

New London Solid Waste Committee

October 15, 2015

Meeting Minutes: Approved

Committee Members Present: Alison Seward, Bob Brown, Dee Doheny, Jim DeVere, Richard Lee, NLHD
Guest Speaker: Mike Durfor, NRRRA

Community member: John Ellis

Meeting came to order 8:29

Review minutes from meetings June 30 and Sept 9. Motion to approve made. Approved unanimously without changes.

Mike Durfor from NRRRA (Northeast Resource Recovery Association) was invited to speak to the committee. Primary Topic: how can we improve our recycling efforts in New London?

Areas of interest in particular: Education Campaign, comprehensive efficiency study, public survey of interest and needs.

Intro and Overview:

Bob Brown: we are restricted on space, our current facilities do not allow employees to work with materials efficiently. We must handle materials multiple times (5-6). Previously NL has investigated the expansion of materials we could recycle; however, the cost was prohibitive. Our task for this committee is to look at a long-term plan for an efficient, cost effective means to handle our waste. Presently staff and processes are working to highest efficiency possible with our constraints.

In a perfect world, with increased growth, what can we do?

Stump dump built on fill is not optimal for use. Mountain Road has good amount of land with some issues.

Our facility is currently at 90% capacity. But it is a 30 year old transfer facility built for a population of 3000 and now serves 4000+ population. Resource constraints are land. Current location is optimal, the size is not. Approximately 5 acres with only 3+ usable acres due to wetlands.

Mike Durfor: Single stream studied but the cost was not feasible: \$55/ton for tipping only. MURFs have major contamination issues plus the commodities markets are presently in the tank. Concord Coop MURF never happened consequently some towns are planning to move away from single stream. Andover, for one, is planning to move back.

November 9-10 glass recycling conference.

Glass one of the top topics for recycling: contaminates MURFs, challenges for processing.

Lower oil prices reduces demand for recycled plastic, China's economic downturn reduces demand.

Every sector of commodities is down due to volume of movement plus demand.

Where do we want to be 20 years? What is sustainable? Need to review and understand LT benefits and include part of the infrastructure as a standard.

Start with survey. What do you as NL residents want us to do? Send two sample surveys.

Just completed survey for Central VT Solid Waste District. Mandate from Act 148 VT (2013). If you have something that can be recycled you cannot throw it away. Now challenged with what do we do with it.

2 transfer facilities for 18 towns (around Barre, VT). Solid Waste District (member of NRRRA). July 2013 mandate. Looked at a 12 sites min size was 10 acres. Serving 50K pop. 3 choices: 1. no facility (use Cassela, Myers) 2. single stream (largest risk very few outlets for single stream w/large bill (now \$55/ton)) 3. source separated facility (HUB). Ex: New Mexico. Energy department grant \$2.0M. The HUB handles the commodities directly.

Survey took 3 months. Cost \$12K

Mechanics of survey: 20-25 questions, 1-2 sessions, distribution online and town website. 3% standard. Expect 10%+ for NL.

Increase education – example: Town of Milford / NH The Beautiful. “Trash on the Lawn Day”. Use previous day’s trash, 17% was actual trash. NRRRA charges, *New Hampshire the Beautiful* will pay up to 50%. Grades 3-12 program. Kids apply math, given pricing and tonnage. \$1K cost for NRRRA, NHTB pays 50%. Workshops on composting, toxic air quality, “Trash on the Lawn”.

Signage for transfer stations. 60 points for signage each year, Nov start of year. Spend them annually or lose them. Sign examples on NRRRA website with points available.

Review surveys. Alison will do the first cut with feedback from us. We will discuss at next meeting.

What would the steps be to conduct a survey of properties? Bring in a “SWAT team”: Bonnie, Mike Valor from Meredith (board member), Roger Rice (Lee), one other operator. We could give ST and LT recommendations. Then do a more in depth survey. This initial step (walk through) is no cost. Presently planning for Weare. Get done by end of November possibly. We are on the list for the NRRRA review.

John Ellis: question about survey through school. Success rate – backpack. Hard to implement here due to our regional school.

Disclosed at Waste Expo: Waste management is planning going to go out of the recycling business,

Next Scheduled Meetings: November 4 and December 9, Syd Crook Room, 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Doheny