9-8-16 ZWAC Organics Management Committee Meeting at Hornsby Bend

a. Staff Briefing – Austin Water Utility Biosolids Management
b. Discussion and possible action: Recommendation on Zero Waste policy considerations as it relates to biosolids management planning

Judy Musgrove: I'm Judy Musgrove, I'm with Austin Water Utility. I'm not sure how I got the joy of presenting today. I really don't know as much about Hornsby Bend as some of the people that are here, so they'll be my resources if I get into trouble here. There's a lot of slides, I couldn't pair it down, I kept trying, I couldn't. So I'm just going to go through them quickly and if y'all want to go back and look at something more we can but we're going to just kind of fly through it to not take up too much time.

- This was a drone shot, we shot before our drone got grounded from the FAA. It was taken, Lisa do you remember about when it was taken? Last summer, so the pad was looking pretty good. Anyway, this is just going to be a quick overview.
- Okay, first we're going to talk just terminology, and this may be boring for you, so we are going to go over it very quickly.
    - Sludge is what comes in from the wastewater plants; we have Walnut and SAR that both feed to Hornsby Bend, and so that's what we consider sludge, and this is not municipal solid waste. Jessica told me to emphasize that's not municipal solid waste. But we call it biosolids and it's treated sludge and that would be what comes out of the digesters is Class B biosolids, and we also have compost in Class A, or Class A is compost.
    - So, just to talk quickly about our operations, the wastewater plants, like I said, discharge the sludge to Hornsby Bend and then polymer is added and the sludge is thickened using the gravity belt thickeners and then it goes to digesters and that's where we produce gas that's turned into energy with our generator. Polymer is then added again and now we're calling it biosolids because it went through digesters and this is the belt filter press. And then we end coming off the belt filter press with 18 to 20 percent solids. So at that point the Class B can go two directions. It can go to land application or it can go to compost. It can go directly or it can go into the drying basins to be stored until it's ready to be used. If it's composted then it's pulled out of the basin, mixed with our woody waste that we get from ARR and the mixture depends on the time of the year but typically 40% biosolids, 60% bulking agent, the windrows are formed and to stay in the windrows for a minimum of 15 days, 5 times turning, temperatures reaching over 55, and that's the steps it requires to get to Class A. So if it's land applied, the Class B is hauled to a site permitted by the State and spread on the land at the correct agronomic rate for the soil.
- So this is a little triangle that shows you bad landfill, bad, red, and then land application of Class B biosolids would be next, and Class A, not compost, we've had Class A in the past at Hornsby Bend, but as a compost. It sat long enough where it's turned and has killed enough of the pathogens, where we've tested it and it's been Class A, but that's kind of rare and we hope to not have that happen typically because that means it sat too long. Then we have the compost, which is the very top of the pyramid, where the bottom is now top.

- Anyway, I was curious about to what other cities in Texas were doing and other cities in the country, because I was thinking, well, are we typical, are we unusual, you know, what are other people doing?
    - San Antonio does 60% landfill, 40% compost. They said they are trying to head towards more compost.
    - Dallas, 100% landfill.
    - Fort Worth, 100% land application, they do a Class A land application.
    - Denton does 100% compost, they have a much smaller wastewater system than we do so they don't have much biosolids.
    - Houston does heat dry and a little bit of land application.

- Boulder, Colorado, 100% is land applied.
- Denver; Eugene, Oregon; Portland, Oregon; Phoenix; Seattle, I was…
- San Francisco, does land application I think on the grapes, I'm not sure, the wine…
- New York does… okay what did I do? Okay, 50% of all biosolids are recycled to land is what EPA says.

It was interesting when I went to all these different cities' websites they tout land application as wonderful and helpful to the environment, this is San Francisco's webpage, but anyway I just thought it was interesting.

- Hornsby Bend History – We were doing land application, storing it onsite, decided to compost, started the Dillo Dirt program in 1989, we used Austin Energy cuttings for bulking but it wasn't enough. Meanwhile ARR was using a landfill near the new airport, ABIA, and it was closing, so they were looking for way to do something with their yard trimmings, so a partnership was born. They diverted their yard trimmings from the landfill and brought them to us, they've helped us expand our existing compost pad, and we were all happy together. So let me switch quickly to today.
  - Those are the slides I cut out. The contract we've got today expires November 17, 2016 so we are, of course, a little anxious to get something else going. When we decided to go out for another contract, we decided instead of just bidding it straight out we would try and do an RFP and so we did that. We collaborated with management, Purchasing, and drafted a scope of work and sent it out to likely vendors. We either met in person or talked on the phone to the major vendors that we thought would be interested in the contract: Synagro, New Earth, TDS, Denali. We got their comments, concerns, ideas. Most vendors wanted the whole pad and so that made us start thinking about what do about Dillo Dirt because we were taking up quite a bit of the pad with our Dillo Dirt operation.

- One thing about Dillo Dirt is that the compost market had changed, we weren't able to sell it as well. We tried lowering the price, we tried putting in credit card purchases, where they could just call up with their credit card number and purchase a load, we drafted a brochure that we handed out to all the vendors, for them to hand out to their customers to try to tout Dillo Dirt, we extended our loading hours, we built a ramp, I mean we tried what we thought was everything we could, within reason. One thing we heard that we couldn't, we didn't do, was deliveries. We can't do deliveries. We just weren't set up for delivery. That was the only thing. We surveyed all of our vendors and got their comments and that's how we came up with these ideas, but again our Dillo Dirt still wasn't selling.
  - This is the way it went from 1990 to the present and a lot of it depends on the weather, the drought, the drought was in May, Austin City Limits Festival wasn't a big help to us. So anyway the combination of these things and then the fact that we met with ARR and they had a food waste program going where they were picking up yard trimmings and food waste and we looked at having it being brought to Hornsby, maybe in covered trucks and going into covered facilities because FAA regulations prohibit us from having anything with food onsite, because of the scavenger birds that it attracts are the type that get into airplanes and no one wants to bring down Southwest Airlines. So we thought that maybe we wouldn't do that, but we could cover everything, but that didn't make economic sense. So with the fact that our yard waste was going away then we decided that the timing wasn't right for a joint contract with food waste and biosolids right at this time, and we were having trouble with our Dillo Dirt so we decided to have that offered up as part of the new contact. It was a tough decision, but we thought well, we'll throw it out there and see if anyone grabs at it.
  - So our goals for our new contract were no stockpile; we didn't want to have the problem of a fire in the future, or permit violations because we had too many biosolids, too much biosolids onsite, so that was our angle, no stockpile. And then we wanted of course to save money, that always helps, and so we thought we would structure it such that they could propose anything - land application, compost, drying, heat drying, just any innovative technology and we would grade it on a criteria. And we also didn't want

any regulatory concerns, we didn't want someone without a proven track record coming in and doing some innovative technology that doesn't work, we didn't want to get into trouble with TCEQ or EPA.

- We got five proposals, that little white one off in the corner was the one we didn't evaluate. Four were evaluated. Synagro's was the highest of all the proposals with all the evaluation factors we used, and one of those was cost. And did it meet our goals? Yes. No stockpiles, they have an established market plan, they beneficially reuse the biosolids, saves us money, we figure we'll save at least a $1,000,000 a year maybe more, and their experience with a proven track record.
- So we were asking Council for approval to negotiate and execute a contract for the beneficial use of biosolids for the next five years, followed by five one year extensions. And meanwhile, what I haven't mentioned up to this point but we have another contract that's kind of marching side by side with the Synagro contract, to get rid of our compost piles. There's several of them onsite and when you took the tour you may have seen them, but because we can't sell the Dillo Dirt our compost is just sitting there and needs to be moved. We've done this three other times and gotten bids in to move the compost piles. This time was a little different, it was an RFP and it was more piles than we've had before so the price came in lower, for whatever reason, the market conditions or the conditions of the bid, whatever, but we need to move it, and so hopefully Council will approve our proposal from Click to move the piles, we have to move five piles in 90 days. Any Questions? That was fast, out of breath.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So based on this, the Dillo Dirt sales have plummeted it looks like, even with the changes that you've made, and that Synagro or whoever gets the contract will benefit from, right? Adding the ramps and the, all the things that you've done to improve the infrastructure to make it move better?

Judy Musgrove: Right, what we were hearing from the vendor topics, they needed the whole pad to do the beneficial reuse. I think Denali, according to the newspaper, not any confidential knowledge I have but, according the newspaper they were doing land application, so they probably didn't need the pad but we didn't evaluate them (unclear) I can't talk about. The proposal we have, I can say, is using the whole pad, and we feel like we'll be able to negotiate the use of the Dillo Dirt name and keep it going with the same quality compost. That's our goal.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: But that's a separate contract negotiation, right?

Judy Musgrove: That's in the negotiations that we're doing right now.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Under the current contract?

Judy Musgrove: Not the current contract, the proposed contract.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Sorry, under the current proposed contract.

Judy Musgrove: We're still making Dillo Dirt like crazy out there, but it's not selling.

Ayman Benyamin: The difference between us doing it and a contractor, a successful bidder doing it, the successful bidder will have markets available to them outside our 5-10 miles influence. We don't have marketing that goes outside there but a national contractor will have marketing to sell more of it, that's the difference between us and a private contractor.

Jessica King: I'm sorry, for the record, will you introduce yourself?

Ayman Benyamin: I am Ayman Benyamin. I am the Operation Manager for Wastewater Facilities of Austin Water.

Amanda Masino: Amanda Masino, ZWAC, so to clarify the Dillo Dirt name being used on a product that would come from this new contractor, that's something that's being negotiated in the new…?

Judy Musgrove: Right, you know, frankly I didn't think the Dillo Dirt name was that big a deal, but it evidently is, I mean, and we were kind of leaning toward just letting it die and not wanting to have it carry on without City of Austin forces

behind it. But it seems like the Dillo Dirt name is iconic, and so we are fine with that. That was something that we were kind of like, well, you know, whatever and, but if it is that iconic we are fine with it continuing on. We have the trademark, in fact we've kept it up and I think if we didn't use it, it would be available to other people to jump in and use, so it's probably better that we keep it going and keep using it so that it's not available for someone else to take and do something.

Amanda Masino: It does seem like a point of pride for the City.

Jessica King: And that's some of the policy questions that we can delve into in the second item as well. But, just for the record, Jessica King, Austin Resource Recovery, for the record when a city trademarks a name, which Dillo Dirt is trademarked, then it can be shared with other entities. There can be some stipulations in terms of the requirement of the use of that name, so it doesn't necessarily mean, the reason I say that is because it doesn't necessarily mean that then the City is the only holder of that name. So if the name of Dillo Dirt was something that the City chose to continue with but operated or created by some other entity that is an option.

Ryan Hobbs: I have a question about the use of the term Dillo Dirt, Ryan Hobbs, Texas Disposal, referencing your slide with the inverted triangle with landfilling at the bottom and compost at the top. Use of the term Dillo Dirt would that apply to, I guess, compost and Class A biosolids?

Judy Musgrove: We haven't really decided that yet, we're thinking that it will be a compost that is equal to what we've got now, what we call Dillo Dirt. And that was one of the reasons why we weren't sure if we wanted the name to continue on, just cuz we are then having to police it, but we have to police what's going on our site anyway but, the problem, right now we're under the Compost Council's STA, and that may be what we require, but we may just do something easy to be able to hang our hat on, but yeah it would be something very similar to what we have now.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Heather-Nicole Hoffman, ZWAC, I know in reading the, all the questions in the contract process, one of them was: Will Dillo Dirt be available, to the use of the name Dillo Dirt? And it was, no, not at this time, plan on it not being included, and so all the contacts that came in were based on not being able use "Dillo Dirt."

Judy Musgrove: I think our answer was actually, that we hadn't decided yet.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So plan on it not being included in this contract.

Judy Musgrove: It was like plan on it not being included because we don't want you to hang your hat on it and assume you've got it because at that time we hadn't decided yet and it was on one of the meetings we had, the pre-bid meeting, and a question was asked, and we said, "Well, we just haven't decided yet".

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Because I think that can make a difference in bidding, pricing, if they knew that they can use the Dillo Dirt, which has an establish clientele, has like you said, it has credit/credence in the community.

Judy Musgrove: I can't talk about the proposals, but they all did address it anyway and they said, with or without. I don't think it caused actually a problem.

Danielle Lord: Danielle Lord, I'm with the Purchasing Office, and we had actually had a tab for innovation and creative ideas, most vendors did propose different solutions within that tab and therefore if those ideas were presented there we were able to contract for those ideas, so they are there, they were asked in the pre-bid and some people didn't put, and some vendors did put information in regards to Dillo Dirt.

Ryan Hobbs: But just to be clear you are going to allow the use of the term Dillo Dirt to be used under the proposed contract before Council, October 6th?

Judy Musgrove: Yeah, we're negotiating that right now, and that is one of the negotiating points, and we are open to using the name of Dillo Dirt on the contract.

Amanda Masino: Amanda Masino, ZWAC, on the Contract Goals slide you had the No Regulatory Concerns as one of your key goals. Could you talk a little bit, just have this all on the record, have this as part of the discussion, about the level of oversight your staff has with any contractor, the current contractors, and how you have checks on whatever comes out of this facility, even if it's not Austin Water staff generating it, cuz I learned a lot on the tour about this, so…

Judy Musgrove: I'm going to have Lisa answer that. She's the current contract manager, and what we decided to do on this next contract is hire someone, Lisa is stretched a lot thinner than what she should be. She's doing a lot of stuff right now. So we've got a new position that's coming on that will handle just this contract because it's going to be a lot more oversight. Lisa can tell you what she does now to watch over what's going on.

Lisa Boatman: Right, so, Lisa Boatman, Process Engineer, Hornsby, so the first thing that we check here at this plant is we're producing a Class B cake, biosolids, which means that we've met our 38% volume solids reduction in our digesters, which is a vector traction reduction method, EPA approved. And we also monitor the pathogens, so the pathogen count, the indicator organism we use at this plant is fecal coliform, and the requirement is to have a count of 2 million or less, and that's the most probable number per gram. So once we verify that, and if the sludge is going to be land applied, the next step is to make sure that the land application is being done on TCEQ permitted fields, and you can look those permits up on the TCEQ website. We have some permitted fields here onsite, and whatever vendor we're using has permitted fields offsite, so those sites have an application rate and every month a land application report has to be turned in. Prior to the land application at the correct agronomic rate, the fields have to be checked; you can't apply in rainfall events, you can't apply if you're going to have runoff to waterways; the buffer areas in the fields have to be marked around property lines, there's buffer areas around wells, there's buffer areas around surface water. There are livestock restrictions on the sites as well. No animal grazing on the site for 30 days after land application. No activities that could encourage or conflict with any public things onsite, so the sites that we use are agricultural sites. Personnel are not allowed on the field also for 30 days, and that applies to land application sites either here or on Hornsby and Ken and myself and Rico, staff from this plant, have gone out and visited the land application sites. We oversee the application here at the plant, and we go and make visits to the sites that the contractor uses. And then every month when I get an invoice from them, I also get a land application report that shows what is the dry tonnage applied per acre, and they run all of the calculations, and we have to provide them lab results that they use to make those calculations. So, does that answer the question on the Class B part?

Amanda Masino: Monthly checks on the fields here and then periodic on the offsite. Is that right?

Lisa Boatman: Correct. We'll go two or three times a year to visit the offsite fields. Of course if there's ever any problem we would need to go and make sure that everything is okay because it's sort of a cradle to grave deal. So on the compost that's done here onsite, and this is parallel to both our process and a vendor's process, is that once the Class B biosolids are mixed with the yard waste and the windrows are activated, then the clock's started. The temperatures are taken daily and recorded. We do all this in Excel spreadsheet format. The requirements of the 5 turns, you also track that on the spreadsheet. Once we've met the minimum 15 days at 55°, then, and we're ready to test, then we would perform, we would go around and sample each windrow and take a test, send those into the lab, and the requirements for the pathogens is 1,000 mpn per gram, on those windrows. And once that is met, then the windrows are moved into curing and we track all of it by spreadsheet.

Amanda Masino: And then you run the additional testing for the compost for the seal, right?

Lisa Boatman: Yeah, thank you for bringing that up. So for Dillo Dirt, Dillo Dirt is actually tested 3 different times. In the curing process, if it's a curing pile that will be moved offsite, for example, if we are doing a sale for the ones that we take offsite, per permit we have to run a fecals test on it again, and we also will run a nutrient and metals test before it leaves site. And those have to be tested monthly until they leave the site. Dillo Dirt has to be tested also monthly. The monthly testing requirement is part of our TCEQ permit because we produce more than 18,000 metric tons, dry metric tons, per year, so for TCEQ that kicks you into a monthly testing requirement. So Dillo Dirt is tested monthly internally, in house; we test nutrients, metals, and fecal. In addition for the US Compost Council Seal STA testing, we have an independent contractor who is certified with US Compost Council for STA lab. They will come out, they will sample Dillo Dirt, and they report the results not only to us, but they report them directly to US Compost Council.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: And are they testing the same metals, fecal, nutrients…

Lisa Boatman: It's slightly different, but STA testing is different than the testing that we do.

Judy Musgrove: Judy Musgrove, I just want to say real quickly, that's one of the other things we did try and do sales; and it costs a lot of money, and I think we had one sale come off of that, but our goal is to get TXDOT jobs because they require STA but we didn't get any of those. So, it was so disheartening, even though you try all that and [unclear].We felt, I guess we're engineers, not marketing people.

Mary Kramer: I have a question. My name is Mary Kramer and I'm wondering, like when you did the research about the different states, and how much, is there another state that does the same selling of the Dillo Dirt, whatever they might call it? And what marketing do they use?

Lisa Boatman: In Washington State, there's a lot of other municipalities that produce compost. Marketing biosolids compost is generally problematic, so we're not the only city that's facing marketing challenges for our biosolids.

Judy Musgrove: I think Denton is doing well because they have a pretty good marketing, they've got a store and a facility that you can drive up.

[Discussion]

Jessica King: So there's caution to that too because the State legislature has, there were some legislators who were opposed to that and produced some legislation that would not allow municipalities to either start new programs like that or continue programs like that, so it is a bit of a contentious issue.

Mary Kramer: That seems like a solution.

Ryan Hobbs: It was proposed, but not passed, right?

Jessica King: Correct, that's right.

Ken Lockhard: I'm Ken Lockhard, the Superintendent here, the other places do that, the main reason is to, the perceived unfair advantage a municipality would have over a private company, you know, municipalities generate revenue not just offer sales and it would be hard for a private company to be able to compete. We sell our product wholesale to local vendors. Other municipalities throughout the country, some sell direct to customers, some give it away. Since Dillo Dirt has a dollar value associated with it, you know, we can't give it away, we don't give it to employees, or City staff, or anything. Other municipalities and other places, they do things like that.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Are there any testing requirements, anything associated with the debris within the compost, or within the Class A or the Class B?

Lisa Boatman: Right, so, the compost, the windrows, and the curing piles, when we do that sampling, it's all material combined, so we don't, we have previously in the past done some testing on just the yard waste alone but the majority of the testing is done once it's mixed together with the biosolids. The biosolids are tested independently. When we get cake off the belt press, after it comes out of the digesters, that is tested individually, monthly, as well.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: For what?

Lisa Boatman: For fecal, nutrients and metals.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: I'm concerned about all the plastic that's in there.

Lisa Boatman: Right. There is a, we do run a TCLP on it yearly, on the dry sludge, which is what I call "cake", and we also do a TCLP on Dillo Dirt.

Ken Lockhard: In regards to the plastics, the plastic is separated usually before the final product is produced. We have a separator, it removes all the large wood particles and plastics. We have something known as a plastics vacuum that

helps to pull and remove some of the plastic from the system. Once we get so much of the plastic removed from the system we usually landfill that cuz we can't utilize that. But the wood that's removed is recycled back into the system.

Lisa Boatman: Also, we do have a recent toxicology report on both Dillo Dirt and the dry sludge. We had that done months ago.

Judy Musgrove: The samples were pulled some months ago; they just finished the report.

Amanda Masino: Just… what prompted this particular…?

Lisa Boatman: Well the old one was 10 years old.

Ken Lockhard: It was time to do another one.

Lisa Boatman: People call and ask for it, and then I told my supervisor we need to do an updated toxicology report.

Judy Musgrove: We get it done for free so we can't gripe if they are slow.

[Discussion]

Jane Burazer: Austin Travis County Health and Human Services, they have the epidemiologist that does it.

Amanda Masino: I'm wondering about the polymer that you add. Is that plastic, and is that taken back out?

Ken Lockhard: The what?

Amanda Masino: Polymer.

Ken Lockhard: Polymer, that's a chemical we use for thickening and dewater. It dissolves into the sludge as it's utilized.

Amanda Masino: It's a residue?

Ken Lockhard: It's a petroleum based product.

Amanda Masino: I'm just wondering if it ends up in the final product.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Do we have the results of the TCLP analysis, is that available?

Lisa Boatman: Oh, the TCLP, yes. Now the TCLP, Austin Water runs all TCLPs in October for all plants so I have last year's, and they'll be doing a new one this October.

Ayman Benyamin: Any indication of issues with the TCLP last year?

Lisa Boatman: We've never had any issues.

Judy Musgrove: The thing about our program that maybe is not very typical, is that we have a really, really strict, good, pretreatment compliance program. We have a great group of people that watch it like a hawk. And we have some really strict limits for our wastewater, so if you prevent it from getting in the wastewater then it doesn't cause you a problem down at the end where we are here at Hornsby. That's what, when I was doing my research across the country, that's what everyone, you know, the people that are having problems in sludge and biosolids are the ones that don't have strong pretreatment program. We've had that program in place for so long and they are relentless in their testing and their oversight. So I think that we forget to give them the credit they deserve a lot of times. They do a really good job.

Amanda Masino: Amanda Masino, Austin Resource Recovery, ZWAC, wrong, I was looking at Jessica, that wasn't a job application, so the pyramid with the landfill in red at the bottom, which is lovely, I love that you color coded it. I guess I'm asking, I want to ask more of a policy question and so we might be slopping over into discussion for the next item, but, in what ways is this hierarchy put into policy at Austin Water? And I know it's a very vague question, I guess I'm just asking for comment on this. I know it's tricky, and it can be limiting for you to determine that "we are absolutely going

to make sure that 75% of this becomes compost and only 25 is land applied", or whatever that number is. That can limit what you do because you have shifts in production and the markets and everything, but if you can't do that, if you can't specify amounts to be in each stream, what, how do you communicate, enact this preference that like the highest and best is compost, and then the rare Class A, and then the Class B?

Judy Musgrove: Well, right now we do it because of cost. It's cheaper to compost than it is to do, I mean, I'd like to say I'm an environmental person and I push compost, but actually it's cost driven at this point. It's so much cheaper to compost than it is to haul the biosolids offsite so we push composting. But in reality the scope of work we issued, we gave more points to environmentally responsive questions and answers, but we were looking actually for a low cost alternative, and we knew composting was probably going to end up being the low cost alternative because of the trucking aspect, but I don't know, I mean it's a good question. The proposal we got was all composting so the Class B offsite land application would be just in emergency type situation, and it would only be enacted by the City, not by anybody else, and they would have to come to us and get us to say yes or no. And that would be if there was danger of fire or the permit limits were being close to exceeded, or something like that, we wouldn't, just because of the cost probably more than anything, but you know, it's not going to be something that we can lightly take to Class B. I don't know if that really answered your question. Our current contract, the one we've got now is whatever. I mean, it's kind of like compost and land application. We push the compost part of it because it's less expensive.

Ayman Benyamin: Ayman, Austin Water, I think it's safe to say we are pushing our quality of our product even higher on the pyramid (unclear) our assessment of what's a better environmental safe method and cost effective, economically as well, so we're pushing even higher (unclear).

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Heather-Nicole Hoffman with AZWA, my reading of the questions again in the contract process was that the City has, is the only one that can specify if it goes to landfill in emergency, not that they have any control over A versus B versus compost.

Judy Musgrove: Right, and that's what our proposal scope of work was whatever, bring us your best ideas, the contract we're ending up with is all compost and, I guess I can say that…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Straight from the record.

Jessica King: No, you're good, you can say it, I mean, we have...

Judy Musgrove: Our bid sheet said landfill cost only, if necessary, whatever. They scratched that out and said Class B, land application, and so what they said is they wouldn't, they didn't give us a price for landfilling, they said it would be all Class B land application, and that's for whatever reason, I don't' know why, I'm guessing it's because they've got permitted property elsewhere that they can take it to, whereas the landfilling is more problematic. In our current contract we have a landfill price but the proposed contract won't have one.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Okay, that's helpful.

Judy Musgrove: Andrew Bosinger is here with Synagro if you have questions he can probably answer that.

Andrew Bosinger: Andrew Bosinger with Synagro, I'm sorry if I missed the first part of what you were saying, but it sounds like you said we didn't provide a price for landfill disposal?

Judy Musgrove: No, was there one?

Andrew Bosinger: We did. We actually provided a price landfill disposal as a tertiary disposal option and Class B land application as a redundant beneficial use option at the City's discretion.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Even the Class B is at the City's discretion?

Andrew Bosinger: That's correct.

Danielle Lord: Danielle Lord with the Purchasing office, we did state in the scope of work as well as on the bid sheet itself, that the City will not authorize biosolids to go to the landfill except for extreme situations, and then as well again it's the City's intent to use the landfill option in the event of an emergency situation as defined at the City's site contact. They would define that as an emergency, not the contractor.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Well that makes me feel a lot better.

Amanda Masino: It's a lot clearer now, I have to say, this is really helpful.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: And the current proposal, proposed contract is five years at that point the City can choose to start producing Dillo Dirt again if they want to ramp up their program?

Danielle Lord: Every five years there is five one-year extensions, and so they can elect to extend or not extend up to five years. We were kind of looking at this as a bridge contract because, for several reasons, one, Austin Resource Recovery is still trying to get their food waste program, at the time they didn't know if it was going to be approved by Council. We can't wait on you, you need to move this, and so we felt like five years was a good period of time to kind of let them get their act together, so to speak.

Jessica King: Hey.

Judy Musgrove: The other thing was too is that, and I think this is a trend across the country, to move away from land application even if everybody is doing it, you know, because we've been seeing, Lisa and I have been getting calls like crazy with people with new innovative technologies like a black box you put the sludge in over here and out comes little pellets or out comes.

Lisa Boatman: More methane.

Judy Musgrove: Yeah, more methane, pure water or, so we are anxious to try these out. We pilot stuff out all the time with the City, that's one of the things we love to do with our group that's piloting everything. So what we are hoping to do during those five years research other ways to do it better make more energy, or pure water, or dry it to a pellet where it doesn't take lot of energy to do so right now, revaluate that and drying is just too expensive, electricity wise. But I think there's coming more technology it's just not quite there yet so I'd like in the next five years, personally I'd like to research some of those options, see if there is a better thing out there, work with Austin Resource Recovery, figure out where we are and then in five years reevaluate it, or in four years reevaluate it, and give ourselves a year and either go out for another bid, or say well, this is the best that we got let's go another year while we try to figure it out, but I think we will be better situated in five years to make that decision. Right now it's just not there yet.

Jessica King: And Commissioners if that, if Judy didn't allude to this, it's something we've talked about and Bob wanted to make sure that this was clear. Water Utility is one of our closest partners, we've been a partner with them for quite some time, largely because of this Dillo Dirt program and our ability to divert material. But prior to them, when they first thought about developing this contract and going out for bid they brought us in and asked us how can we incorporate Zero Waste practices? What's the status of your program? What should we be thinking about? And we had a good dialog about that so we had a lot of faith that whenever they went out… if I hadn't actually personally seen the contract language but, the RFP language, but the language that they said about landfilling speaks to a lot of our discussion and how that shows in the landfill, in the actual RFP so and that was done way before the RFP was released so we had a couple of discussions moving in.

Woody Raine: Woody Raine with Austin Resource Recovery, and I'm curious to know what happens with the brush that ARR is currently delivering to Hornsby Bend that would not be impacted by the curbside organics collections, the bulky brush that we pick up, where would that go?

Ken Lockhard: Still would come here.

Woody Raine: That would still come here.

Jessica King: Yes.

Woody Raine: And would there be other materials required by the vendor to be able to use as a bulking agent for the biosolids, and where would that come from?

Ken Lockhard: That's in the RFP, it's up to the vendor to take care of that.

Ryan Hobbs: Can I ask how the funding amounts that are being requested, how they're calculated?

Judy Musgrove: Good question, that threw me too. The first amount is, I looked at it but I can't recall, but I think they added a three percent increase each year and again I (unclear) after the initial year, three percent increase assuming that we would need… I do chemical contracts all the time and we're always increasing in production of our water so we need more chemicals, so I think Purchasing was looking at that – (unclear) have done that before for us, we've always end up short of money by the fourth year, whatever, but I think they added an escalation factor in there so we would have that available to us. I know our sludge production isn't moving that fast, I think it's probably about one percent a year, but we've had some rocky history because of our water solids got into our wastewater systems and so it increased our solids intake for a while. So we haven't had a good history to know exactly how much our increase is, but it seems to be one percent so I think that three percent is a little much, I don't think we are going to need all that money but the authority (unclear) … we have to go back to Council.

Ryan Hobbs: Yeah, but it's based on a price per yard, or per ton for what?

Danielle Lord: Not the escalation but your actual initial budget...

Judy Musgrove: Oh okay I'm sorry (unclear).

Danielle Lord: Not the authorization.

Judy Musgrove: Right, we did it on a cubic yard of biosolids.

Ryan Hobbs: Right we've heard that they proposed composting rates, disposal rates, Class B rates, land applied rates. How is the funding now be requested, calculated. Is it all in the rate for composting?

Judy Musgrove: There is only one price on the contract.

Danielle Lord: There is two line items, (unclear) there is two, I'm sorry, Danielle Lord with the Purchasing office. Okay, so there's two line items. The first line with beneficial reuse of biosolids, the quantity shall be invoiced from the load scan quantities and then the part two was the land application onsite at Hornsby Bend property. So there was two places to actually put units pricing.

Ryan Hobbs: Right, I understand that, but staff is going to Council saying we need X amount of money per year to fund this contract. How are those dollar amounts calculated?

Danielle Lord: So there was a cubic yards that was on the bid sheet, and there was annual estimates of a hundred thousand for line one and cubic yard estimates, annual estimates of twelve thousand and it was based off of whatever the proposal came in as, as far as the unit pricing to calculate that, and then as Judy was talking there was price escalations for contingency for authorization.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: But it is based on just the biosolids that are taken, not necessarily if it becomes compost or if it becomes Class A.

Lisa Boatman: Right, biosolids produced.

Judy Musgrove: We had a hard time with that, in the past our contracts have been X amount for compost, X amount for land application, and we didn't want to direct people a certain number of cubic yards for one or the other. We wanted to leave it all open so we kind of just said biosolids.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So my understanding is the incentive is a better price for the product if they compost versus Class A, is that where the incentive is to compost versus just land apply Class B biosolids?

Judy Musgrove: Well we used an RFP so we had lots of evaluation factors, but cost was heavily weighed in (unclear) and the compost does tend to be cheaper, at least right now.

Danielle Lord: Forty points for cost.

Amanda Masino: Yeah so, Amanda Masino, ZWAC, so compost is the better bargain right now, what would have to change for that to shift?

Lisa Boatman: You would have to have a significant amount of permitted land application fields closer in and as you can tell from the papers, they don't want it in Fayette County, they don't want it in Bastrop County they don't want it in Travis County.

James Bennett: James Bennett, Austin Water Utility, (unclear) realistically what we saw, the current contract, what we have, the compost is significantly cheaper than the land application under the current contract. Ms. Musgrove did a lot of research, pulled the San Antonio contract, what we saw from history was that composting was a cheaper alternative based solely on trucking. Even the onsite application that we do this year, compared to our composting is relatively, so even without the trucking data, was relatively close but I mean that's just the reality that we knew going into the contract, that we saw historically composting was gonna be the cheapest option and we kind of saw that not only by what was going on in the communities, but historically what we've seen in the contracts that we've had (unclear).

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So you're saying the difference is just in the transportation cost? So you're just pushing that onto the contractor instead of…

James Bennett: Well the option of going out for an open proposal was that they propose solutions, we didn't tell them what we had to do, just propose solutions. What our goal was, was to get a best pricing, we weighted almost fifty percent of the proposal, it was like forty percent based on pricing, so I mean you know, we were looking for the best price in the market, we left it open to what was available for proposal for the handling of the biosolids but the reality is we were looking for the cheapest method. And historically what we've seen not only from our history but from what we saw in the marketplace going on, I believe San Antonio's contract was let just a year ago, so I mean we actually saw the movement in the market and I mean basically the group that we met with (unclear).

Jessica King: So Commissioners just a time check, we have officially about 30 minutes left. Of course you can vote to continue past that but the crux of what I think your peers will be looking for is in Item 3B and so if I may encourage you to move along.

Amanda Masino: I feel like we just brought up many of the issues, questions that we had.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: I think considering what you're telling us about the contract that's currently being negotiated that allays a lot of my fears and I feel like it's going to be a better use, my concern you know driving through the facility my concern was seeing all the plastic and the Class B stuff and thinking this is just going to get spread across everywhere. I mean it's not going to stay put, if it does… not good for the land it's not good for the animals. That was a major issue. The fact that is all going to be composted, it's going to be screened, I'm sure it's going to be a product that somebody is going to buy and there's value in it, if it's screened, right? More so than if it's…

Lisa Boatman: So, Heather, I just need to make a clarification on that, so right the plastics are primarily introduced through contamination in the yard waste so the Class B material out of the digesters…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Is actually cleaner?

Lisa Boatman: Yes, I am not saying it's 100% free of plastic items but those items get screened out and removed in other parts of the wastewater treatment process, and if you were to just go out there and look at the pile of sludge cake you are not gonna to see a lot of plastic material in there.

Jessica King: And just to explain that, that's largely why Austin Resource Recovery and Solid Waste Services prior to that, didn't really allow or consider compostable bags for the yard trimmings program solely because there are other cities that allow their yard trimmings to be placed in compostable bags that are marked by city but the concern was that it would negatively impact Hornsby Bend. That was something that someone asked us to look into several years ago and we chose not to do that cuz the craft paper bags worked and it limited the amount of plastic that…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Except for rain.

Jessica King: Yes that's true, so we just encourage more people to buy their own reusable containers or really rely on the craft paper bags rather than shift to any type of plastic or even compostable plastic bags.

Paul Gregory: So, Paul Gregory of Texas Disposal Systems, further clarification I think Mr. Lockhard and Ms. Boatman were referring to the screening of Dillo Dirt with the airknife system that removes plastic. We do not yet know what Synagro has proposed as far as their screening capabilities or what method they would or what size they would screen to, so they were referring to producing Dillo Dirt when you are talking about this contract right now and whether it's land applied Class B or land applied Class A, that they go through a very quick compost process to meet PFRP and vector reduction. We have not heard what they plan to do on the back end for decontaminating the material for both the land applied…

Andrew Bosinger: Everything will be screened.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: You can state your name and put that on the record we want it on the record.

Andrew Bosinger: Oh sorry, Andrew Bosinger, everything will screened. It may be screened at different times, different points but to bring it to market it's got to be screened. You gotta get the large wood chunks out of it, you gotta get every bit plastic out of it that you can; so it'll be screened.

Amanda Masino: Amanda Masino, ZWAC, are you using the same equipment, so we saw the big screening apparatus, so same equipment that's here onsite at Hornsby right now?

Andrew Bosinger: Same kind of equipment, yes.

Amanda Masino: Same kind? So you're not leasing that or anything, you would bring in your own?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: That was per the contract.

Andrew Bosinger: We would consider that if ARR, Austin Water makes it available, but no, our proposal is to bring our own equipment.

James Bennett: James Bennett, Austin Water again, realistically we have asked our fleet officer typically since that equipment is part the public property it would have to be sold in a public auction. It will not be released as part of the contract, it would be put up for public auction. We have a meeting with our fleet officer to decide the timing on that but that's a reality. It is public property (unclear).

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: All right, I think that my only other concern was the use of the Dillo Dirt being included in the RFP that's already in negotiation. That still concerns me a bit. I feel like that's a valued product that can licensed separately under a separate contract, or something. Is that something that's been discussed or an option or …?

Jessica King: Could I better understand your question on that? Is it the Dillo Dirt, so we've talked about this as staff quite frequently, is it the product itself the trademarked name itself, or is it processing?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: The quality and the name.

Jessica King: So you do want to preserve, okay I'm writing all this for posterity purpose, sorry, quality and the name. Okay so starting with the quality, what is there specific, help me understand the specifics of the quality that you would like to preserve?

Amanda Masino: Is this about maintaining current quality if someone else is producing something that's gonna have the Dillo Dirt label it should be at least as good as what's coming out now as Dillo Dirt, that seems to me.

Jessica King: Okay, and then in terms of the name, is that something that, from a policy perspective you're interested in letting be shared or is that something you want only City staff produce?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: I would say it can be shared as long as we have control over it.

Jessica King: Sure.

Amanda Masino: Yea, which makes sense, which is linked to quality control.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: A licensing agreement where you're paying per cubic yard, or you know, or something along those lines.

Jessica King: So I think when we talked about trademarking, so I've had this conversation with our law department before and I think with trademarking we will have to ask about whether or not the licensing agreement with regards to a dollar exchange. I don't know that cities are allowed, I have to explore that, it could be just a free "you could have this trademark", so there may not be a financial reimbursement to the City for allowing another entity to use the trademark, whatever that trademark may be so that's the first thing you wanna…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Okay, as long as they are covering the cost for certifying the product.

Jessica King: Sure, that will probably be within the agreement, any agreement or any stipulation, any requirements related to the trademark.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Okay.

Jessica King: So, but you're not looking to restrict the creation of Dillo Dirt by staff only. You're okay with a private entity creating it as long as it maintains…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: A little sad about it, but yes.

Jessica King: Okay.

Amanda Masino: And I think that was the larger concern at the last ZWAC was the idea that Dillo Dirt, the Dillo Dirt name would disappear forever.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Everyone I've talked to has been like, what? No Dillo Dirt? That's something that our City is proud of and…

Jessica King: Sure.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So that's why I say it should be City controlled, continue the City control so that it's something that we will continue to be proud of and we'll continue to convey this is what we are doing our biosolids, and value added product, and all that good stuff.

Jessica King: Did I miss anything on that?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Does that sound reasonable?

Jessica King: Any other question?

Judy Musgrove: Do you like the trademark little guy? That was one of our other questions.

Amanda Masino: The little cartoon logo.

[Discussion]

Jessica King: Well, and Austin Resource Recovery staff has been a little perplexed by it simply because during stakeholder negotiations, or stakeholder discussions, the development of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan and the Master Plan there was a lot of discussion about the value of Dillo Dirt, the impact to the compost industry and market, and that Dillo Dirt sets a ceiling price, is that right? A ceiling price, I suppose, the highest price for compost, so there was some concerns by other compost makers that, they were generally organics compost, that the quality of Dillo Dirt wasn't rising to the level of organic compost, and so there was a discussion about the market impact. There is probably someone who can better explain that here than me.

Ryan Hobbs: It will never rise to the same…

Paul Gregory: It will never be organic, either, biosolids compost can never be organic; that can't happen. I feel that Dillo Dirt is, Paul Gregory, Texas Disposal Systems, is at floor pricing, because there is no compost available in this market for lower than $12.00. We're one of the largest, I think the largest buyer of Dillo Dirt, and we buy it and sell it under our own name because we can't use the Dillo Dirt name currently. We would, because the Austin market knows it as Dillo Dirt, but our product ranges at the retail level for $40 to $30 a yard for compost, and the lowest price compost we'll sell is in the $25 dollar range. So this is definitely the floor, basement, bargain price for compost in the market right now. I think that they could, their ability to sell more is there. We used to compost 90,000 tons of biosolids for the City of San Antonio for twelve years, and we were able to sell all that material in San Antonio, so it's just marketing, fulfilling the bids for TXDOT, getting the material… we also have retail stores in this area which helps move it more at that level, and we bag, the City doesn't bag. So there's other things they can do to move the material; I'm not saying they haven't done a good job of it, but there's, whatever the market changes…

Amanda Masino: Was that Garden-Ville labeled or was there a City of San Antonio, sort of label on that, when you sold it in San Antonio?

Paul Gregory: In bags; it was a Garden-Ville bag.

Amanda Masino: Garden-Ville bag.

Paul Gregory: Yes. The City doesn't have a name like Dillo Dirt, they just contract with people like us and New Earth to process biosolids and sell it under their own name.

Amanda Masino: Okay.

James Bennett: I was gonna say, realistically, that's some good questions, as a municipal organization being able to exist in a retail market, and a retail side, a retail business, I mean, that was the first 4 months. This contract negotiation started with AWU staff 18 months ago, because we knew we had to do something with the contract, and the first 3 or 4 months of that was trying to establish what could we do. And the reality is that as a municipal organization we could not exist on the retail side to be able to move the product. And that was one of the things that we learned early on. We just couldn't do it. You know, we don't have a marketing staff, we don't have flexibility, our rates are set by Council every year. If the market goes down, if stocks go up, we can't adjust pricing to chase that, I mean, our stockpiles grow. You know, we operate in a public service sector where our public says, "cost of service", "cost of what it costs you to produce it", so now we're asking to lower the cost so we can move higher product. It took us almost a year and a half to be able to reduce the price of Dillo Dirt to react to a market where these guys can adjust overnight. We can't live there because of who we are and because of the necessarily the rules we have to play by. We couldn't do some of the things that you just described or we would've. Realistically, Austin Water Utility is proud of what we've been able to accomplish with the program, but the reality is we couldn't exist in that market.

Amanda Masino: I really, it seems, I think the biggest concerns that ZWAC had as a whole, one was Dillo Dirt, which I feel like we've gotten a lot of information to address that. The other was sort of the testing and the level of oversight. We've gotten good info on that. And then the other the bigger philosophical hierarchy, you know, knowing that that was reflected. I don't know if we had a lot of this discussion at the ZWAC meeting, so I want to thank everyone who did make time for us and has given us the additional information because it has been helpful and necessary I think for us to

present, get a better picture so we can communicate that to the larger group. So thank you for your time and all the information. It feels like a much fuller picture now of what's going on.

Ryan Hobbs: We've heard a lot of comment and testimony. Do we have an idea when the negotiated contract will be made available for public review?

Danielle Lord: Do you want me to answer that? Danielle Lord, Purchasing Office. We're currently in negotiation process with the vendor. We aim to have at least a draft representation of that contract available for the next joint commission meeting, as part of the backup documentation.

Ryan Hobbs: The draft?

Danielle Lord: Yes, well because it cannot be finalized until these policy decisions have been made.

Ryan Hobbs: Sure.

Danielle Lord: Also, it needs to continue to stay draft until it's time to go to Council to be approved.

Ryan Hobbs: Will that also include the unscreened biosolids, or unscreened compost contract as well?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: The number 26 from the last…

Danielle Lord: No, I'm just talking about just the biosolids contract.

Ryan Hobbs: So there will be no public viewing of the other contract?

Danielle Lord: We didn't have that request from Council. We were requested to provide that for the biosolids contract.

Paul Gregory: I have one final question and then I'll leave it alone. Ms. Boatman did a really good job explaining the regulatory requirements and the testing that goes into Class B, and then once they've reached Class A. When once the contractor, whoever it is, attains Class A status and is land applying Class A in whatever time period it takes to meet PFRP and vector reduction, what regulatory requirement will they have once they've met PFRP and vector reduction? Fourteen days at 55, or fourteen days at 40?

Lisa Boatman: Right, so once, per the EPA 503 regs, once a material is Class A, it is unrestricted use. So therefore, Austin Water does not track land application of Class A compost.

Paul Gregory: So there's no tracking on where it goes, application rates, Travis County Siting Ordinance…

Lisa Boatman: Right. Vendors pick it up, right? Now, in the exception, I will say that in exception of materials that like you guys have taken, we've had to ask you, where are you going to put this?

Paul Gregory: Mmm hmm.

Lisa Boatman: In the case of the screening pile, the curing pile deal that we're trying to do, the vendor had to tell us what their intended, you know, use was going to be. In cases like that we're asking what are you going to do with this, because it's part of the evaluation process. But for example Dillo Dirt, if it goes to Phil, if it goes to Whittlesey, if it goes to Austin Wood, if it goes to TDS, at that point we are no longer tracking it.

James Bennett: Class A status becomes (unclear).

Paul Gregory: I just wanted to make a point there's no reporting, no regulation upon where it goes, the quantity applied, the condition of the material whether it's screened or unscreened, and…

Woman: Aren't you glad? Otherwise you'd be tracking all of yours too…

Paul Gregory: No, I'm concerned about the…

Lisa Boatman: Well, if you're talking about the Class, so if you're talking about Dillo Dirt…

Paul Gregory: No, not Dillo Dirt, I'm talking about what's being proposed in this contract. Which I'm told is going to be Class A material and that seems to me as…

Jane Burazer: Well, all compost meets Class A.

Paul Gregory: No.

Jane Burazer: I think that's where we're getting terminology mixed up is we keep saying, we do say this is Class A compost because it meets the Class A biosolids, because we are in that industry in which we must meet that. But it is a compost, so Dillo Dirt or compost, it's a compost.

Paul Gregory: The question of 'what is compost?' is a relative term to me because I make different grades of compost, and compost has a maturity and stability requirement for me, and a size requirement for me to be able to market it to the open market. Now if I remove that, those requirements, because I'm going to sell it to someone who doesn't, that doesn't matter, the size or whether it's got plastic in it, or application rates, or how far… they don't' have to go to a permitted facility. I'm making a point just to say the material that's being proposed in this contract, as I understand, won't have a restricted use on application rates or where it goes.

Lisa Boatman: So Paul, so for this particular regulatory purposes for us, right, we are tracking the point that it gets… the compost process is how we get the biosolids treated to Class A.

Paul Gregory: I'm aware of that.

Lisa Boatman: So at that point it is unrestricted use per our regulations.

Ken Lockard: EPA and TCEQ.

Lisa Boatman: Correct.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: And the contract.

James Bennett: The regulation that goes along with our permit, Class B is what requires permitting. When it reaches Class A status it no longer requires regulatory tracking; it no longer requires permitting.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: But within our contract we can specify screening.

James Bennett: Within our contract, we could. I mean, we could do a lot of things, but realistically, as far as the tracking sense, this is Class B biosolids that we're processing. We are paying the contractor, and they have proposed how they will process and move that material. This contract is about how we're going to move Class B material off of our property.

Lisa Boatman: It's really an extension of the treatment, for us. We're engineers; we're not producing the materials and stuff that they are, and we're not marketing it, so for us, our responsibility is to comply with our permit and the regulations, and we form it around that, and what we can do and what we can control is limited to what the regulations say. Now anything above and beyond that, that's more, that's asking more. But for the purposes of this contract, from a regulatory perspective, we're tracking Class B and we're tracking Class A.

Ken Lockard: Paul. Ken Lockard, Superintendent of Hornsby. Paul, maybe to answer your question, the contractor is going to have to follow the same rules and regulations we do, you know, part of the RFP is there, you know, follow TCEQ and EPA rules and regulations. You know, once we do the composting process, we do our testing, we do our metals, we do our nutrients, we do our fecal testing, and then the nutrients and the metals don't have to be done again before it leaves site. But we have to test fecals again, monthly, before it leaves site. That will all be part, that will all be part of the contractor's responsibility. Is that the kind of question you're asking?

Paul Gregory: There is no question you guys are testing Class B and tracking it.

Ken Lockard: Class A. That will also be falling on the contractor.

Paul Gregory: We just, the public needs to know that because we don't see the contracts, that's why I'm asking.

Andrew Bosinger: You see the RFP…

Ken Lockhard: You see the RFP, and it says in there that TCEQ, and they have to follow all the rules and regulations. Any place does that.

Paul Gregory: My point was that if you do that, the PFRP and vector reduction process, it's unrestricted use off half of that. That was my only point.

Ken Lockard: Oh, okay. I thought you had concerns about if it was an issue of testing.

Paul Gregory: No, I know you guys do a great job of doing the testing. My concern was what happens to the material after you've met Class A status.

Ken Lockard: That will fall back onto whoever the awarded contractor is and whoever their end users are; whatever the demands are of their end users. I don't know if Andrew can speak more to that, or not, or if he can or can't.

Andrew Bosinger: If they're asking question about it I'll be glad to…

Ken Lockard: That's entirely up to you if you want to answer his questions. Hey Paul, if you have any questions the man's right here.

Jessica King: So Commissioners it is again 3:15, task master on time. So is there a recommendation you would like to move forward with to your full Commission?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Do you have anything worded?

Amanda Masino: I don't have anything worded.

Jessica King: The primary policy considerations that I heard you speak to was preservation of Dillo Dirt and the quality of Dillo Dirt. So, the preservation of Dillo Dirt was not incumbent upon who made it. It did not have to be staff; that is something that could be contracted out to be produced, as long as the quality was preserved. Is that correct?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Correct.

Jessica King: Was there anything else from the policy consideration perspective?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: I think the main thing is it's contingent upon the information we heard today that everything is going Class A unless there's an emergency issue that will go to Class B and that has to be approved by the City; so as long as that is clearly stated in this, then I'm okay.

Jessica King: In the contract itself?

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: In our recommendation, in the contract, however it needs to be conveyed that it is a part of this and we are making a recommendation based on those findings.

Jessica King: So in the end, the recommendation that Council has asked for is what policy considerations do we have to consider? Whether they are…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So, highest and best use, and given the information we received we're confident that Class A is the highest and best use, with the option of Dillo Dirt or a higher quality Class A being produced as feasible.

Amanda Masino: Highest and best use, and we all agree that Class A is the highest and best use, preserving the name and the quality, the Dillo Dirt name and the quality.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: You got all this? Round about. All right, is there anything else specifically we need to address?

Amanda Masino: I think those were the main…

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: So given those terms we're recommending approval of the negotiation of the contract.

Ayman Benyamin: I am Ayman Benyamin, Austin Water. I want to be sure we're clear and we're not proposing one hundred percent Class A Dillo Dirt.

Heather-Nicole Hoffman: Right. Correct. I said with a higher quality as feasible.

Ayman Benyamin: As an option.

Amanda Masino: Yeah, we understand the emergency landfilling, the approved land application if necessary, that that's part of it too, we know that.

Ayman Benyamin: Yes.

Jessica King: Okay. Can I take a vote?

Amanda Masino: Do we need to actually motion, second, approved.

Jessica King: Okay. Future agenda items.