowan. All members have worked in previous pools. This Pool is smaller than in years past and if we have a more normal summer this year with an actual tourist season and activity from Glacier Bay Lodge, I will need to re-open the Pool in April-May and recruit additional members to be able to be fully staffed over the busy summer season.



#### Pandemic impacts

I have graphed the amount of waste the DRC has received in the last twelve years to show the impact of the pandemic. Our current fiscal year, FY2021, is the year that will show the full impact of the pandemic and we'll see those numbers in my August report.

### **Community Chest**

Operating the Chest during the pandemic is touch and go, now we are open and now we are closed situation. Since the Chest re-opened in late September there have been two Covid related closures lasting one to three weeks each. As of when I am writing this report the Chest is open. Vicki Bender remains as our dedicated Crew Boss and she has organized and is supported by a very good group of volunteers.

Since my last report our front desk (sales) volunteers have been: Becky King, Katy Dighton, Vicki, and Annie Mackovjak. Sorting donations and purging & stocking items on the shelves is provided by Amanda Dunaway, Sasha Smith, Vicki, Penny Cook (specializing in organizing building 301), Ellie Sharman (specializing in organizing the craft section), Kim Ney & Annie. I am sorry if I missed anyone else.

Amanda has organized at least two shipments of excess clothing inventory to the community of Hoonah.

I was able to install new lighting in building 301 in December.

## **Solid Waste Management and Facility Planning Process (“SWMP”) & SEASWA the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority**

The SWMP process is a major planning process for building and equipment improvements. It is also the planning process for what to do when our current waste mound reaches capacity at some point in the not so distant future. In January I proposed to the City Council that the City take a serious look at becoming a member of SEASWA. Active participation with SEASWA is a major component of my planning effort. As I stated in an introductory document I wrote for the Council in December, the primary reason that I feel Gustavus will benefit from membership in SEASWA is that while Gustavus is a small community our needs in regards to solid waste are great. As the Manager of the City's solid waste service, I will always need all the help and support I can get in making sure that Gustavus has a sustainable future in regards to the solid waste service that I manage. During the big storm event in December the waste mound became quite saturated with water and I noticed more than the usual amount of odor coming from it. Our waste mound is relatively small now but it will continue to grow and with that growth comes the risk that at some point in the future odor and ground water contamination could become serious problems that a future landfill manager and council would have to deal with. Here is a recent KTOO news story about the odor coming from Juneau's landfill:

<https://www.ktoo.org/2020/12/23/stink-stank-stunk-has-juneaus-landfill-been-stinkier-than-usual-or-is-it-the-grinch/>

Other communities in Southeast have used membership in SEASWA to support the process of shipping their waste to a very large, regional landfill in eastern Washington (the Roosevelt Regional Landfill run by Republic Services). SEASWA has worked with Republic Services and Alaska Marine Lines to set rates by contract for the exporting of solid waste. Exporting problematic, non-recyclable waste out of Gustavus will be an expensive proposition.

However, I feel the costs and risks of NOT exporting this problematic waste would be even greater. To keep the cost of exporting of problematic waste as low as possible my goal is maximize recycling, and see the City purchase a horizontal baler to reduce what we cannot recycle to the smallest volume possible. Exporting most of Gustavus's non-recyclable waste will also allow the City to continue to use the existing landfill site for many years into the future.

I plan to spell out the steps and equations for exporting solid waste out of Gustavus in the next draft of the SWMP.

## **Capital Project Summaries**

### New Composting Facility/ Quonset replacement

Project description:

As described in previous reports, the objective of this project is to replace the failing Quonset structure with a more robust composting facility capable of processing greater amounts of material in a more temperature controlled manner than our current facility can. This project also seeks to pave more of the composting yard with concrete and install concrete push walls behind the piles of wood chips, sawdust, overs and curing compost.

Project status:

Currently I am putting together a plan to re-use the Quonset's metal frame, purchase new fabric and replace the rotten wooden walls with a concrete block base. This style will be cheaper than the engineered building I proposed in 2020. I hope to have a plan in place for an RFQ in April.

### In-flow Storage Area Project

*More information about the purpose of this storage area can be found in earlier reports or in the DRC's General Operations Plan.*

#### Project Status:

All that remains in this project is finishing the installation of the 8' chain-link fencing around the storage area and installing the gate. Cold weather and short days have stopped this project until next spring.

### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

#### Project description:

This project is the specification and purchase of a 20' long x 8' wide & 8' high container designed for storing equipment fuel, used lead-acid and dry-cell batteries and other miscellaneous hazardous materials. The unit includes spill containment, ventilation, lighting, shelving, and signage. The proposed container will be fully-constructed at a facility in the lower 48 and is ready to use upon arrival in Gustavus.

#### Project Status:

I am in the process of finalizing the specifications for the storage unit and have found three different vendors to seek quotes from. I am also preparing to submit the construction specifications and placement diagram to the state Fire Marshal to insure the unit will be up to code. Ideally the HHW container will go into service next summer.

### Year-round running water

This is hot & cold running water in the changing room of the office building. This is a project funded by the CARES Act and is close to completion.

The end, thank you.

*Report compiled by [paul.berry@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:paul.berry@gustavus-ak.gov)*

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