



Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District (NRSWMD)



APPROVED Meeting Minutes September 21, 2022

Attendees:

Eric Slosek	Town of Amherst
Pat Flynn	Town of Brookline
Steven Glover	Town of Hollis
Jay Twardosky	Town of Hudson
Leo Lessard	Town of Milford
Mike Fimbel	Town of Mont Vernon
Scott Perkins, Chair	City of Nashua
Rhonda Whittier	Town of Pelham

Staff:

Jay Minkarah, Executive Director	NRPC
Kate Lafond, Finance Director	NRPC
Emma Rearick, Regional Planner II	NRPC
Kristin Wardner, Admin. Asst.	NRPC

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:01am by Scott Perkins.

2. Approval of June 15, 2022, meeting minutes

There were no changes needed to the June 15, 2022, minutes.

Mike Fimbel motioned, with a second from Rhonda Whittier, to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2022, as presented. All were in favor.

3. Staffing announcement

Kate Lafond has returned to employment with NRPC as Finance Director.

4. HHW Program Status Update

Emma Rearick stated the August’s event had 263 households, for a total of 860 households this calendar year. The next event is October 8th. Perkins reminded the municipalities they can enter through the marked exit to avoid waiting in line and stated that the iPad surveys seem to be moving things along quicker. Fimbel asked what would happen in the event of rain; Perkins stated that hasn’t come up yet, but he believes Veolia would likely have to make the call about whether to cancel. He discussed how the August event was very hot and challenging for the Veolia workers and that there has been talk about possibly bringing in large exhaust fans. Perkins explained he serves on Nashua’s Environment and Energy Committee and they asked him about doing some public outreach about city programs. He told them it can be considered for next year as long as it doesn’t interfere with running the event and also that there a lot of non-Nashua residents that attend.

5. Financial Update

Lafond stated that FY22 was closed out with just over \$26,000 deficit, a little more than anticipated, largely in part to the sign purchase. FY23 is budgeted with a \$26,388 projected profit and the fluctuation is expected due to the number of events varying in calendar years. She reviewed FY23 year to date and noted that they are waiting for reimbursement from the State on the grant, which typically arrives between now and November.

6. NH PDIP Rate Update

Lafond explained the \$100,000 capital reserve is held in a checking account. In previous years, it has been held in a money market account and also NH PDIP (NH Public Deposit Investment Pool) but after Covid hit, rates dropped, and it was moved into the checking account until rates started to rebound. She said that just recently the checking APR dropped to 0.6%. As of Monday (9/19) the NH PDIP rate was 2.4% and is trending up. She stated the district may want to consider moving the \$100,000 from the checking account to NH PDIP. There is a very small likelihood of losing any money and there are no penalties for moving the money out if rates drop.

Fimbel motioned, with a second from Jay Twardosky, to give Kate Lafond the authority to move the \$100,000 Capital Reserve Fund from the checking account to NH PDIP; and to give Kate Lafond authority to move the money out of NH PDIP at her discretion based on current rates; District authorization would be required anytime the Capital Reserve Fund is moved back to NH PDIP. All were in favor.

Lafond stated, in response to Fimbel, that in the past she let interest accrue over the year and at year end transferred any interest accrued over the \$100,000 out of NH PDIP to the checking account.

7. FY24 Dues Discussion

Fimbel asked if the amount of the state grant changes and Rearick stated that the per capita rate of the contract recently signed is similar to the previous year. It is not a 100% guarantee though.

Perkins stated the agenda packet includes projections based on several options: no changes to dues, 3% increase, 5% increase, and a 7% increase. He believes having no change would make things too lean but would be comfortable with 3%. Whittier agreed. Fimbel asked if the Veolia contract has an inflation clause; Minkarah stated no. Rearick explained their contract runs through the end of 2023.

Martin motioned, with a second from Eric Slosek, to increase the FY24 NRSWMD dues by 3% from FY23. All were in favor.

8. Permanent Facility Status Update

Perkins confirmed the storage facility is not usable and stated he has not been able to contact NH DES yet about permitting. He said there has been talk in Nashua about consolidating Public Works to the landfill and eliminating the garage so at this point he doesn't think it makes sense to put any money into it if it may be eliminated in the next few years. He would like a guarantee from the city

that the facility will be relocated when the time comes. Perkins confirmed to Fimbel it is ideal to have the storage facility at the collection site and that is why currently Veolia wants nothing to do with it. They cannot transport waste from the Crown Street location to the facility due to regulations. Perkins said at the pre-event meeting with Veolia he can ask them to remove their gear stored there to be able to get a better look inside. Lafond clarified to Whittier that the \$100,000 Capital Reserve Funds has been designated to be used for repairs, maintenance, rebuild of the storage facility. There was discussion about increasing the cap on the fund. The storage facility itself is steel on concrete, similar to a shipping container, with 3 separate sealed units each about 10x12', plus an additional shed. They have double locking doors, ventilation, sealed lighting, internal fire suppression. Slosek stated it makes sense to him, with all the uncertainty about the future of the current facility, to raise the cap and any additional earned be saved for the storage facility.

Slosek motioned, with a second from Whittier, to raise the cap on the Permanent Facility Capital Reserve Fund to \$120,000. All were in favor.

Minkarah asked about the NH DES grant and if credit was received for having a permanent storage facility. Rearick stated yes, the amount the district is reimbursed would be less without having a storage facility. The current grant application lists the district as having one. She was unsure the dollar amount difference.

9. Other Business

Perkins asked others what they are doing with their used oil. They are having issues getting pickups, as are others. Twardosky stated that Hudson has had to stop accepting oil from residents and they are now out of space to store their own. Whittier stated she uses Western Oil (out of Rhode Island) and has had no issues and they also take antifreeze. She is having problems getting books picked up. There was discussion about used oil.

Motion to adjourn at 11:20am from Whittier, with a second from Pat Flynn. All were in favor.