ADDISON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Municipal Drop-off Advisory Committee Meeting

ACSWMD Office
1223 Route 7 South
Middlebury, VT 05753
December 15, 2016, 5:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present: Cheryl Brinkman, Chair (CB), Deb Gaynor (DB), Bill Finger (BF), Richard Reed (RR). Staff: Gary Hobbs, Tr. St. Supervisor (GH); Don Maglienti, Program Manager (DM); Teri Kuczynski, District Manager (TK)

I. Call to Order – The Chair called the first meeting of the Municipal Drop-off Advisory Committee to order at 5:00 PM.

II. Edits to Agenda if Needed, and Approve Agenda – No changes to the agenda were made.

III. Logistics of Committee (location, date, time & duration) – The Chair asked for members’ availability. The Committee decided on the first Thursday of the month at 5:00 PM for the regular meeting. The Chair reminded members that a call-in option is available. The length of meetings will be about one and one half hours. Staff was asked to draft a letter to the selectboards that could be in the Town Meeting Day warning (non-voting item). Field trips: The Chair asked TK to compile a list of the meeting dates for each selectboard so that we know when we might get added to the agenda.

IV. Purpose of Committee – Member towns are facing new deadlines for receiving new materials at their drop-offs. These changes may be more costly and offer fewer options to the towns. The haulers will also need assistance. BF: One option may be for District staff to do the actual factions and management of the drop-offs. The Chair added that recycling collection arrangements may also be reconsidered. TK confirmed that the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) requires trash haulers parked at town recycling drop-offs to offer the collection of recyclables, leaf & yard waste, and food scraps (as of 7/1/17) if the town opts out of providing collection. The town could require the trash hauler to absorb the cost of collecting recyclables in the trash bag rate, which could save approx. $10,000 - $30,000/yr in the town budgets. TK will prepare a summary of current town drop-off systems and how they pay for their programs.

V. Goals of Committee, Both Short and Long-Term – The Chair asked how to meet our goals and suggested that we begin with analyzing what other solid waste districts are doing. TK asked the new District Manager of the Chittenden Solid Waste District – Sarah Reeves – to meet with us in February to discuss their strategic plan. They are also in the process of analyzing which drop-offs to operate as regional facilities, whether they should close some or open others. The Chair mentioned the solid waste section of the Town Plans. The Plans are supposed to be redone every five years and approved by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. Towns will have to revise the Plans (by 2018?) to add energy piece in there; perhaps this is time to look at the solid waste section.
The Town Reports will be developed soon for Town Meeting Day. Staff is to prepare a letter or other educational piece for the selectboards: Repeat Act 148 timeline; list deadlines; mention toter purchases. TK to find out the meeting dates for each town selectboard.

Regarding the summary of town drop-offs: DG: It needs to be an info collection point and lay out all info on trash, recyclables, leaf & yard waste and food. The Chair: Include the costs and how the town pays for them. Ask if they are expecting any changes, and if so, when. Ask if they have a plan.

There is some benefit for a District-wide network of regional drop-offs, enabling customers to access a drop-off 5 days a week, increase convenience for all. We will need to check with the haulers: What do you want/need? What can you do? RR: Small haulers made it clear at the Hauler Dinner that they want to be included in the outreach to the town selectboards. Study how people are responding to opening up Middlebury. BF: Lincoln sells dump stickers for access to drop-off. Moose would rather have the drop-off open to anyone. Lincoln would have to take a look at that option. DG: Road access doesn’t always follow. DM: Heard from members of the public that they are going elsewhere. Some Starksboro residents go to the Hinesburg drop-off (a CSWD facility) on their way to work. Are these contractual agreements, handshakes between towns? With pay-as-you-throw systems, it doesn’t make a big difference because the customer is paying for the service – it’s not paid for in the host town’s property taxes. TK: The District Transfer Station charges $50/month to commercial haulers for recyclables. BF: Lincoln current charges are: $5/bag of trash, $600/day to park a truck there (property tax), $30,000/yr. for recyclables (property tax). Moose will charge $5/bag for trash, and no charge for recyclables. That will save the town approx. $33,120/yr. TK: Haulers can provide the services. The problem is lack of access to capital for new trucks, trailers, toters, etc. Moose was able to do it by having the Town of Lincoln purchase the trailers and lease them back to Moose. The Chair asked what the financial burden would be on the District to offer several regional drop-offs. BF: Tally up the total costs. TK: The District could offer milk runs to empty food scrap toters at the town drop-offs if individual haulers are unable to provide the service. DG suggested that we invite legislators to meet with the full BOS to talk about these issues.

VI. Ideas for Next Meeting – The next meeting will be held on January 5. The agenda will include a Town Meeting Day draft letter; a schedule of selectboard meetings; a list of what is available at the town drop-offs. We would then email the Town Clerks, BOS to inform them of the Committee’s willingness to visit. DG would like to discuss charter revisions with changes in voting allocation. The Chair suggested that the topic was one that the E.Bd should consider. GH would like to discuss further how to prevent a financial loss. We would have to be all in. If we had to buy equipment with PAYT, one (trash) has the money and one (recyclables) does not, so we would have to do both.

VII. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

I agree that this is an original of the December 15, 2016 minutes that were considered and approved by the MDAC at its meeting of ____________.

Teresa A. Kuczynski, District Clerk