NOTE: These minutes are subject to review and modification by the ACSWMD MDA Committee at its next regular meeting.

ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Municipal Drop-off Advisory Committee Meeting
ACSWMD Office
1223 Route 7 South
Middlebury, VT 05753
March 2, 2017, 5:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Cheryl Brinkman, Chair (CB); Susan Reit de Salas (SR); Deb Gaynor (DG); Bill Finger (BF). Staff: Don Maglienti, Program Manager (DM); Teri Kuczynski, District Manager (TK); Gary Hobbs, Transfer Station Supervisor (GH); Jac Hochreiter, Public Outreach Coordinator (JH). Guest: Mel Hawley, City Manager, Vergennes.

I. Call to Order – The Chair called the meeting of the Municipal Drop-off Advisory Committee to order at 5:05 PM.

II. Edits to Agenda if needed, and Approve Agenda – Agenda was approved and minutes approved.

III. Review SWIP 2016 Survey and Front Porch Forum/Newsletter Survey – DM presented the details of the District’s 2016 SWIP Survey. The survey was required by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) as part of the Materials Management Plan in the SWIPs. For over a year, solid waste managers and ANR worked to standardize the survey to compare results with each other and to minimize bias. Most questions were mandated by ANR, with slight modification allowed in each solid waste planning entity. Our District survey was performed in-house and cost about $10,000. The survey included the town of Bristol, which had only been a member of the District for six months. The survey was not targeted to a specific population. We did a saturation mailing of the survey to all postal addresses in the District, and offered $600 in rewards to the first respondents to return their surveys. The District-wide response rate was statistically high – 1,500 responses out of approx. 18,000 mailed. The confidence level per town was lower. The Recycling response options were: (a) drop-off, (b) curbside, (c) in the trash, or (d) don’t know. The Trash response options were: (a) drop-off, (b) curbside, (c) dumpster, (d) don’t know and (e) other. The term “dumpster” referred to apartment dumpsters or dumpsters at the workplace. TK mentioned that several respondents also commented. DM gave an example question: “Please share any other thoughts you would like.” Use of the town drop-offs for both recycling and trash was higher for most towns. Cornwall and Middlebury responses favored curbside. BF stated that statistically, this is not a random, scientific survey. Mel recalled a six-week study years ago that asked Vergennes drop-off customers the name of their town, and assumed that customers recycled less than once per week. They then assumed that all else were curbside customers. Using number of homes and tonnage, the results were pretty accurate.

TK handed out the summary of a more recent food scrap survey included in our Fall newsletter (mailed to all postal addresses) and posted on Front Porch Forum, to gather data on current household food scrap management. JH explained that if households were already diverting, they told us how, and if they were not, they told us how they expect to start once we reach 2020. We received 481 responses, with 78% (N=375) currently diverting, and 22% (N=106) not. Of those currently diverting, the most common methods were composting (93%), and feeding to animals (17%). Of those respondents not yet diverting, 46% speculated that they would begin composting, 30% said they would bring to the drop-offs, and 30% said they would have the hauler collect food scraps.
IV. Updated Summary of Member Town Drop-off Information – TK revised the spreadsheet to add more cost and tonnage information. Some data is still missing, e.g., Addison recycling at the trash truck. Staff has been requesting more data from the towns and haulers. SR reported that the Starksboro Recycling cost is $2,500/yr. Revenues are $1,600/yr. in donations, and $900 in taxes. BF will check Lincoln’s costs – they have gone down since Moose began collecting there. DG expressed concern about the Monkton recycling program after the 4H volunteers leave. The town will have to look at alternatives soon.

V. Preliminary Cost Analysis for Food Scrap Collection at Drop-offs – TK presented a preliminary cost estimate for the District to collect food scraps from 12 town drop-offs, in the event that the trash haulers were unable to provide the service beginning on 7/1/17. Mel asked for clarification that the Universal Recycling Law requires mobile trash haulers parked at a town drop-off to collect food scraps if the town drop-off does not provide the service, and TK confirmed that is the case. All haulers and all facilities that collect trash will have to begin offering food scrap collection to its customers as of 7/1/17. If a facility or a hauler does not collect trash, i.e., only collects recyclables, it does not have to collect leaf & yard debris or food scraps. While it is true that mandatory food scrap composting for all and a landfill ban take effect in 2020, many businesses are already within or are going to fall within the legal threshold for mandatory composting of their food scraps this year, or they might voluntarily compost their food scraps, and will need facilities that accept the food scraps and haulers to collect the food scraps. Cost estimates and proposed rates vary depending on the number of town drop-offs serviced, the location of the drop-offs, the amount of food scraps collected at each, and the size of the buckets used by customers. The method and location of toter cleaning also remains to be determined.

The District just received a High Meadows grant to purchase two food scrap toters for each town drop-off, and combined our toter order with other districts to save money. Although the toters will be owned by the District and will have our logo on them, haulers collecting food scraps at town drop-offs will be able to service these toters. We are still researching whether two 4-gallon buckets or one 5-gallon bucket per household make more sense for residents to carry their food scraps either to the drop-off or to the curb. We are also looking at various types of bucket lids. All toters and buckets will be green and will be labeled.

For the next meeting, the Chair suggested that the Committee develop a schedule to visit the town selectboards to discuss food scrap collection at their town drop-offs. The Chair suggested that the Committee also visit the Ferrisburgh selectboard to discuss the prospect of a new regional drop-off in their town, based on their population and central location. DG is requesting to get on the Monkton selectboard schedule in late April. SR reported that Starksboro is also prepared to meet with the Committee. TK was asked to develop a cost estimate for a District regional drop-off, as several members want to look at the prospect of a regional drop-off network. The topic of food scrap bucket purchases will also be discussed at the next meeting. Let TK know if there are any other topics to add to the agenda.

VI. Adjourn – The next meeting of the MDAC will be held on April 6, at 5 PM. The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

I agree that this is an original of the March 2, 2017 minutes that were considered and approved by the MDAC at its meeting of ______________.

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Teresa A. Kuczynski, District Clerk