

Gustavus Disposal & Recycling Center (DRC) Quarterly Staff Report
Ian Barrier, DRC Manager\Operator
Friday August 4th, 2023

This is my first quarterly report for the August 14th General Meeting.

General Operations and Management

Labor

As of July 1st I moved into Paul Berry's position as DRC Manager/Operator. In July of 2021 I applied for a job at the DRC and was very happy to have been hired. The role suited me well for many reasons and brought me much joy and entertainment in a short amount of time. Little did I know I would fall into Paul's position in what felt like a short amount of time. Although my career at the DRC has just began I can now understand why Paul was happy to have somebody with a similar outlook on solid waste apply at the DRC.

On the subject of the DRC Labor pool I would like to give massive credit to our new hire Sydney Glasmann who applied this June. Sydney has exceeded all my expectations in regards to the tasks at the DRC. This includes being comfortable around solid waste, becoming fluid in operating our equipment including the Bobcats, our POS system, and being very reliable in her working schedule. I'm not sure what our summer would of looked like without her help. She currently stays busy five days a week here at the DRC.

I also want to acknowledge Paul Dzuby for being available three days a week to help with our operation. Paul Dzuby has done a large amount of sorting and processing of materials that have been floating around the DRC since before my time here. Many of these materials were stock piled on the mound and we have been slowly moving them into our in-flow storage area and finding proper homes for the various grades of materials. My plan is to have things organized well enough that new hires can easily find where these materials go with out mixing them up. The materials I am referencing are things such as copper, brass, stainless, faucets, ect. So once again, thanks to Paul Dzuby for working on this task and being available during the peak season.

I would like to mention Sven Hooson has returned to his summer job at the Sea Wolf but is still in the labor pool.

Annual Reports\Data Reports

I currently have no data reports to share. I have not quite learned all the functions our POS system Trashflow has and until I learn more about extracting data from Trashflow I have no data reports. I imagine I will have extra time to experiment with exporting data from Trashflow for my next report.

The Mound

As I stated under Labor we have (mainly Paul Dzuby) been working on removing stock piled materials from the mound and placing them in the in-flow storage area of the DRC. This keeps us from having to shuffle things around as we place new balefill. The available space becomes smaller as layers go upwards. This is because the perimeter of every new layer (about three feet in height) is moved inwards a minimum of nine feet. It is very hard to judge exactly how long our existing space will last but I anticipate having a solid plan for adoption in FY2024 which would allow for expansion in the summer of 2024, possibly spring of 2025.

Equipment

In the beginning of June we had our small yellow GPI baler fail. Specifically(I suspect) the hydraulic pump began to bleed internally on its compression stroke which would cause the baler to “hang” at approximately 1900PSI during its compression stroke. At first I changed the hydraulic oil which had no effect and after a phone call with GPI and having an employee of GPI search high and low for a manual for our old baler we preformed a few adjustments based off the information they shared with no change in performance. GPI no longer makes the exact replacement parts we needed but they have a retrofit kit available which will allow us to upgrade our baler to be on par with their current balers.

Therefor with our GPI baler down we have been solely using our large Cram-a-Lot baler for all baling operations, recycling and non-recycling with satisfactory results. Its hard to estimate the exact ratio between the two balers but it is close to a 4 (GPI sized bales) to 1 (Cram-a-Lot sized bales) if not a 5 to 1 ratio. Using the Cram-a-Lot has proved to be very effective for baling solid waste. Its larger size allows for two people to load the baler at once and it easily fits larger materials as well. We have only been producing one bale of solid waste on days were open as opposed to anywhere from 4-7+ bales with our GPI baler. This means less trips to the mound and simpler shutdown at the end of the day. Using the Cram-a-Lot also keeps the processing of solid waste farther away from the public because the Cram-a-Lot is in the rear portion of the building rather than in the front by the scale. I currently see no reason to go back to our old method of using the GPI for baling solid waste and I believe this is the new normal.

The GPI baler is still important to have in case we ever need a back-up. I plan on utilizing the GPI baler for our slower to accumulate recyclable materials but haven’t had an oppritunity to experiment. This would allow us to ship these materials out more frequently even if the bales are physically smaller.

Our Cram-a-Lot baler has been seeing more use than usual and is definitely due for an overhaul of sorts, mainly welding related. I currently plan on reinforcing the exterior walls of the baler with angle iron to keep them from ballooning outwards any further, welding plates on the floor of the baler (It has many holes), and reinforcing where the turnbuckle mechanism for latching the lower door mounts to the baler walls. The ejection mechanism is bent and broken at its hinge point; currently we use our Bobcats to rip bales out of the chamber. The platen could use some thick plates welded to it as well, because it is also full of holes. I personally have been practicing stick welding with DC using two 12 volt battery’s wired series for a 24 volt circuit and hope to use these skills to repair the baler.

Community Chest

I do not have much to update in regards to the Community Chest other than it has been busy this summer and continues to thrive. Currently the chest has been open three days a week; Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. I built a new shed roof earlier this quarter and Carolyn Elder built shelves inside. I painted the shed green and donated shingles for the roof and it is a nice addition to the building. When I constructed the shed I noticed some of the 4x4 post supporting the surrounding roofs have began to rot towards the bottom where they are close to the ground. I believe these post should be replaced with pressure treated material sooner than later. Another thing that should be done at the chest before winter comes is to create drainage to stop water from pooling in the parking lot and draining through the fenced area. I believe the best way to accomplish this is to scrape the earth from the left side of the 301 building to allow water to flow that direction and into the ditch behind the Community Chest.

The end, thank you.

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