

Town of Waldoboro, Maine
Minutes
Transfer Station Committee Meeting
Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway
Thursday March 14, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

Sign in and Call to Order

The Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Determination of the presence of a Quorum (5 Committee members – or their alternates-- must be present)

Present at the meeting were the following committee members

John Higgins (Alternate Waldoboro Resident sitting in for Ted Wooster)
Bob Butler, Waldoboro Resident
Will Payson, Cushing Select Board
Randy Robbins, Cushing Resident
Liz Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board
John E. Meyn, Friendship Resident
Bruce Payson, Hauler

Others present at the meeting were: John Spear, Waldoboro Town Manager; John Daigle, Waldoboro Department of Public Works; Al McKay, Transfer Station Operator; Monika Magee, Cushing Resident, Alan McGee, Cushing Resident; Greg Lounder, Executive Director, Municipal Review Committee

The chairman announced the presence of a quorum.

February 14th Minutes.

Bruce Prior noted that he had not received a copy of the minutes for the February 14th meeting. John Meyn moved that the minutes be approved, as written; Randy Robbins seconded the motion. All Committee members present voted in favor of the motion.

Greg Lounder – Municipal Review Committee. Update and Q & A
PERC/Casella agreement and Other Matters

The Committee Chairman introduced Greg Lounder, Executive Director of the Municipal Review Committee. This was Greg Lounder's second appearance in front of the Committee.

Mr. Lounder made the following points, some of them in response to questions from committee members:

- a. Mr. Lounder explained that MRC was created to act on behalf the 134 Charter Municipalities, which have contracted with Penobscot Energy Recovery Corporation (PERC) to accept and incinerate their municipal solid waste (MSW).
- b. Mr. Lounder pointed out that the closure of the incinerator in Biddeford at the end of 2012 meant that MSW formerly sent to that facility needed to find another home. Casella, which controls the operations of the Old Town Landfill at Juniper Ridge and owns Maine

Energy, the closed Biddeford plant, had contracted with about 20 municipalities in southern Maine to take in their MSW and recycled materials. Casella approached PERC and MRC to see if they could absorb what had been formerly shipped to Biddeford, part of the goal being to displace out-of-state waste that PERC had used to round out its fuel needs. PERC and other interested parties entered into a contractual arrangement to address that and other issues. As a stakeholder in PERC, the MRC, on the behalf of the Charter Municipalities, is an interested party.

c. Mr. Lounder indicated that the new agreement between PERC and Casella had an upside of \$500,000 to the Charter Municipalities. He asserted that a good portion of this amount (\$300,000) is directly related to tipping fees, however he refused to divulge the tipping fees that Casella is paying PERC pursuant to the new contract. He did clarify the advantage accruing to the Charter Municipalities is related to the difference between fees PERC would have received for taking out of state waste, which paid a lower amount to PERC because it came from further away.

d. Mr. Lounder indicated there would be many choices in 2018 for getting less expensive electricity. Prices are coming down to as low as \$0.04 per kwh. PERC is currently producing at \$0.10/kwh. PERC will have to compete in a far more competitive environment. It may have to consider transitioning from burning to land filling. And, there are new technologies that could replace what PERC is now doing. PERC's focus needs to be on higher energy products and retrofitting may be necessary. One option may be to transform trash to liquid fuel using new gasification processes. Another is solid fuel pellets, which are a valuable supplemental fuel in coal-fired units. They permit coal fired plants to stay in compliance with clean air regulations. There may be advantages to building new. PERC is looking at the property next door to the Orrington plant, which the Town of Orrington owns.

e. The MRC has leverage because so many towns are working together. MRC has a tip fee stabilization fund of \$21 million and a \$2.6 million operating budget stabilization fund. All of MRC's fund information is available at www.mrc.org. MRC's strengths give it the ability to control and manage whatever options evolve during the coming 5 years. MRC currently has 187 towns and could have 20 or 22 more if the towns in southern Maine join in. The towns now need to begin to fend for themselves. They have the option to purchase the PERC site in 2018. The funds for decommissioning are available.

f. Monika observed that five years are not enough time to solve the issues with PERC.

g. Will Payson asked about Casella and its single-stream recycling. He pointed out that, in his opinion, towns may transition to single-stream without consulting with MRC. PERC's GAT creates an inter-relationship between GAT and recycling. Higher recycling rates means less solid waste available to meet GAT. He asked how single stream relates to incoming waste flows. Is the transition to single stream economically viable? In the post 2018 world can we, as a large group, cooperate to improve recycling?

h. Greg Lounder responded that PERC/Casella are discussing the use of the Old Town landfill with PERC's private partners. He pointed out that with single stream 20% to 25% of the recycled matter ends up being burned or placed into a landfill. Some committee members expressed their strong reservations about ANY recycled waste ending up in a landfill, pointing out that all such waste should be incinerated. The message was clear: In the absence of careful sorting, recyclable materials can end up outside the recycled stream.

Facility Improvement Recommendations

John Meyn moved and Randy Robbins seconded that the committee recommend to the Waldoboro Select Board that it come on board with the facility improvements recommendation and that, specifically, the Waldoboro Select Board approve the construction of the Bulky Waste Transfer Area. The vote was unanimous. John Higgins asked about the need for a performance bond. John Daigle pointed out that a performance bond is not needed because the project cost is less than \$100,000. He confirmed that the engineers would determine the specifications for the job.

John Meyn moved and Randy seconded that the committee endorse a financing strategy, which

utilizes balances in the Landfill Reserve. The vote was unanimous.

John Meyn moved and Randy seconded that the Transfer Station Committee request a special meeting with the Waldoboro Select Board to discuss the improvements and the construction of the Bulky Waste Transfer Area. The vote was unanimous.

Finally, it was moved and seconded that the Transfer Station Committee appoint Bob Butler and John Spear to draft the recommendation for the Select Board. The vote was unanimous. Bob and John promised to get a draft of the recommendation to the committee members for their input well in advance of the scheduled meeting with the Waldoboro Select Board.

Bruce Prior requested that notices to haulers concerning the renewal of FY 2014 licenses be sent out to the haulers as soon as possible.

Complete discussion of FY2014 Transfer Station Budget. (John Spear and John Daigle)

John Spear passed out and clarified to the committee a copy of the proposed FY 2014 budget for the Transfer Station

Discussion of LCTV Animation/Presentation (Video #2)

Monika presented a new version of the cardboard recycling video and the video about using the transfer station. The committee voted to send the videos onto the LCTV for broadcasting.

Adjourn

John Meyn moved that the committee adjourn. John Higgins seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Respectfully Submitted: Bob Butler, Chairman and Liz Dinsmore, Secretary

Approved: Bob Butler, Chairman _____

 John Higgins, Alternate _____

 Liz Dinsmore, Secretary _____

 John Meyn _____

 Will Payson _____

 Bruce Prior _____

 Randolph Robbins _____