

**Approved 02-19-2004**

**ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors  
February 5, 2004 at Somesville Fire House**

**PRESENT:** Ellen Brawley (clerk), Bob Kates (Trenton), Beverly Sanborn (Cranberry Isles), Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Elliott Spiker (Tremont), Leon Yeaton (Pleasant Bay Management), Sherry Churchill (HCPC)

**VISITORS:** Frank Gray, Beth Gott, George Urbanneck (Tremont Solid Waste Committee), Lee Worcester, Damaris Smith (EMR), Laurie Schreiber (Bar Harbor Times)

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:30

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 18th after amendment to include the presence of Leon Yeaton. (Smith, Spiker, 3-0)

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

**EMR Proposal:**

Lee Yeaton had circulated a list of questions, and a few answers were available:

1. Can the DEP permit for a transfer station be transferred? Answer: Cliff Eliason of the DEP says probably not for a facility this old, that we'd probably have to start from scratch on the permitting process.
2. What are the details of the SWH easement? Answer: It's used for a 'connector trail'. It doesn't impinge on the operation of the facility, and should present no problem.
3. What customers of EMR are not in the ADD towns? Answer: This information would be included in the confidential information we are not addressing at this time.
4. ADD needs a certification that there have been no environmental problems. Ans: We should get this from the DEP.
5. The proposal price of \$5,200,000 needs careful review. Ans: Leon Yeaton, Tony and Elliott Spiker will look at the cost of operations.
6. How does ADD envision handling the costs of operations? Ans: We need to figure this out both by town and in the aggregate.
7. Operating costs plus amortization costs must be compared to current costs. Ans: Yeaton, Spiker, Smith taskforce will consider this.
8. Public perception of ADD applying for a \$5.2 million loan. Ans: Definitely a problem.
9. Good points for proposal:
  - a. Transfer station is ready to go
  - b. Public NIMBY should be almost non-existent
  - c. Keep on-island business going, source of knowledgeable employees Ans: possible source of employees, we're not buying the business.
  - d. On island site, least disruption for residents
  - e. Permitting process should be easier
10. Not so good points
  - a. A lot of money
  - b. Concern over old landfill
  - c. Potential problems dealing with EMR during sale process
  - d. Age and condition of equipment
  - e. Southwest easement Ans: not a problem

- f. Availability of 2% financing by the time ADD ready to take a loan
  - g. ADD loses option of setting facility up in a manner they think best
  - h. Purchase of EMR rules out Ellsworth as an ADD member and use of their transfer station as an ADD facility, except perhaps under a contract. (Of particular interest to Trenton)
11. Consideration should be given to what effect any future change in the current system would have with this purchase as compared with siting and building a new facility
- a. Using the transfer station for all waste *except* MSW
  - b. ADD deciding to use a pay-as-you-throw system in the future
12. Above all – this must work on an economically sound basis.

Leon recommended commissioning an appraisal. Tony will price out an appraisal. CES suggests that we should budget about \$60,000 for a complete due diligence process, which should probably take about six months. Bob said that we should complete our initial calculations to see what range of prices we can afford – including checking out other options – before spending large sums investigating EMR. Tony, Leon and Elliott will start working on costs and alternatives.

Leon also had prepared a spreadsheet, showing costs for each of the towns during 2002-2003, and the projected amortization costs for the loan, assuming the 2% rate suggested by EMR.

**Cranberry Isles:** Leon heard that the town has signed a 9 year contract with Ed Gray, who wasn't even the low bidder for the contract. It was agreed that ADD should offer the town any assistance possible. Beverly indicated that she hadn't even been told about this contract, although she had offered ADD's aid. Tony will draft a letter to selectman Richard Beal offering our assistance.

**Status of Darrell Phillips:** Darrell will not be working with us, he wants to pursue his own business interests.

**Letter of Appointment from Cranberry Isles:** We have received a letter officially appointing Beverly Sanborn as the Director.

**School Project:** Bob said he was disappointed in the materials for middle school from Project Learning Tree, there's very little about solid waste. He'll be looking into other materials, including from Chewonki.

**Update from Local Committees:** Tremont is thinking of a recycling trailer scheduled to be located in a convenient location on specific days, before they consider a cardboard ordinance. Leon said that all the other materials recycled are only a drop in the bucket compared to the volume of cardboard. There was further discussion of the results of Bar Harbor's cardboard ordinance. Beth Gott indicated that after a month or so of adjustment, it works well. The retail establishments separate their cardboard from the MSW, and they have separate pickups. If the cardboard is contaminated and refused by the Bar Harbor transfer station, it is taken to EMR where the customer is charged directly. It was agreed that it is important to get the word out as to how much money mandated cardboard recycling would save the towns and why it makes sense. Beth suggested that we give at least a month's notice. Lee Worcester indicated that even more important than an ordinance would be the support of the towns. It was also generally

agreed that a PAYT system would create the impetus for cardboard recycling. Lee Yeaton suggested that ADD should commission a survey to see whether PAYT would actually save the small homeowner/taxpayer money in towns like Mount Desert where there are large taxpayers with only seasonal trash needs. It was agreed that a cardboard ordinance should be implemented in all the member communities at the same time.

**EMR/PERC Billings:** Tabled until the next meeting. Lee Yeaton provided a packet for each director to study before the discussion.

**Round Table Workshop:** Elliott alerted us to a workshop to be held 2/12 at 7:30 pm at the Bar Harbor Council chambers, on recycling issues.

**Assignments:** Elliott, Tony and Leon will work on pricing out an appraisal, and costs for the EMR operation and alternatives.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be the ADD annual meeting, February 19, 2004 at 1:30 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:** It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn. (Kates, Sanborn, 4-0)

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen T. Brawley, Clerk