

ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 15, 2004 at Somesville Fire House

PRESENT: Ellen Brawley (clerk), Bob Kates(Trenton), Elliott Spiker (Tremont), Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Leon Yeaton (Pleasant Bay Management

VISITORS: Damaris Smith (EMR), Frank Gray (Tremont SW Committee), Trudy Bickford (SWH), George McDonald (State Planning Office)

CALL TO ORDER: 1:30

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was moved, seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the April 1st meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Lee Yeaton: Door to Door Pickup Info: Lee distributed a spreadsheet on which members can fill in the missing information on door-to-door pickup requirements. Such information as private-road pickups and commercial accounts can be detailed in the Comments field. He also said we need to get information on a source for all non-MSW trash. We need an estimate from somebody on what it would cost to deal with everything but MSW. Perhaps EMR could give us this information?

GATT Trading Period: The trading period for GATT starts April 15th and ends August 2nd. The MDI towns are well over their GATT, and some other towns are under and need to raise their GATT. Tony asked Elliott, Bob and Trudy to get a copy of the GATT information for their towns and send it to him.

Web Site Update: Elliot said that the web site at www.acadiadisposaldistrict.org is up and running, and currently contains our various documents. The committee thanked Elliott for his efforts.

In House Appraisal: Elliott and Tony will back calc from each town's solid waste disposal budget to see what we can actually afford. They will present this at the next meeting.

Attorney: We have received nothing from our current attorney on the confidentiality agreement, and very little pertinent information on the cardboard ordinance.

MOTION: That Tony contact the present attorney and get a status report on his work to date. Based on his assessment of the status, Tony be authorized either to continue or to switch to Eaton, Peabody in Bangor. (Kates, Elliott. Carried 3-0)

Presentation by George McDonald of the State Planning Office: The State Planning Office assists communities, business and residents with waste management and recycling programs. He asked whether we were a "Refuse Disposal District". He will work with Tony to ascertain. A refuse disposal district has the power of eminent domain.

The SPO has funding for non-transfer station projects, such as recycling, composting and Household Hazardous Waste. They provide 50% matching grants which are usually in the \$10,000 to \$40,000 range, though they gave one grant for \$500,000. The SPO request for funding in the bond issue this year was denied, so funds are not currently available. The application process is competitive. Lee pointed out that application information is available on www.recyclemaine.com.

The state web site includes a section on “communities in focus” which shows successful programs that are replicable. George said that we could apply for equipment such as balers, crushers and forklifts as well as building such things as a loading dock or a household hazardous waste shed for fluorescent bulbs and mercury-added products, or a waste oil/antifreeze storage system. The simplest oil storage system consists of a heating oil tank inside the bottom half of a concrete septic tank. The used oil can be burned by service stations, auto dealers etc, but only if the contributors have signed off on it as being uncontaminated. Contaminated oil has to be removed by professionals.

When asked if SPO helps waste disposal districts get going, George said that they help towns get together, provide tours of existing facilities and talk about options. They don’t provide planning grants, but do provide building grants for recycling, reuse and composting.

Elliott asked if George knows of any transfer stations handling only non-MSW. George said that the town of Richmond takes bulky waste once a month. Most non-MSW waste is handled by such facilities as EMR.

Bob asked about Maine Recycles Week, indicating our interest in a trash fair or some such program in the middle schools. George said the core of the SPO program is the poster contest, though they are eager to hear about other activities. Bruce White is the contact person at SPO.

Elliott asked about Pay-as-you-Throw in such communities as ours where wealthy seasonal residents provide a large portion of the taxes. George responded that if you are considering a PAYT system, you must decide what your goals are: fairness (treating trash service like a utility, where you pay for what you use), reducing taxes, controlling costs? Once you have determined your goals, you can work to educate people. Elliott commented that the map of communities with PAYT systems shows a band along the shore where PAYT has not been implemented.

George said that a cardboard ordinance is very easy – in theory – but that enforcement is tricky. You need an attendant at the facility to enforce it. When asked how to get EMR to enforce such an ordinance, Damaris said “pay me”.

George pointed out that the 10-80-10 rule applies here. 10% will go along. 80% will do something, and 10% will always resist. Don’t worry about the last 10%, but work with the other 90%.

George spoke of upcoming bans – as of Jan 2005 all mercury-added products will be banned from the waste stream. As of 2006 computers and CRTs will be banned. A recently passed bill requires the manufacturers to share the responsibility. He expects that a permanent HHW (household hazardous waste) facility will be in the state within a couple of years.

When Lee spoke of the new 15 ton packer trucks and how they could eliminate the transfer station stop for MSW, George cautioned that these trucks can take 3 days to fill, they are expensive to run, and that many private roads can’t accommodate them.

Asked whether he saw anything coming down the pike which would make the establishment of our own transfer station through long-term bonding inadvisable, George said that with PERC

good for at least 13 more years, and the West Old Town landfill good for 30 years, we should be in pretty good shape.

ASSIGNMENTS PER DIRECTOR: Bob will look into Maine Recycles Week. Tony and Elliott will work on the EMR appraisal.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be May 6th, 2004 at 1:30 pm at the Somesville Fire House.

ADJOURNMENT: It was moved, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:10

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen T. Brawley, Clerk