

Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District
29 Sunset Drive, Suite 5
Morrisville, VT 05661

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2014
TEGU BUILDING, MORRISVILLE, VT

SUPERVISORS

Cathy Mander-Adams	Belvidere	Dana Sweet	Cambridge
Penelope Doherty	Craftsbury	David Whitcomb	Eden
Jane Oliphant	Elmore	Marilyn Zophar	Hyde Park
Absent	Johnson	Charles Cooley	Morristown
Willie Noyes	Stowe	Lucas Tilton	Waterville
Absent	Wolcott	Absent	Worcester

STAFF

Susan Alexander	District Manager	Donna Griffiths	Clerk
James Gonyaw	Facilities Foreman		

Chair Willie Noyes called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2022

Cathy moved and Lucas seconded to approve the minutes of May 10, 2022. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. FY 2022 FINANCIALS

a. *Approve April 2022 Financial Reports*

Susan said we will probably end the year in a fairly good position. As of April 30 we were about \$21K in the red. That is about 1% of our budget. We got a \$10K rebate check for workers' comp from VLCT because we overestimated our payroll. **Lucas moved and Charles seconded to approve the April 2022 financial reports. The motion was passed unanimously.**

b. *Ratification of Check Register*

Cathy moved to ratify the check register. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

c. *Pre-payment Authorizations for Large Checks*

One of the large checks is \$30,859.07 for the recent Household Hazardous Waste event. The price of those events is going up. The setup fee alone was \$14K. We will get less than \$1K back from businesses that paid for disposal and we will get a small reimbursement from the Agency of Agriculture for collecting pesticides. We get an annual allocation from the Agency of Natural Resources that comes

from the franchise fee haulers pay. That will be about \$26-27K. It is supposed to cover our 3 HHW events but it won't even cover the first one. We will start charging \$10 a carload for the other two HHW events this year. (*Penelope joined the meeting at 6:45.*) There were 252 vehicles at the recent event. The next one will be in Worcester and we expect a lot fewer cars so the setup fee will be much less.

Lucas moved and Charles seconded to authorize pending payments in the amount of \$65,322.48. The motion was passed unanimously

4. POLICY FOR REUSE AND REDUCE GRANT PROGRAM

Susan reviewed the proposed policy establishing a Community Waste Reduction and Reuse Grant program. As a pilot program in 2022 we will fund three grants of up to \$750. The board will receive the grant applications and decide whether to fund them. Money for the grants was put in the budget. The existing disposal grant program still has a \$500 maximum amount. This program is for activities targeting trash reduction and reuse. We want to encourage communities to get something up and running that will have significant continuing impact. Sarah may work with applicants to help make sure what they are proposing makes sense and fits with our mission. Then applications will go to the board for approval.

Cathy asked if awareness about composting would fit into reuse. Susan said that is probably more like reduction. Cathy said there are a couple of events held in Belvidere every year. With funding, the community might be able to start encouraging participants to collect food waste separately. Penelope said Craftsbury is trying to reduce the amount of litter on roadsides. Would roadside signs discouraging littering or encouraging recycling be the kind of thing that could fit into this grant program? Susan said yes; she would accept that application. But the board makes the final decision.

Penelope moved and Lucas to adopt the proposed policy for a reuse and reduce grant program. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. RATIFICATION OF DISPOSAL GRANT FOR RIVER CLEAN UP BY LCCD

Susan said we received an application for a grant from our other grant program, which pays for disposal. Normally the board is required to sign off on the application before she tells the organization to go ahead but in this case the Lamoille County Conservation District had an event coming up and they wanted to advertise in advance of the event. She sent out an email asking for opinions on the grant and got 7 positive responses, so we told LCCD we would reimburse them up to \$500 for disposal of trash they pull out of the river during their clean up event.

Jane moved and Penelope seconded to ratify approval of the disposal grant for river clean up by the Lamoille County Conservation District. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. UPDATES

Susan said from March 1 to June 1 we sold 65 cubic yards of finished compost. We did 479 refills of 5-gallon buckets to people who brought their own bucket and we sold 7 cubic yards in 5-gallon buckets. We are not selling pre-filled buckets of compost any longer; we were just using up inventory from last year.

Several board members recently went on a tour of the depack facility. Cathy said before the tour she had a completely different concept of what depacking was. She was surprised and impressed at what was being depacked. She learned a lot. She learned there is a large amount of food product that goes to waste. Penelope said they learned that 4000 tons of post-production, pre-consumer ice cream is thrown out every year by Ben & Jerry's. Cathy said the process of depacking was interesting. There is a large amount of cardboard recycled from product that was never used. She also was really impressed with the 18 cubic foot container of K-Cups that never made it to the shelf that had been shredded. The coffee was emptied out of it and then depack facility staff shredded the K-Cups and packaging to analyze the material and try to come up with a way to recycle it. Penelope noted that the 18 cubic feet was only what they had already extracted. There were many more pallets of K-Cups that still needed to be emptied. She was impressed with Mike Casella's attitude about trying to find ways to keep material out of the landfill.

Penelope said she thinks it is important for legislators to understand what is creating the issues. If they are not aware of the unintended consequences and downstream impact of incentives or regulations then we and Casella will forever be fighting an uphill battle. One thing she noticed was that everything was wrapped in so much plastic. Jane said she thinks there could be a good documentary about the depack facility. Penelope said she and Sarah were talking about working with Mike Casella to make a YouTube video with education for the public. Charles said the depack facility was not as busy as he expected. There are not many grocery stores using that facility. Hannaford trucks their products to Maine for depacking. Cathy said if every company did a better job of deciding how much to produce there wouldn't be so much waste. Companies have ordered and produced too much. Penelope said she thinks there needs to be conversation about the tension between economic development and impact on climate.

Susan said a bill was passed this past year that put a moratorium on further construction of depackaging units and requiring stakeholder meetings for people who want to have input on the impact of this technology. There are concerns about microplastics and PFAS in solids. The bill requires that to be studied. She showed a diagram she drew illustrating what could potentially happen with a can of beans that is past its "best by" date. Food shelves don't want food that is expired or will expire soon. It can't go to the landfill because it is food. It is too much work for employees to separate food from cans. So depacking makes sense. The food sludge goes to a digester that creates electricity. There are solids left that are being land applied. That is where the question of microplastics and PFAS is coming up. Should the solids go the landfill? Maybe they could be used as landfill cover. Tin cans and paper from products that go the depacking facility do not all go to the landfill. Keurig has a zero landfill policy so their waste material is sent to an incinerator in Massachusetts, which creates energy. The food sludge from their products is separated from other food sludge and composted. The companies sending food to

Casella all have standards they want Casella to follow. Some of the non-food material is recovered and does not go to the landfill. Charles said when the study comes out on microplastics and PFAS that may be a game changer with regard to the economics of depackaging. Susan said samples of compost from different facilities will be compared. She speculates that there may end up being a standard with different quality levels based on the amount of plastic present.

James said he was told by the welder working on the compactor that the chute was in very bad shape, so he called Willie and had him come over and look at it. It cost \$8K for a sheet of metal to repair the bottom of the compactor. The work will be done on June 28 and he was told to plan on not having the compactor on June 29. We have two compactors for recycling and we will make sure both are empty that day. One will be used for bagged trash. We will not take dump loads or bulky items on June 29, only bagged trash. Willie said when he saw the compactor he called Susan and told her there was no choice; we had to do the work. Penelope thanked James and Willie for their diligence on this.

James said the beams are done for the wall project. Four beams are in place. Susan showed a picture. James said the next big project is work to deal with the drainage issue by the Stowe Electric building. Susan reminded the board that when we brought in a structural engineer to look at the wall in Stowe he gave us a recommended to-do list. Installing the steel beams was one of the recommendations. We have done everything the engineer recommended. The drainage project involves removing a concrete apron in front of the Stowe Electric building doors. The concrete is crumbling and making uneven terrain. In addition to mitigating flooding this work will help prevent falls. Charles asked if any of this is the responsibility of the owner of the building. James said when he asked Susan about that previously she sent him a paragraph from our contract indicating that the responsibility was ours.

Susan said she thinks the capital budget plan calls for rehabbing a piece of equipment in 2024. It sounds like the work we do that year will need to include repairs to the sides of the hopper.

Dana moved to adjourn and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Willie Noyes adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Griffiths, District Clerk

Date

Willie Noyes, Chair

Date

