



**Jess L. Greenwood, P.E.**  
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TO: Honorable County Commissioners  
Scott Arneson, County Administrator

FROM: Jess L. Greenwood, Public Works Director / County Engineer

RE: 03 September 2024 County Board Meeting – REGULAR AGENDA  
**Wanamingo Demo Landfill Closure**

Date: 28 August 2024

#### Summary

It is requested that the County Board authorize the use of available fund balance dollars to cover expenses related to the closure of the Wanamingo Demo Landfill.

#### Background

At the September 19, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting, staff presented information concerning proposed rule changes to demolition landfills that would be enacted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). These rule changes, planned for 2024, would require much more extensive closure activities with the potential to cost demolition landfills an appreciable amount of money compared to an early closure option. The Goodhue County Board opted to pursue the early closure of the Wanamingo Demo Landfill and officially stopped accepting waste on November 19, 2023.

Staff has been closely working with Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) on closure plans and permitting since a decision to move toward closure was made. At present, the MPCA is in receipt of a permit modification application and a completed set of closure plans. The next steps, assuming MPCA concurrence with the permit application and plan set, would be to advertise, award, and construct the closure project.

Based on discussions with the Board last September concerning funding options, staff mentioned the possibility of utilizing fund balance dollars in the solid waste fund to cover this unplanned expense. Presently there are \$223,000 of the waste management fund that were committed to the closure project that the Board approved last December. Current construction estimates are approximately \$350,000.

#### Alternatives

- Authorize the use of fund balance dollars for all work related to the closure of the Wanamingo Demo Landfill.
- Utilize another funding source and allocate those dollars to cover the expenses of closing the Wanamingo Demo Landfill.

**"To effectively promote the safety, health, and well-being of our residents"**

- Do nothing, allow the MPCA to promulgate their new rules, and pay substantially more to close the Wanamingo Demo Landfill.

Recommendations

- Staff recommends that the Board authorize the use of fund balance dollars for all work related to the closure of the Wanamingo Demo Landfill.