



Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District (NRSWMD)



DRAFT Meeting Minutes March 20, 2024

<u>Attendees:</u>	<u>Towns:</u>	<u>Staff:</u>	
Joan Cudworth	Hollis	Jay Minkarah, Executive Director	NRPC
Michael Fimbel	Mont Vernon	Emma Rearick, Environmental Planner III	NRPC
Eric Slosek	Amherst	Kathy Kirby, Administrative Assistant	NRPC
Rhonda Whittier, Treasurer	Pelham	Cassie Cashin, Regional Planner III	NRPC
Leo Lessard	Milford	Nicole Kingsbury, Project Accountant	NRPC
Scott Perkins, Chair	Nashua	Kate Lafond, Assistant Director	NRPC
Pat Flynn	Brookline		
		Glen Wilkinson, Tradbe (Zoom)	
		Kyle Dussault, Tradbe (Zoom)	

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Perkins.

2. Introductions

3. Approval of December 20, 2023 minutes (action item)

There were no comments/edits. **Motion to accept the December 20, 2023 minutes.**

Eric Slosek moved, with a second from Michael Fimbel:

THAT the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District approves the June 2023 meeting minutes.

The motion carried. Scott Perkins abstained.

4. Financial Update

Kate Lafond introduced Nicole Kingsbury, NRPC’s financial specialist. Lafond presented the year-to-date working budget through February 29 provided in the agenda packet. Fifty-five percent of the budget has been expended which is in line with the four household hazardous waste collection events that were held already in FY24. There is a retainer balance that NRPC is holding (\$49,795.13) that will cover a part of the April 20 household hazardous waste collection event. Also in April, the fourth quarter retainer will be deducted from the district’s account and transferred to NRPC’s account. Looking at the Profit & Loss statement, you can see the revenue collected from dues, household hazardous waste collection event fees, and interest. NHPDIP interest rate is quite high at 5.37% as of Monday. \$171,245.38 is the net income as of February 29. The balance sheet shows what is in the accounts as of 2/29. The checking account balance is quite high. Further on this report, you will see that there are \$182,675.77 accounts payable. Three retainer payments were made to NRPC recently to offset the expenses NRPC has paid on behalf of the district. Once the

accounts payable and the accounts receivable have cleared through March, the balance of the checking account will be approximately \$175,000. The FY23 grant payment from NRPC to the District was paid to the district - just not deposited yet. There are two towns whose dues payments have not been received; one has since been collected and one is still outstanding, and we will follow up on it. Once the payments clear the bank, you will have a net loss of \$4,000 for FY24, which is in line with what is expected in a year with 7 events, as opposed to 5 events. Thus, we are right in line with what is expected.

There were no comments/edits. **Motion to accept the financial report as presented.**

Michael Fimbel moved, with a second from Rhonda Whittier. All in favor.

The motion carried.

5. Household Hazardous Waste Program Status Update

Rearick gave the update on HHW Collection 2024. We are gearing up to host the April 20th event. Laminated sheets and large date sheets were made available to meeting attendees. Advertising flyers will be sent out to the NRSWD members. People are calling NRPC and are eager for the April event. Site visits have been set up for Glen and Kyle (Tradebe) in Milford and Nashua for next week. Things will largely be the same as in previous years. We will see how things go with Tradebe – if they have any changes in procedures. Rearick renewed her NHDES Hazardous Waste Coordinator training.

Perkins commented on the short window of time between the first event in Nashua and the second event in Milford (two weeks). However, there is a large gap between the early June evening collection event and the August events. For the years when we have Milford as a satellite on the schedule, perhaps we should look at an adjustment in the event schedule. Maybe drop the early Nashua event and have Milford as the lead-off event to see if we can get more people to go to that one. Or we could adjust by moving the Nashua event forward, so we don't have a huge gap during the summer. July has never been a good month for a collection but maybe we want to see moving the Nashua collection (during the Milford satellite years), back towards the beginning of August. One reason we had adjusted the Nashua event was due to the heatwave last year in the Crown Street parking lot which was brutal. But now being back at the barn on Stadium Drive in Nashua, we have access to a building and a facility with air conditioning and indoor plumbing. Therefore, the summer collections should not be as much of an issue. But that is something we can discuss for next year to get more of an even spread in the schedule. Whittier said that she was going to go to the Pelham Board to see if they could host an event to close the gap between the events. Slosek asked if it would be too much of an issue to move the Nashua event as Nashua residents would not come to Milford, but Western municipality residents would attend. Closing the gap between the June and August events would be good, but during the summer a lot of folks tend to take vacation. Whittier stated that she recalls that there wasn't a July event due to low attendance, most likely due to people being away, but we could look back at that. The late August event in Pelham last year attracted more than two hundred people, which is a good attendance level. The October and November events were very busy last year. Having all the giant signs before the October and November events was important to attracting people and having people go to the correct location. A high turnout is anticipated for the April 20 event.

6. Out of Region Fees

Rearick referred to the last page in the agenda packet. She reached out to other collection organizations and asked if they allow out-of-region residents, and what is charged for out-of-region households. A minimum fee of \$45 is charged by the Lakes Region. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee charges what the waste hauler charges them, which is in the ballpark of a \$30 fee per item. Rockingham does not generally see people out of their region but suggested taking our typical event cost and dividing it by the number of participants to get a flat rate fee. So, these are a few ways of charging for out-of-region residents. Rearick asked for thoughts. Fimbel stated to take the rate we charge the member town and divide it by the population; at least they should try to match that plus the \$15 per car would be appropriate. Whittier asked if we had a lot of Massachusetts residents come to the events. Rearick stated no. We get (out of region) people who are moving, and they will not be able to make it to their local event. New Boston residents are no longer permitted to take household hazardous waste to Goffstown, so the DES has referred them to our region. Minkarah stated that a New Boston selectman expressed his concern and that they were doing some outreach. Rearick stated that she understands that there is that need – not to advertise, but how to manage out-of-district residents at events. Minkarah stated New Boston may be looking to join a district. Fimbel asked if the Milford event was not as busy as the Pelham event. Some agreed, but others said it was a decent turnout. Fimbel stated the Milford collection event would be good for New Boston residents. Slosek asked about what the goal is regarding to allow out of region residents and charging them fees. Minkarah stated in part to close the gap, but in the past, there were no fees. Cudworth stated that we are better off taking the item and charging \$15 to make sure the item is disposed of properly. Fimbel stated that is suitable on an infrequent basis, but we should keep track of that. Perkins echoed the concern for more than a few people out of the district. Members pay and then all our towns must pay extra for that.

Fimbel asked for numbers of out-of-town collection numbers. Rearick stated it is on average three households per event, of the ones who tell us. Cudworth stated that some of our district residents are going to other district events too. Rearick stated that another HHW coordinator has suggested establishing a reciprocity system between districts in the state. Whittier stated that we don't seem to track and share out-of-district disposals and asked if we could track them. Rearick stated we could start to do that. Another concern is how many attendees are disposing of household hazardous waste from another state, i.e., Massachusetts. Perkins stated Nashua is getting calls, especially about disposing of mattresses. In particular. If people find out if we are accepting out-of-state or district, it could cause a marked increase and be a concern that landfill increases would increase. Glen Wilkinson said that Massachusetts has a very good reciprocity program. It's really easy to deflect them back to other Massachusetts towns. Tradbe looks at cars coming through, not items dropped off when we set our service fees. \$25 per car is on the lower end up to \$45 as standard. For the time being, Perkins stated that we should monitor where people are coming from, especially people driving cars with out-of-state plates to our events. Fimbel asked about memory foam mattresses – are they more or less of a problem? Whittier stated that they have a vendor who will take them away for a fee. Perkins stated that they put through a \$15 fee per mattress. Then a local hotel changed out their mattresses and it would have ended up being 10 to 12 40-yard dumpsters. So, we referred them out to recyclers in Massachusetts. Whittier stated you can use Green Mattress from Massachusetts which charges \$50 per mattress. Fimbel asked Slosek about

the Souhegan Regional Landfill District – we put the mattresses in their dumpsters, and they incinerate them. If their incinerator is down, our load goes to Massachusetts and the fee will be waived. There are four member towns, including Mont Vernon.

7. 9 Stadium Drive placards

Perkins announced the new 9 Stadium Drive placards are here for everyone to take. You will need to drill holes for hanging. The signs are to be posted on top of the household hazardous waste signs at the transfer stations in each town to cover up the former Crown Street location. Perkins stated that all you have to do is drill screw holes and you can put them over the 25 Crown Street location on the landfill's large household hazardous waste signs. Fimbel does not recommend S hooks due to the wind. Perkins stated that wind has not been an issue for their signs using the S hooks.

Perkins asked if there is any other business to be discussed. Minkarah asked if anyone had taken any steps towards foam collection. Whittier stated she wanted to have a foam collection event. Her budget was not approved this year, however. Perkins stated he poked into it before he was on leave. He has three different RFPs for refrigerators, universal electronic waste, and scrap metals to attend to at this time, but would like to explore them. The Nashua Parks Department just joined us in our facility. We made room for a lot of their equipment in the landfill – that was a challenge. We're going to be building another barn on the DPW landfill site. The trailer we had has become a Parks Department storage facility. The Nashua Parks Dept will have their Greeley Park facility moth balled. The DPW is under pressure from Conway Arena to move from their 9 Stadium Drive site. Nashua DPW is looking to move the entire Streets Department. Nevertheless, the household waste collection events will remain at 9 Stadium Drive despite the changes. Perkins said he is doing well and recommends Lahey Hospital for helping with a quick recovery. He feels a whole lot better and expects a full recovery.

Motion to adjourn by Rhonda Whittier at 10:48 a.m., with a second by Eric Slosek.

The next meeting date is Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Kirby, Administrative Assistant