

ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT
Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 20, 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 and Damaris Smith (EMR), Ken Rozsahegyi via Zoom and Ellen Pope in person (Southwest Harbor Recycling Task Force), Mike Gilmartin, Christina Heiniger, and Ed Meadows (Trenton Recycling Task Force), Carrie Jones (The Bar Harbor Story) via Zoom, Gus LaCasse (A Climate to Thrive) via Zoom, Louis Ricou (COA student), Sydney Roberts Rockefeller, via Zoom.

Public Hearing: FY-25 Draft Budget
May 20, 2024; 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to order 9:30 a.m. by Smith.
2. Consideration of FY-25 Draft Budget. The Draft Budget for 2025 was pretty much the same as for 2024. There were no issues or concerns.
3. Public Hearing adjourned at 9:32. a.m.

Regular Meeting Agenda
(Immediately following FY-25 Draft Budget Public Hearing)

1. Call to Order by Smith @ 9:36 a.m.
2. Consider regular meeting minutes of March 6, 2024. No April meeting was held.
Motion to Approve Draft Minutes of March 6, 2024.
Motion, Smith; Second, Higgins, 4-0.
3. Financial Report.
 - A. Consideration for acceptance of FY-25 draft budget.
Motion to approve Draft Budget for FY-25.
Motion, Donovan; Second, Higgins, 4-0.
 - B. Financial report. None.
 - C. Consideration of invoices, if any. There were none.
4. Discussion with the Trenton Solid Waste Committee. They were looking for more information on how waste is handled. We went into some of the history. In 2018 the PERC plant (incinerator) was going to lose its generous rates from the power company for the electricity their plant generated, and in addition to that, their equipment was getting old. They let the MRC know that it wasn't a sure thing that they would still be in operation after 2018.

This led the MRC to look into alternatives, and the one they closed on was Fiberight. This became a MRF plant in Hampden (materials recycling facility) and was successful for a period of time. In addition to being able to sort out recyclables from the trash, they were also working on getting an anaerobic digester (inside the plant) to create a saleable bio fuel. As the plant worked for most of a year, they could see things that needed to be upgraded and they expected to get additional funds to upgrade the plant. When this didn't happen they had no choice but to shut down the plant. Since then waste from the MRC towns has gone to either PERC or two landfills, one in Old Town, and one in Norridgewock.

Mount Desert is the only town on MDI that picks up waste from households and delivers to EMR. Several years before the Fiberight plant came on board, the ADD looked into the possibility of having pick-up in other towns, but this did not seem to be feasible.

For Trenton residents, they either have to pay someone to pick up their waste, or they have to drive a considerable way to take their trash to EMR.

Smith talked about the work that Municipal Waste Solutions is doing to make the plant successful. This project is going well. Municipal Waste Solutions is the new name for the plant that used to be called Coastal Resources, Inc. The MRC is very involved since they are now 10% owners. We expect Municipal Waste Solutions to be able to take trash from all 115 towns by sometime in 2025.

5. Regular Business.

A. HHW and UW schedule: September 21, 2024, at MDIHS; parking lot to be determined at a later date.

B. Update on Municipal Waste Solutions in Hampden update. Innovative Resources operators of the MWS plant is fully permitted. It is a Materials Recovery Plant, and will be able to pull recyclables from the trash. Innovative Resources has a 90% ownership in the plant, and the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) has a 10% ownership. This is working well for both parties. They are still testing out and improving functions. They should be able to accept waste from all 115 towns by sometime in 2025.

D. Website update, if any. Contact info for Tony Smith, ADD Chair, has been added. Also, Agendas and Approved Minutes will be posted on the website (acadiadisposal.org). The website now shows the date of the annual Household Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste Day on the website: Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the MDI High School parking lot for delivery from households and businesses. There continues to be a link for citizens to email and ask questions – these emails are responded to by Tremont Resident, Carey Donovan.

Development of regional HHW collection facility update. Haley Ward's pricing includes a 24 x 24 ft. building as requested by Smith with an additional 12 x 24 ft. drive-through with an entry and exit for depositing waste.

We need to bring Lee Worcester into the discussion as to whether this building could be sited at EMR. Liability issues need to be addressed as well.

E. Director Comments. Jim Vallette tells us that Marilyn Lowell, Town Manager for Southwest Harbor, will be negotiating with Lee Worcester on Southwest Harbor's contract with EMR. After that, Mr. Worcester will meet with the Southwest Harbor Select Board..

6. **Input from the attending public.** Ellen Pope, Chair of the Southwest Harbor Recycling Task Force, informs us that the Task Force has done its job and is now sunsetting. They have submitted a comprehensive report to the town that can be found on the Town's Website on the Selectboard Page. It will now be in the hands of the town to negotiate a contract with EMR.

7. **Assignments per Director:**

- Chairman Smith will communicate with Lee Worcester re: possibility of HHW Collection at EMR
- Chairman Smith will communicate with Lee Worcester re: cardboard separation
- Chairman Smith will communicate with Kyle Sullivan re: HHW Collection Facility
- Carey Donovan will communicate with Barn Dog Creative re: updating the ADD website and adding Approved Minutes.

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

9. **Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting.** Monday, June 17, 9:30 @ Southwest Harbor Town Office.

10. **Executive Session: None scheduled.**

11. **Adjournment.** 11:00 a.m.