

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
July 15, 2025

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Santomaso, Alan Samber, Josh Klein, Mike Burri, Josilyn Lutze, Rick Cullip, Debbie Unrein, Marilee Johnson, Callie Jones and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Santomaso moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2025 Work Session. Commissioner Brownell seconded, and the motion carried 2-0.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – Alan Samber explained the Knights of Columbus Beer Garden Agreement. The agreement that was published in the agenda packet has been revised. Section J was modified to say that all beverages will be served in plastic cups, aluminum cans or plastic bottles. The plastic cups are to be a brand that is not available to the public. Alan added the contract amount of \$13,000 to the agreement in section M.

LANDFILL UPDATE – Josh Klein met with the Board concerning CDPHE State Regulation 31. It has to do with monitoring methane emissions for municipal solid waste facilities. If new regulations are adopted, they will be very expensive for the county. Any landfill in the state that has over 450,000 tons of waste in place will have to start doing surface emissions testing. The Logan County Landfill has over a million tons of waste in place. Surface emissions testing parameters are 663 megagrams to 18,014 megagrams. Last year when the Logan County Landfill was tested for greenhouse gases, they were at 888 megagrams. If they stay within these parameters, they will be fine without having to do a gas collection system. However, the testing is going to cost anywhere from \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year. If they go over 2,000 megagrams, they will have to install a gas collection system. The initial cost to install a methane gas collection system is anywhere from \$2 - \$3 million and will cost over \$100,000 to maintain. It will also require additional staff to help maintain.

Commissioner Brownell stated that the testing part of this is already in statue. Klein stated that he will complete a “Waste in Place” report for the landfill by March 31, 2026 for the state letting them know that there is over a million tons of waste in the landfill since its opening. He will also have to do a 25-foot grid which is basically walking the landfill to see how much methane is being emitted into the ozone. Klein also said that the county landfill should start planning for the \$2 - \$3 million gas collection system in order for the landfill to stay open. Even if the landfill were to close, the landfill would have to monitor the emissions for the next 40 years.

Alan Samber explained the coalition of local governments that have banded together to hire legal counsel to try to get the regulations in their final form adopted with amendments that are more acceptable to local governments. Klein said that Colorado is one of the most lenient states and apparently is trying to catch up with everyone else on the monitoring side. Klein suggested that the county should plan for the worst. Even if it gets held back for the gas collection system, it’s just a matter of time before every landfill will be affected.

The State is also discussing raising the State user fee in 2026 and 2027. The fee will go from \$1.30 a ton to \$1.68 a ton in 2026 and then increase to over \$2 a ton in 2027. Klein stated that the landfill is fully staffed at this time.

Alan Samber said that the Board needed to decide on a funding level for the coalition. There is a three-tier participation level: Gold, Silver or Bronze. Mesa and Garfield Counties pledged up to \$50,000 each. However, they will not spend their pledged amounts first. Every county will be billed equally up to their maximum amount committed. The Gold level participation is \$20,000 or more and allows a seat on the

steering committee. Silver level participation is \$10,000-\$19,999. If Logan County joins, it will make around 14 counties in the coalition. Otero County is also considering joining. Morgan County has joined and pledged up to \$10,000 - \$15,000. The Board agreed to join at the Silver level, with the funding cap at \$15,000. The Board will add the authorization to join the Landfill Coalition – Common Interest Agreement on the business meeting agenda. The pledge amount will be up to \$15,000.

SALES AND USE TAX EXTENSION – Marilee Johnson met with the Board. She attended the July Jamz concert last Friday night, where representatives from RE-1 Valley School District were distributing information on their upcoming ballot issue. She suggested that the County could do something similar at the remaining July Jamz concerts and at the fair and other gatherings. This could also be sent out as a mailer with landfill statements and other mailings as well. Press releases will be given to the newspaper, and articles will be released.

Alan has been working on parameters for the Board so that they are not violating any election laws when discussing the ballot issue. The Board agreed that Marilee should work on talking points for a handout to distribute at July Jamz. This can also be a mailer to be sent out with any county mailings that already go out. Marilee will work with the newspaper to publish a press release. Board members will also be available to speak with civic groups and other organizations about the ballot issue. The Board will discuss this again at the next Work Session on July 22nd.

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS – This was tabled until July 22, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.