

ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT

Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting: February 16, 2023

Attendance: Directors: Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Carey Donovan (Tremont), Jim Fortune (Cranberry Isles), Martha B. Higgins (Trenton)

Public: Brian Henkel, Lee Worcester

1. Call to order 9:30 a.m. by Smith.
2. Introduce Brian Henkel, Public Works Director for the Town of Mount Desert as of January 31, 2023. Mr. Henkel introduced himself to the group.
3. Consider draft regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2022.
 - A. **Motion to approve Draft Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2022**
Motion: Fortune; Second, Higgins, 4-0
4. Financial Report.
 - A. **Motion to accept financial report.**
Motion: Fortune; Second, Higgins, 4-0.
5. Regular Business.
 - A. Congressionally Directed Spending funding application update. Acadia Disposal District has been awarded \$350,000 from the Department of Interior to help create a Household Hazardous Waste receiving facility on MDI. It is not expected to be open daily, but it would greatly increase convenience for residents if it was open on a regular basis. As of now there is only one day per year that people can bring their material.

The CDS HHW facility application has been completed and approved. Smith has provided information to the Federal government related to accessing the funds and is waiting on further instructions.

B. MRC and Hampden solid waste management facility update. The MRC (Municipal Review Committee) now owns the plant and has renamed it Municipal Waste Solutions. They were able to purchase the \$90 million plant for \$1.5 million, but about \$20 million will be needed for upgrades and re-starting the idled plant. The MRC is pursuing state, federal and local funding. They are also reaching out to 10 entities who had previously shown interest in operating the plant.

If there is no success with obtaining funds and finding a competent operator within the next six months, the plant will be permanently closed. This would create a dire situation in northern and eastern Maine, with very limited options for waste disposal. Landfill space is predicted to run out in about 5 years and the PERC incinerator is closed much of

the time because of needs to upgrade the plant. For these reasons it would make sense for the State to invest in the future of the MWS plant. An important attribute of the plant is that it is able to sort materials and divert half of our waste from the landfill. The MRC is suggesting that citizens contact their Legislators to be sure they know how dire this situation is and why it would make sense for the state to participate in the solution.

C. HHW & UW event location and scheduling for 2023.

It was decided that the HHW/UW Collection would be scheduled for Sept. 23, 2023.

We would like for the Collection Day to be located at the high school. Smith will ask the school if this date will work.

D. Director Comments. None.

6. Assignments per Director.

- Smith to contact MDIHS re: the HHW/UW Collection Day.
- Donovan to work on updating website.

7. Input from attending public. None.

8. Any other business as may be legally conducted. None.

9. Next regularly scheduled meeting. TBD.

10. Executive session: None scheduled.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.