

2019 MWCC
Environmental
Conference

A Balancing Act:
The Many
Requirements at
a Modern Landfill

July 15, 2019



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

- What is balance?
- Balancing acts defined
- How to find it!
- Final Takeaways



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

What is balance?

- **Dictionary.com:**

Balance is having the right amount — not too much or too little — of any quality, which leads to harmony or evenness.

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

What is balance?

- Merriam Webster:



1. *an even distribution of weight enabling someone or something to remain upright and steady.* "she lost her balance before falling"

synonyms: stability, equilibrium, steadiness, footing

2. *a condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions.* "try to keep a balance between work and relaxation"

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

What is balance?

- Urban Dictionary:



4



Balance

Its a new word to discribe a really attractive woman, hot chick. On a scale of 10: a balance is a shorty that is an 8/10. Not completely a dime, but still really hot.

Tim: Ayo, bro did u see dat girl.

Alex: Word, dat shorty is my balance for the night.

#shorty #boo #dime #balance #sexy

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

What is balance?

- At a modern landfill balance is many things...

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts Defined

- At a modern landfill...

...it's striving for harmony in the following areas:

- ∞ Technical/operational
- ∞ Regulatory/compliance
- ∞ Economic/financial
- ∞ People/culture
- ∞ Community relations



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Technical/Operational

- Airspace planning – construction sequencing
 - Compaction, settlement, soil usage, ADC, liquids, etc.
 - Waste flow swings
 - What could go wrong???
- Leachate management – hot topic!
 - Cell development and storm water management
 - Liquids addition
 - Cost and effectiveness of options
 - Weather - precipitation

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Technical/Operational

- LFG management
 - “Balancing” GCCS (vacuum: **too little vs too much**)
 - **Compliance vs causing LF fire (not as simple as cranking up the vacuum)**
 - LFGTE developer (compliance vs LFGTE efficiency)
- Equipment
 - **Maintain vs buy new** (cost, timing, risk of breakdown)
- Soil usage
 - Daily cover usage (**not enough vs too much**; compliance)
 - Site balance (structural fill, liner, daily/int cover, final cover)

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Technical/Operational

- Safety
 - Load inspections, flaggers, etc. – **compliance vs maximizing worker safety**
- **Scale throughput vs working face traffic**
 - Balancing traffic and waste at the face
 - Keep customers safe/happy
 - Maintain harmony!

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Regulatory/Compliance

- CCR
 - Federal vs state requirements (GW, liner/cover systems, etc.)
 - CCR Rule is a vague in many areas
 - Self implementing rule – i.e., no regulator to work with
 - Overhaul the “old way” – tough to break decade long habits



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Economic/Financial

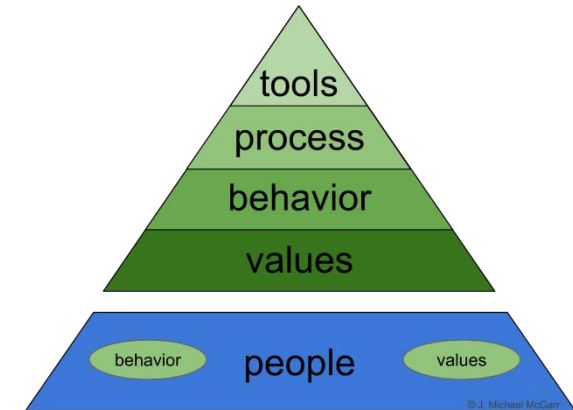
- Budgets are always tight!
- Needs vs wants
- Budgeting and communication challenges
 - Engineering vs operations
 - Environmental vs engineering (Utility)
 - Site vs regional vs corporate



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – People/Culture

- Staffing numbers
 - Private – financially driven, no extras
 - Public – shared staff
- Cultural issues – mergers/acquisitions
- “What do I like least about my job? Managing people!”



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

Balancing Acts – Community Relations

- NIMBY effect!
- Local politics
- Social/digital media = escalator
- CCR - prescribed website posting
 - New and challenging concept to industry
 - Too little? Doesn't provide enough detail
 - Too much? May invite scrutiny >> lawsuits?



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- Technical/Operational
 - ✓ Have a plan!
 - ✓ Identify multiple leachate management options
 - ✓ Don't reinvent the wheel
 - ✓ Utilize industry groups (MWCC, SWANA, USWAG, EPRI)
 - ✓ Talk to people! ([Communicate](#))

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- Regulatory/Compliance
 - ✓ Audit program
 - ✓ Communication plan with regulators
 - ✓ Develop relationships!
 - ✓ Regular meetings
 - ✓ Construction updates



A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- Economic/Financial
 - ✓ Detailed planning leads to accurate budgets
 - ✓ Seek broad input
 - ✓ Consider market changes/volatility
 - ✓ Build in budget contingencies
 - ✓ Communicate across organization (pre and post)

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- People/Culture
 - ✓ Treat others as you would like to be treated
 - ✓ Work hard, play hard
 - ✓ Merger/acquisition: have an integration plan and execute it
 - ✓ Communicate! Talk to people, listen to people, know what's going on

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- Community Relations
 - ✓ Build early relationships – you'll need them
 - ✓ Educate the public
 - ✓ Know your political reps
 - ✓ Host open houses and regular roundtables
 - ✓ Be active in the community, be visible
 - ✓ Support the broader industry (all for one!)
 - ✓ Utilize internal experts or consider a PR firm
 - ✓ Budget for it
 - ✓ Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!
 - ✓ You can never do enough!



Landfill Rebranding Committee

A Joint Committee of SWANA's
Landfill Management Technical Division and
Communication, Education & Marketing
Technical Division



Contact Anastasia Welch for details

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

How to Find It! (Balance that is)

- Final Takeaways

- ✓ There are a lot of technical/operational resources – use them

- ✓ Planning is your friend – plan, communicate, execute

- ✓ **Communication may be the key to it all!**

Understanding that communication is critical to overall balance at a landfill!

A Balancing Act: The Many Requirements at a Modern Landfill

