



## Status of Teton County Commissioners' Priorities

Updated 6/13/16

In early 2015, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) established a list of priority projects and initiatives. This list continues to evolve as projects get completed and county needs change. We will update this list periodically to keep the public informed of the current work the BoCC is engaged in.

### **Solid Waste Management**

**Complete Landfill Cap Monitoring Station** – The landfill cap rebuild required by Idaho Department of Environmental Quality was completed last year at a cost of about \$1.6 million. The new cap protects Teton Creek and the ground water from any contaminants that were disposed at the old Teton County Landfill. The County is now responsible for monitoring how effective the new cap is performing over the course of the next 30 years. If no moisture is migrating through the cap (as intended by the design and construction), then contaminants in the landfill cannot leach into the creek or ground water.

**Solid Waste Fee Refinement** – The BoCC is responsible for ensuring the county's Solid Waste Management System meets state and federal regulatory requirements. Counties are authorized by the state to collect both regulatory Solid Waste Fees and User ("tipping") Fees. Last year, the County restructured the Solid Waste Fee in accordance with State Statutes (Title 31, Chapters 8 and 44) in order to distribute the cost of operating the county's transfer station to all property owners. The BoCC was considering refining the flat fee approach to a graduated scale in order to address open space, common area, well, farm, and park/pathway parcels. In December 2015, a lawsuit was filed challenging the County's statutory authority to assess a fee on parcels that do not have a building on them. Though the judge has made an initial ruling in the case, the lawsuit remains unresolved. In the meantime, a discussion of how the solid waste fee may be structured in the future will take place at the regular BoCC meeting on Monday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

**Solid Waste Disposal System Long Range Plan** - The BoCC is working with the Solid Waste Department to determine the long range needs associated with maintaining and expanding the capacity at the County's transfer station. By implementing long-term planning, we can make short-term investments that will slowly increase the County's ability to collect, sort, recycle, and dispose of trash that is generated in our county. There may also be a need to work with other counties in our region to plan for and potentially build a regulatory compliant landfill.