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First satellite garbage collection site to start in Levy County



Levy County Solid Waste Director Rod Hastings speaks to the County Commission on March 5.

Story and Photos

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 12, 2019 at 1:49 p.m.

BRONSON – The Levy County Board of County Commissioners on March 5 unanimously gave Solid Waste Director Rod Hastings directions to start obtaining what is needed for one satellite household garbage collection site.



Levy County Commissioner Rock Meeks (left) and County Commission Vice Chairman Matt Brooks

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County Commission Chairman John Meeks (left) and County Commissioner Lilly Rooks



County Commissioner Mike Joyner

The department director had provided the five-member board with costs for three satellite sites for collection of residential garbage, but County Commissioner Mike Joyner's idea to try one satellite site first -- rather than three sites -- won the vote.

Currently, residents take their garbage to the solid waste transfer location between Bronson and Williston, or the people pay commercial collectors such as Waste Pro to deliver their garbage there.

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Championing the effort for site closer to people's houses is Levy County Commission Vice Chairman Matt Brooks. While all of the commissioners want their constituents to be able to enjoy the benefits of a closer drop-off point for residential garbage, only one is seeing the benefit from this first venture in that regard.

People in County Commissioner Lilly Rooks district will see the first satellite collection point serving them, and being closer than the transfer station between Williston and Bronson.

This satellite site is for residential garbage only.

Hastings on Tuesday (March 12) confirmed that a place known as Eight Mile, which is property owned by the county, will be the location of the first satellite solid waste transfer station.

Eight Mile is about four miles from the turn to go to Shell Mound Park and Campground as a person is heading away from Shell Mound and going toward Fowler's Bluff on Levy County Road 347.

For the person driving from Fowler's Bluff going toward Shell Mound, it is on the left side., about four miles before reaching the turn for Shell Mound.

There will be bids sought for some equipment, but Director Hastings gave a general view of costs. One compactor costs about \$18,500. Two compactors, however, would not cost \$37,000 but would cost about \$32,000, Hastings said.

There is economy of scale when buying for three sites versus for one site. The commissioners talked about trying to find a vendor who would give the county a deal, based on a possible promise of buying more in the future.

Given the cost of steel and other materials has been going up in recent years, it does not seem to match a common-sense test to think a machine will cost less in the future than it costs now.

The county will need to purchase two 35-yard recycling containers at about \$6,500 each, which is about \$13,000 total, Hastings said.

These recycling containers will not be like the current repurposed horse trailers that have been serving the county for years.

Another cost will be about 50 yards by 70 yards of fence, Hastings said.

For personnel, Hastings said he plans to hire a part-time worker who will be stationed there three days a week.