

ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT
Approved Minutes of Regular Meeting, March 6, 2024

Attendance: Directors: Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Carey Donovan (Tremont), Martha B. Higgins (Trenton), Jim Vallette (Southwest Harbor)

Absent: Jim Fortune (Cranberry Isles), Richard Ladd Turner (Frenchboro),

Public: Lee Worcester (EMR), Damaris Smith (EMR), Ken Rozsahegyi and Ellen Pope (Southwest Harbor Recycling Task Force) via Zoom

1. Call to order 9:33 a.m. by Smith.

2. Consider Draft Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2024.

Motion to Approve Draft Minutes of Regular February 21, 2024.

Motion: Smith; Second, Higgins, 4-0.

3. Financials.

a. Finance report. Budget for FY 25 will be sent out to the towns.

b. Consideration of Haley Ward invoice for professional services (regulatory evaluations) related to development of a regional HHW collection facility in the amount of \$1,131.60.

Motion: Smith; Second, Donovan, 4-0.

4. Regular Business.

A. Update on ADD's development of a Household Hazardous Waste regional collection Facility.

Kyle Sullivan has nothing new to report at this point. Smith asked the Directors how they envision the operation of this facility. Donovan said that she would like to see it being open one day per month, with Environmental Products, Inc. (EPI) bringing a truck, and a worker who would receive the materials, and who would leave with the deposits on the same day. The other Directors seconded this proposal. Smith will ask Sullivan to explore this opportunity with EPI. EPI is the business that collects Hazardous Waste at MDI's annual Hazardous Waste Day.

B. Update on Municipal Waste Solutions (new name for the Fiberight plant).

Chairman Smith is very pleased with how MWS is doing. They are taking in waste and working to make any needed improvements on equipment or operations. The new owners appear to have the money and the competence to bring the plant to its optimal potential. They are working particularly on the anerobic digester. They hope to create jet fuel of consistent quality that can connect to the pipeline that delivers fuel to the Loring Air Force Base.

Chairman Smith envisions arranging a tour at MWS for ADD members. Worcester suggests that MWS could make a video that would allow more people to see the process and understand how it works.

C. Discussion of the EMR, Inc. solid waste contract due to expire in June 2024. Each ADD town is in the process of approving a five-year contract with EMR. Worcester announced his willingness to meet with any town that has questions or concerns about the contract. Southwest Harbor does not wish to renew the contract as is. They plan to meet with EMR to discuss their concerns.

Donovan noted that the contract references composting, but it has been a long time since EMR composted food waste (which mostly came from restaurants). Worcester explained that they abandoned food composting due to the odor it produced. It was not popular in the nearby residential neighborhood. They do compost tree and yard waste which does not create an odor. Worcester is a strong supporter of “One bin, All in”. Donovan replied that the problem with “One bin, All in” is that recyclable products (like cardboard and paper) become un-recyclable when they are mixed in with spaghetti or other food waste, but she also understands that there is a problem with composting and odor.

D. Discussion of means to address cardboard. It looks like Trenton is not interested in separating out cardboard for recycling. Mount Desert is a “maybe”. Tremont and Southwest Harbor are interested, but it is not clear that this effort can work with just two towns. EMR will look into this and consider their options.

E. Meeting Schedule. ADD will be going back to once-a-month meetings, and Monday mornings is the day that works best for our members. We were not able to agree on a date for April, so our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 13. (later revised to Monday, May 20)

F. Summary of Chairman Smith’s meeting with the League of Towns. The League of Towns Members are the managers for the towns of Tremont, Southwest Harbor, Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Swan’s Island, Frenchboro, Trenton, Lamoine and Ellsworth. Hancock County wants to get an annual HHW day up and running again after several years. Ellsworth has asked if they could join our day, but that would not work. There would be too many cars backed up on the road, and too much material for EPI to collect on one day.

G. Summary of Chairman Smith’s meeting with Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC). HCPC has been looking for help to get an HHW day working again. They have scheduled this coming Sept. 7 as the day. Smith recommended that they contact Ellsworth High School soon to see if they can use their parking lot for the collection. ADD is willing to work with Ellsworth on Sept. 7 to help them have a successful day, and then after that they should be able to do it on their own. Hancock County is large enough that in the future there should consideration of more than just one MDI day and one Ellsworth day. An HHW event on the Blue Hill Peninsula would be advisable, and possibly one in the Winter Harbor area.

H. Director Comments. None.

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

6. Input from the attending public. None.

7. Assignments per Director:

- Chairman Smith will talk with Brian Henkel, Director of Public Works for Mount Desert, about the cardboard recycling project and whether it would be advantageous for Mount Desert.
- Chairman Smith will communicate with Kyle Sullivan about our interest in EPI providing a truck and worker for a monthly HHW collection.

8. Executive Session. None scheduled.

9. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting. Monday, May 13, 9:30 @ Southwest Harbor Town Office. (changed to Monday, May 20)

10. Adjournment. 10:45 a.m.

Motion: Smith; Second, Vallette, 4-0.