



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

Office of Public Information

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2309

Contact: Christy Jergens, Public Information Manager

Office: 352-438-2311 ▪ Cell: 352-789-2152 ▪ Email: christy.jergens@marioncountyfl.org

COMMISSION DELIVERS LONG-TERM SOLID WASTE SOLUTION

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Dec. 20, 2011) – The Marion County Board of County Commissioners voted today to deliver a long-term solution to its solid waste needs, ending a disposal debate that has spanned several commissions. Commissioners unanimously approved (4-0) a contract today with A.C.M.S. Inc. to fund and dispose of waste at A.C.M.S.'s Bushnell (Sumter County) landfill. Commissioner Kathy Bryant was absent from the meeting but also expressed her support for the project through a letter to the board chairman.

Through the agreement, the county agrees to pay \$20 million for 2.5 million tons of disposal capacity in A.C.M.S.'s landfill at a guaranteed rate of eight dollars per ton. The A.C.M.S. site is projected to provide enough space to accommodate approximately 20 years worth of Marion County waste, depending on the amounts disposed each year. When combined with the remaining capacity at the county's Baseline landfill, this move is expected to meet county disposal needs for more than 30 years.

The Sumter location addresses several of the disposal concerns expressed in previous commission discussions on solid waste topics, such as overall cost effectiveness, close proximity to Marion County and sufficient capacity to provide long-term disposal for county residential waste.

"This is a positive step forward to solving an issue that has been an ongoing concern for the citizens for a very long time," said Commission Chairman Charlie Stone. "I am grateful for the support of the commission, staff and concerned citizens for their input."

District Four Commissioner Carl Zalak, III discussed the impact of the agreement on citizen disposal fees and overall solid waste costs.

"This agreement will allow us to be good stewards of our tax dollars and keep residential disposal fees low," Zalak said. "It will save us, at a bare minimum, \$60 million in solid waste costs."

The county also has a number of security provisions in the contract if any problems should occur with the company's performance of the agreement. For example, there are safeguards built into the contract that would enable Marion County to take over operation of the landfill should A.C.M.S. default in its obligations.

A.C.M.S. anticipates beginning construction for the landfill in January 2012. Construction is expected to last for approximately one year, after which the county would be able to use the site for disposal.

###



"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"