

**Town of Waldoboro, Maine**  
**Transfer Station Committee Meeting**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**Municipal Building - 1600 Atlantic Highway**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

- A. Sign in and Call to Order
- B. Determine the presence of a Quorum (at least 5 of the 7 Committee members or their duly appointed Alternates must be present)

The following Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee members were present and constituted a quorum:

Robert Butler, Waldoboro Resident  
Elizabeth Dinsmore, Friendship Select Board  
David Benner, Alternate for Friendship Resident  
Monika Magee, Cushing Resident and Alternate  
Randolph Robbins, Cushing Resident  
John Higgins, Waldoboro Resident sitting in for Terry Gifford, Waste Hauler  
Ted Wooster, Waldoboro Selectman

John Daigle, Director of Waldoboro Public Works; Ronald L. Miller, Waldoboro Selectman; and Seth Hall, Waldoboro Resident, were also present

- 3. Randy Robbins moved to approve the minutes of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as written. Liz Dinsmore seconded the motion. Dave Benner and Monika Magee abstained from voting. Butler, Dinsmore, Higgins, Robbins, and Wooster voted in favor of the motion. (The alternates voting on the motion were in attendance of the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting and had full knowledge of the proceedings.)
- 4. Discussion of MRRA Conference

Butler asked each conference attendee to highlight their impressions of the conference.

Butler reported on two presentations that made the biggest impression.

Study of PAYT in rural communities. The presenter had studied 5 towns in NH. The results were astonishing. There were 50% to 60% reductions in MSW and commensurate increases in recycling, with subsequent decreases in transfer station budgets.

Muskie Institute presentation. The presenter had done a survey. He noted that the town of Cushing submitted far and away more responses to his survey than any other town in Maine. The study evaluated Pay as You Throw within the towns that responded. His results were not as dynamic as the results obtained in NH and VT, and, in fact, members of the audience questioned some of the sampling techniques he had used. He agreed with the criticism but countered that the purpose of the study was to show the *trends* in Maine. He pointed out that 31% of communities in ME are now using PAYT. However, the effectiveness of the PAYT

programs was very much a function of the way the programs were implemented.

Randy Robbins reported that he had listened to Maine DEP Commissioner, Patricia Aho. She asserted that Maine is the #1 state in recycling. She said that dirty MRFS (Materials Recovery Facility) are currently the backbone of the recycling industry. (Note: A **materials recovery facility, materials reclamation facility, materials recycling facility or Multi re-use facility (MRF** - pronounced "murf") is a specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials for marketing to end-user manufacturers. Generally, there are two different types: **clean** and **dirty** MRFs. “ The product obtained is not as clean as the product we get through LCR. Randy also spoke to Robert Knudsen of USA Group, the majority shareholder of PERC. Randy reported that Knudsen said things that did not track MRC’s latest information. Knudsen said PERC would be viable in 2018 and that the tipping fee would be well under \$100. Knudsen said PERC would not need subsidies after 2018. Knudsen indicated PEREC wants to move into higher levels of recycling. Knudsen said the turbine generator is in excellent condition. They have 24 long-time employees. They will not be bringing outside waste into ME. The plant is almost completely paid off.

After PERC provided their evaluation George Aronson spoke on behalf of the Municipal Review Committee and basically contradicted all of PERC’s claims. Those committee members who attended the conference noted that the PERC presentation had no slides, numbers or budgets. There was nothing concrete to support their arguments. The PERC proponents dealt in generalities. PERC claimed they could cut the tonnage the plant receives in half and still run it efficiently. Ted Wooster commented that without the state subsidy, PERC would not be able to operate. And, if PERC intends to survive after 2018 without subsidies, why are they continuing to present bills to the legislature that would allow for subsidies to PERC. Ron Miller said the fact that PERC offered no numbers would have him believe that PERC has no case to present.

Those who attended the conference said there was a lot of information about the Fiberight facility. Monika affirmed that if the plant could be built, recycling in Maine would increase substantially.

Seth Hall asked about contingency plans. Butler pointed out that there are other options, but the MRC are now so down the road with Fiberight that other options are not likely to be needed. The Fiberight plant will produce sugars, ethanol for fuel, and plastic chips. It will have an anaerobic digester. Fiberight is suggesting a tipping of \$57/ton. Butler is skeptical. He said MRC’s timeline is to approach its 187 communities by the end of this year to ask them about contracting with the Fiberight facility.

John Higgins asked how long it had taken Fiberight to build the plant in Iowa. “Will Fiberight be ready with the plant in Maine before PERC closes its doors in spring of 2018?” he asked. Butler said the Hampden plant is scheduled for completion in Dec 2017, three months before PERC is to shutdown. MRC and PERC have submitted permit applications. They’ve looked at the site plan and the impact on vernal pools.

Ted Wooster said MRC had yet to resolve the issue of its surplus. Butler said MRC is putting that topic at the top of its list and will come forward with proposals shortly.

Randy could not believe how low the prices of recyclables were. Cardboard is \$98/ton, down for \$120. He spoke to Kevin Roche of EcoMaine who commented that the business model for recycling is currently unsustainable. That may well be because of the current low prices for recyclables.

Ted Wooster wondered how the model for sustainability would look if you threw in the cost of landfills. Roche’s comments notwithstanding, EcoMaine claims they make recycling sustainable with their model of trash incineration and recycling.

Randy went on to say that he'd heard PAYT reduces MSW and increases recycling. Randy referred to an old report from 2009 at this house. It showed different responses to PAYT from different communities. Randy noted that all Vermont towns would be required to adopt PAYT in 2017.

Butler pointed to a parallel to the water shortage in California. California does not charge a user's fee for the water they give you. They allocate the water, instead. Under California's system, water has become a political football. In the absence of a behavioral economics model Californians are not going to solve their water shortage problem. The parallel with MSW is that if you don't charge people a fee for what they throw away, they'll throw away as much as they want.

Seth asked if there are differences in PAYT between towns that manage the programs themselves and towns that hire outsiders to manage them. Butler noted that no one spoke specifically in those terms. That was one of the problems with the survey that was done in Maine. Butler noted that bag prices are keyed to how much of the cost of the program a town wishes to cover with the price of the bags. John Daigle said he would not want the cost of the bags to cover the wages and benefits of transfer station employees. "What if you don't make enough money from bags to cover those costs?" he asked. "The employees would not get paid."

Monika Magee reported that the MRRRA presentations are now available on their website: [www.mrra.net/publications](http://www.mrra.net/publications). She added that there are archives for presentations from previous years, as well. One of them concerned a study of what was in the bags of the patrons of one transfer station.

Ted Wooster said we should stay in touch with Lincoln County Recycling. Butler said that a representative of LCR would visit with the committee on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss composting. John Daigle said he wanted to limit the questions to composting. He did not want questions about the LCR budget

#### C. Discussion of Waste Hauler Application Addendum

The Committee discussed a proposed Waste Hauler Addendum for the Waste Hauler application. Butler had drafted the addendum and pointed out that it had grown out of the letter the Committee had received from Liam Ducharme. Ducharme had indicated greater participation of haulers was needed in the selection for the Waste Hauler seat on the committee.

Miller pointed out that the addendum is not mandatory in any way. Seth Hall said it's a great way to begin communicating with the waste haulers.

After discussing the issue and changing the word "accede" to "act on" Ted Wooster moved, and Monika Magee seconded the motion, that the committee recommend the addendum to the Town Office. There were four votes in favor of the motion (Wooster, Butler, Robbins, and Magee), two opposed (Higgins and Dinsmore), and one abstention (Benner).

#### D. Discussion of Complaint about Littering from Uncovered Loads

Butler opened the discussion, saying John Higgins had brought this up a couple of times. The sign at the transfer station says, "All loads must be covered".

Butler wondered how one you enforced something like that.

Ron Miller said that was something for the police department to enforce.

Butler suggested should increase awareness and talk about it, not enforce it.

Ron Miller said that down on his road people leave stuff in their boats that can blow away. He said his community had just finished their spring cleanup and came up with 4 bags of trash instead of the usual two trailer loads. He thought the Shellfish Committee did some of it.

Seth said Billy Bragg had mentioned to him that he (Bragg) coordinates the clambers to contribute to the clean up of the waterways. Comments were made that there's a lot less litter. In general, it's getting a lot better. There's not as much stuff lying around

Miller said he was really impressed that he did not have to pick up one tire this year. The biggest piece of trash was an abandoned kids bicycle.

Ted Wooster commented that education is working.

John Daigle volunteered that the highway department picks up the side of the road most of the time. Daigle confirmed that there's not that much trash. He went on, "This issue that Morin and others brought up about littering is upsetting to hear." Daigle said most commercial haulers were covered. He added that Morin does not cover his pick-up loads, only his trailer loads. Daigle said he does not have an issue with Morin. He added that the litter is not like it used to be. Some of it appears to be from people in Thomaston and Camden.

Daigle said the kids would pick up trash this month. They used to take the dump trucks to pick up the bags the kids had filled. Now they just take the pick-up truck.

Monika said that Cushing is no longer allowed to ask the scouts for help. Daigle said his program is a community education day that he works through the schools, which have insurance.

Randy Robbins asked if Waldoboro had a problem with people dumping trash to the gravel pits. Daigle said it was not much of a problem.

Daigle mentioned that the Transfer Station now has cameras. They can be borrowed and used at certain sites to catch people who litter. The camera is available to all three towns.

The day pad issue Morin raised has been addressed. Al's back-up at the transfer station was not certified to use the loader so there were a couple of days in the month when the day pads were not cleared of debris and nails. That problem has now been addressed.

#### E. Discussion of Select Board Request for Workshop with TSC.

Butler announced that the Select Board had scheduled a workshop to discuss the Transfer Station. Butler said he was unable to obtain an agenda. He reported he had called Carl Cunningham, who had requested the workshop. He had suggested to Cunningham that the workshop be postponed until after a person of interest had returned from vacation. Cunningham refused to call off the workshop because it had already been rescheduled once.

Seth Hall wanted to confirm what the workshop was all about. Butler said it was the Select Board that had called for the workshop, not the committee.

Butler asked committee members what they wished to do. Liz Dinsmore pointed out that both Friendship and Cushing would have their Select Board meetings on that Tuesday because Monday was a holiday. She criticized the Waldoboro Select Board for not getting in put concerning who was going to be available. Butler said he'd be happy to go.

Miller said he thought the workshop was to be about the transfer station committee's goals and objectives.

Butler repeated that the Waldoboro Town Manager had told him it was on the agenda and he repeated his question, "What do you want to do?"

Miller said it was nothing the committee needed to be there for. Dave Benner said it would not make one bit of difference whether Cushing or Friendship was at the meeting or not because Waldoboro runs the show.

Ronnie Miller repeated that there was no reason for committee members to be there.

Seth suggested that the committee is *ex parte* and might consider tabling the issue. Let the Select Board be the driver of the process.

Terry Gifford said that if it's a workshop, everybody is welcome to come.

Randy Robbins said the original reason for the workshop had to do with an individual who is not here tonight. Miller added that he thought that's what started it all. Butler suggested that if that's what it's all about, let's wait until that individual returns.

#### F. Discussion of Pilot Composting Program with Lincoln County Recycling

John Daigle reported that he had said "yes" to a Lincoln County Recycling pilot composting program for the Waldoboro Transfer Station. Were Waldoboro to go it alone, it would cost the town \$16,000 to \$18,000 to train people and to put in a cement composting pad. With the pilot program, there's no need to spend that money. The pilot will be a tremendous savings for the town.

John Daigle said that when people throw their trash bags away, the average bag weight of someone who does not recycle is about 30 pounds. The average bag weight of someone who DOES recycle is about 20 pounds per bag. It's a big difference. Every trailer that goes out to PERC has about 1600 bags of trash. Composting could reduce our tonnage going to PERC. "It's the right thing to do," he said.

Daigle proposed buying some 5-gallon buckets, for perhaps \$5 or \$10 each. He said the transfer station could offer those participating free compost. The only cost Daigle foresees is the purchase of the buckets.

Butler asked how many buckets. "One hundred and fifty," Daigle responded. They would have easy peel tops and they would not smell. The transfer station would swap empty buckets for full ones, empty the full ones into staged 50-gallon containers, wash the dirty bucket and store it for further use. LCR would pick up the filled 50-gallon containers as necessary.

Daigle confirmed he would not propose this as a moneymaking program for haulers.

John Higgins asked what would happen if the compostable material is contaminated with bones and meat or other materials that get thrown in by mistake.

Daigle said LCR would be able to screen those materials off and deal with them appropriately.

Miller asked what the Transfer Station would do if he brought his own 5-gallon bucket. Daigle said the program requires use of the buckets the program provides.

Seth asked if it is a good idea to just hand the whole thing off to LCR rather than spend our

own money. Daigle responded that self administering the program would be expensive. "There's a lot of testing and other expenses you run into with your own program," he said.

Higgins asked, "What's the incentive?" Daigle responded that the transfer station might have to buy compost from LCR to give to people who want to get involved. Purchases of compost could be financed by savings realized lower tonnages sent to PERC.

Ted Wooster pointed out the composting will complement a PAYT program.

Seth asked if the transfer station composts waste now. Daigle confirmed that it does not. He pointed out that under the pilot program, the transfer station could begin accepting yard waste. He added that such waste would require a different kind of container.

Miller suggested we find out how many of the black domed composters the town office has sold. This could help to indicate how many people are composting now. If the number is large, there might be no need to compost at the transfer station. The pilot program will help us to determine whether there's an interest and allow us to concentrate on those who do not have black composting domes.

Monika Magee said that one study had shown that 38% of what was found in trash bags was compostable materials. Removing that from the waste stream could realize substantial savings. She added that a lot of people in Cushing compost themselves.

Daigle confirmed that the program is for people who don't have a means of composting themselves. There was a discussion of which buckets to purchase. John Daigle is looking into that.

Dave Benner asked about the school. Daigle responded that schools have garbage disposals that grind up their waste and put it into the septic systems.

Randy Robbins pointed out that Vermont had a problem with rats and other vermin. Daigle did not think they would be a problem at this point. The containers are covered and the Transfer Station treats monthly for rats.

Seth Hall said compostable waste from businesses is complicated. Daigle agreed and pointed out that the pilot is tiny, is not scaled to large users, and would likely not include businesses at first.

Monika asked when the program would start. Daigle said he'd start it when he has the buckets, perhaps within one month.

After discussing "branding" on the buckets and disposal of grass clippings Ted Wooster moved that the Transfer Station Committee endorse the pilot program and recommend it to the Select Board. John Higgins seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

#### G. Discussion of Goals.

After including Ted Wooster's and Randy Robbins' prioritized goals, the top six goals of the committee were determined to be:

10. Aggressively pursue the implementation of Pay As You Throw (seven votes)

1. Integrate with the Municipal Review Committee's post-PERC vision and follow developments through to termination of the Charter Community's relationship with PERC on March 31, 2018 (five votes)

- 18. Improve communications with the waste haulers (Five Votes)
- 16. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of Lincoln County Recycling (3 Votes)
- 17. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of the new transfer station scale (3 Votes)
- 6. Establish a clear understanding of the use of the scales for haulers and residents (3 votes)

H. June Meeting and Adjournment

Butler suggested that the June meeting focus on a further discussion of the goals listed during the workshop and future action items based upon those goals.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Dave Benner (Friendship Alternate for John Meyn)

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Bob Butler, Chairman (Waldoboro Resident)

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Liz Dinsmore (Friendship Select Board)

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John Higgins (Alternate for Waste Hauler)

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Monika Magee (Cushing Alternate for Marsha Marchut)

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Ted Wooster (Waldoboro Selectman)

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Randolph Robbins (Cushing Resident)

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Attachments:

- Draft Addendum to Waste Hauler License Application
- Robert Morin Complaint
- List of Goals
- Goals and Priorities Analysis

DRAFT  
Town of Waldoboro

## Addendum to Waste Hauler License Application

*Completion of this Addendum is not a requirement of the Waste Hauler Application.*

You may, if you wish, indicate the Waste Hauler(s) you would prefer to represent you on the Waldoboro Transfer Station Committee by placing an "X" next to the name(s) of the waste haulers indicated below.

All Waste Haulers listed on this addendum hold valid Waste Hauler licenses as of May 31, 2015.

There is no guaranty that the Waldoboro Select Board, which appoints a waste hauler to the waste hauler seat on the Transfer Station Committee, will ~~accede to~~ **act on** your preferences. However, the Waldoboro Select Board will be made aware of your preferences.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Allen, Gerald: Allen, Allen's Trash Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ducharme, Liam: A-Plus Recycling & Rubbish Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Feltis, Roger A. Sr and Melody: Outlaw Trash Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gifford, Terry: Joe's Rubbish Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Guite, Ryan: Guite Property Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lash, Ben: Nova Rubbish Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Luce, Wayne G.: Wayne's Rubbish Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Miller, Lemuel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Miller, Mark A.: Miller Commercial Cleaning Rubbish
- \_\_\_\_\_ Peters, Charles: C.P. Trash Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_ Porter, Ronald: R & D Trash Removal
- \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

List of Goals from

## April 9<sup>th</sup> Transfer Station Committee Meeting

1. Integrate with the Municipal Review Committee's post-PERC vision and follow developments through to termination of the Charter Community's relationship with PERC on March 31, 2018
2. Maintain individual rights of patrons and haulers of the Transfer Station
3. Revisit the Municipal Sharing Agreement among the three Transfer Station Partners
4. Establish plans to educate citizens of the three Transfer Station Partners concerning up-coming solid waste disposal developments
5. Set and/or encourage reasonable recycling goals
6. Establish a clear understanding of the use of the scales for haulers and residents
7. Educate the people concerning the economic and environmental benefits of recycling
8. Make it mandatory for each of the three transfer station partners to establish their own community recycling committee
9. Have each of the three town's Select Boards and administrations explain why recycling is important. Put a public face in each town on the importance of recycling.
10. Aggressively pursue the implementation of Pay As You Throw
11. Make recycling as easy as possible
12. Cut the Transfer Station Budget by \$300,000
13. Achieve the Maine state recycling goal of 50%
14. Establish a compost program
15. Stop the micro-managing of the Transfer Station
16. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of Lincoln County Recycling
17. Complete a cost/benefit analysis of the new transfer station scale
18. Improve communications with the waste haulers
19. Invite Haulers to Transfer Station Committee meetings
20. Encourage committee members to be open and honest about their concerns. Improve community involvement in the business of the committee
21. Convince Lincoln County Recycling of the need to have all Lincoln County communities adopt a uniform solid waste and recycling ordinance.

