

**Town of Henniker
Solid Waste Disposal Committee**

**Tenth Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2008
The Grange**

Approved Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman John Kjellman, Bill Christiano, Amanda Gilman, Lia Houk, Ron Lavallee, Stephany Lavallee Donna MacMillan, Linda Patterson, Rod Pimentel

Absent: Donald Blanchard and Michael French, due to icy roads.

Also Present: Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and summarized the Committee's activities to date. He said that Michael French had called him to say that he and Don Blanchard could not attend the meeting due to the icy roads.

John Kjellman mentioned that he had noticed a lot of articles lately about solid waste disposal and recycling, particularly an article in the *Concord Monitor* about Smart Recycling. Other member of the Committee had read that article and agreed that they had noticed more coverage on the subject lately, too.

John also distributed an updated version of the Economic Benefit Analysis of Recycling vs Solid Waste Disposal spreadsheet that he had distributed at the last meeting. He said he had adjusted if peak recycling prices in mid-summer and for projected quantities of each type of recyclable materials (rough estimates). He said the projected revenue generated was in the "ballpark" of what Henniker reportedly achieved in 2007.

▪ **Review and Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2008**

The minutes were reviewed, and the Recording Secretary took notes of a few corrections. **Amanda Gilman made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, the motion was seconded by Lia Houk, and it carried.**

▪ **Member Reports**

❖ Report from on 11/20/08 Concord Co-Op Meeting
by Ron and Stephany Lavallee

Ron Lavallee reported that the meeting had been attended by official representatives from all but two towns, one being Henniker. Single Stream recycling was discussed, and Jim Presher, Director of the Co-op, said it still plans to build a facility in New Hampshire. Ron understood that towns have until May of 2009 to decide whether they want to participate. The Co-op needs to have a minimum recycling commitment of 25 tons per day. The Concord Co-op is also pursuing interest in non-member municipalities.

Mr. Lavallee said he had learned that a private company is planning to open a single stream recycling facility in Manchester soon. Amanda Gilman confirmed this, and she said that the name of the company is Cochran Environmental, and the facility is expected to be opening in May of next year.

At the meeting, all towns reported dramatic reductions in revenue for recyclable materials. Some towns are currently paying to dispose of certain recyclable materials, such as glass, which Henniker pays to dispose. The forecast is that a decrease in demand and revenue for recyclables will last for a while. However, Ron Lavallee reported that the Co-op itself is in strong financial condition.

John Kjellman said he thought that markets might be expected to revive by the time the single stream facility has been built, but that revenues for the towns could remain low or non-existent for some time. Ron pointed out that the Co-op is still offering revenue sharing. Amanda reminded the Committee that revenue share would be 55% for member towns and 45% for non-members for the proposed single stream facility.

❖ Evaluation of Single Stream Recycling Option by Lia Houk

Lia reported that she is currently researching the single stream facility to be opened in Manchester, N.H., plus a facility being proposed for Greenville, N.H. She is also looking into what Nashua might be planning. Lia and Amanda and Stephany discussed comparative methods for calculating recycling percentages of solid waste. Linda Patterson contributed a formula she had obtained from Don Maurer of the Waste Management Division of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services: $\text{recyclables} + \text{compost} \div \text{recyclables} + \text{compost} + \text{solid waste} + \text{commercial waste}$.

John Kjellman asked Lia to focus on what effect single stream recycling would have on operating costs for Henniker's Transfer Station, plus forecast the effect on revenues if Henniker changed from self-sort to single stream recycling. He mentioned that even though revenues for recycling might fluctuate, costs for solid waste disposal are predictable. Stephany suggested Lia also consider the possible effect on labor costs, especially overtime.

❖ Report of Site Visit to Peterborough on November 29, 2008 by Linda Patterson and Donna MacMillan

Linda Patterson and Donna MacMillan recently toured the Peterborough transfer station, and Linda read her notes aloud to the Committee:

- ~ Mandatory recycling.
- ~ Residents of Peterborough or Sharon can use facility.
- ~ Violators are warned then banned for 2nd offense.

- ~ Residents required to purchase bags; original bags were OK but recently had changed to a different type; these tear too easily, so will return to the original type.
- ~ The main area is a large building with overhanging roof with collection areas for aluminum cans, plastics # 1 + 2, steel cans, mixed paper/chipboard, magazines, newspaper, corrugated cardboard + paper bags.
- ~ The Lions Club provides a mailbox to collect used eye glasses.
- ~ Small bins collect ink + toner cartridges, rechargeable devices, cell phones, household batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and packing (styrofoam) peanuts. Linda mentioned they offer the packing peanuts to anyone who wants to take them away and use them.
- ~ 3-sided shed = swap shop (nick named the 'mini mall') is about the same size as Henniker, with an additional area for clothing. They have power there and played music. They empty it once/week. They charge residents if they bring a large amount. It is closed for 3 months in winter to save the cost/time of snow removal in that area.
- ~ Truck scale used for large loads; charge 9 cents/lb.
- ~ Facility located on 70 acres which is bordered with road, woods, and river; they have created a walk-thru park/garden area with benches, birdfeeders, and lawn area.
- ~ Behind the building = separate piles for untreated lumber, brush, construction debris (bricks, concrete, etc). They have 7 trailers for temporary storage of recyclables while awaiting for appropriate quantity.
- ~ 2 large piles of yard waste/compost is very popular.
(They sifted last year's pile.)
- ~ Signage changed monthly with current info: 190.46 tons for October, avoided \$20,760 (\$109/ton) and generated \$8,985 in revenue.
- ~ Part of NRRRA; staff schedules pickups for recyclables; Monadnock Disposal (Jaffrey) takes trash weekly; it is ground then trucked to Bethlehem.
(Used to use Waste Management facility nearby, but it was closed 2 yrs. ago.)
- ~ Lightning strike in July destroyed the compactor building which covered the demo container + compactor. Plans include replacing the building.
- ~ Inside the building: burn recycled oil for heat; 4 balers (cans, #1 plastic, #2 plastic, paper). There are 3 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee; they work 4-10 hour days. They have a fork lift and Load-all loader.
- ~ Future plans include demolishing the 'mini mall' shed and replacing w/year-round building.

Linda said Don Maurer told her the Waste Management Division of NHDES will have collected data on 2008 recycling by March 31, 2009, and that it should be compiled by the middle of July 2009.

Chairman Kjellman directed Linda not to focus too much on analyzing data but to concentrate on what materials other towns are recycling and how the towns are doing it. He said the Committee could supply its own data.

❖ Report on Transfer Station Budget Projections
by Ron and Stephany Lavallee

Ron and Stephany Lavallee provided the Committee with a spreadsheet that included actual costs for 2007 and projected costs for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Ron went over the figures and explained what specific items were factored into categories. For examples, "Utilities" included telephone, electricity and alarms; and "Equipment Maintenance" included maintenance, repairs, fuel and mileage.

Mr. Lavallee quoted tipping fees for the current year and future years. He also mentioned that the Town of Henniker plans to charge haulers an increased fee in 2009. He said that private haulers sometimes take solid waste directly to the Co-op and then the Town recoups a percentage of its cost by billing the haulers at a certain ratio.

Chairman Kjellman confirmed that the Lavalles should have obtained enough data by now to project budgets for the next two to three years. When Ron and Stephany expressed a desire to verify data, Mr. Kjellman suggested a future conference might be arranged to include the Town Finance Officer, the Transfer Station Superintendent, and members of the Committee to itemize and reconcile actual expenses and revenues.

❖ Report on NRRA Marketing Meeting by John Kjellman

Mr. Kjellman reported that he had not attended the meeting.

❖ Report on Henniker Recycling Committee Activities by Amanda Gilman

Mailer to Postal Customers:

Amanda Gilman reported that the proposal for mailing recycling information has not yet been reviewed by the Board of Selectmen, but it is likely to be reviewed soon, and the mailing might be sent out in the first week of January.

Recycling Revenue Signs:

Amanda said progress on this project has stalled. Lia suggested the recycling revenue values might be submitted for publication in Outlook, perhaps in the second half of next year.

❖ Other Reports by Amanda Gilman

Curbside Pickup:

Amanda contacted Monadnock Disposal Service, and she learned that the company provides curbside pickup at Henniker Commons on Main Street and at the TD Banknorth branch in Henniker. They also provide residential curbside pickup in Hillsborough, Deering and Antrim. She plans to obtain the figures of what they charge, as well.

Amanda had a telephone conference with two representatives of Casella Waste Systems and obtained “ballpark” figures of what they charge for curbside pickup (based on what is charged in two other towns). The company charges \$9 to \$11 per household per month for pickup every other week of trash only. For recycling pickup, they told her that it would be safe to assume double that charge for pickup of recycling.

Littleton, N.H. has two private haulers who offer curbside pickup, and Amanda has obtained their phone numbers and plans to contact them in the future.

Electronic Waste:

Amanda had no new details to report but said she continues to research the results of the legislature’s committee on electronic waste disposal alternatives for N.H.

▪ **Preparation of Report to the Board of Selectmen**

The Chairman said he had spoken by phone with Michael French and Don Blanchard about their part of the report to the Selectmen. In the meeting, he offered other suggestions, as noted above, plus he spoke to Rod Pimentel and made suggestions to him regarding landfills and incinerators.

▪ **Adjournment**

Amanda Gilman made a motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Donna MacMillan, and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Draft Meeting Minutes
Respectfully Submitted 12/16/08
By Sheila Mitchell, Recording Secretary
Reviewed 12/21/08
By John Kjellman, Chairman
Approved 1/08/09