



Minutes

November 8, 2012

Arlington Inn – Route 7A, Arlington

Present :

Commissioners: Janet Hurley, Judy Boehlert, Ed Shea, Keith Squires, Walter Freed, Walt Klinger, Meg Cottam, Charles Rockwell, Philip Chapman, Suzanne dePeyster, Dan Monks

Staff: Jim Sullivan, Bill Colvin, Michael Batcher, Jim Henderson

Others: Hap Percey, Dale Palmer, Steve Kauppi, Nelson Brownell (Pownal)
Ellen Maloney (Dorset)
Jon French (Sunderland)
Michael Harrington (Bennington)
Margy Becker (Shaftsbury)
Keith Whitcomb (Bennington Banner)
Teri Kuczynski (presenter, Addison County Solid Waste District)

Chairman Monks called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

I. Motion to approve **Minutes of September 20** by Judy Boehlert. Second by Walt Freed. Passed unanimously.

Jim Sullivan announced several upcoming events.

II. **Regional Broadband Technology Plan**

Bill Colvin presented an overview of the plan which deals with access to broadband and how to overcome barriers. The project was completed last month. The entire plan is available for review at bcrvt.org.

Statewide Goals identified in the plan include:

- Broadband will be available and affordable to all Vermonters.
- Technology will be used to provide transparency, increase efficiency and allow greater access to local government.
- More Vermonters will be able to telework/telecommute while maintaining strong connections to colleagues, clients and the public.
- Fluency in and literacy about broadband, the internet and the accompanying technological devices will increase.

- Broadband will increase economic opportunity and support economic diversity.

Regional Goals

- Promote education and awareness
- Promote technology infrastructure development
- Promote utilization and adoption
- Promote economic opportunity and development
- Improve public safety

A Regional Sector Analysis was completed that outlined strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities related to achievement of state and regional goals.

Colvin also discussed the e-Vermont Rural Broadband Project and noted that several local towns benefited from new technology, education, and computer hardware (Arlington, Sunderland, Sandgate and Pownal).

A motion to endorse the broadband plan was made by Ed Shea. Second by Walt Freed. Passed unanimously.

III. Solid Waste Management Under Act 148

Michael Batchter introduced Teri Kuczinski, Manager of the Addison County Solid Waste Management District who presented information on the Addison County Solid Waste Management District and the recently enacted "Act 148" solid waste law (see attached presentation).

Notes from the presentation:

There are only two operating landfills in Vermont.

ACSWMD service territory has similar demographics and waste generation to Bennington County. The ACSWMD is funded through a (per ton) user fee (no taxes).

Question: will increased recycling reduce revenues for the District? Good question! Currently studying implications.

Question: can people or institutions contract with someone else and bypass the District's facility? No, District has "flow control" - saves money because of greater volume, but recyclables and inert materials can go elsewhere.

Question: where is the material ultimately disposed of? Various landfills - up to 200 miles away. District goes out to bid and selects best deal.

District also has a hazardous waste center- for household and small business hazardous waste. Big savings for residents and businesses. Went from 20 annual events to the permanent facility and saved \$60,000 per year in first year of operation. This facility also is funded by the same user fees.

The District also has a Reuse center (drop things off and people can pick them up) - things go out quickly - very successful. "Reuse It or Lose It"

State Banned Wastes all have to be handled separately. Complex management. Universal Wastes can be exempt from certain standards, but must be handled according to specific standards.

Product stewardship standards, electric products (e-waste), fluorescents, and other special waste issues were reviewed.

ACT 148 - Universal Recycling Law - Deals with Recyclables and Organics

Question: What about towns with smaller facilities - how to pay if not so much volume? Law allows some ability to cover with property taxes.

Goals of the Act: consistency, convenience, cost-effectiveness. Standards designed to significantly increase diversion rate (from current statewide rate of 33%).

The act establishes a hierarchy for diverting organic waste: from reduction to use for ag to composting to energy (methane).

Other aspects of the Act:

Disposal Bans on certain products – phased in over time.
Parallel Collection requirements.

Question: How to enforce? Esp for individuals? Financial incentives (trash bags will cost more and organics, etc will be free). There will be performance measures to check on effectiveness. Will need to reduce pounds per person generated per day to 2 pounds (currently about 4 in our region).

Phased in diversion rates (first, 2014, for large generators, by 2020 everyone will have to do this).

Question: Who will be responsible for education of the public? State will put out information then info to SW districts and towns. Lots of work to do!

Pay as You Throw Pricing: incentives to reduce, reuse, recycling (only pay for what you throw away)

Benefits of Act 148: incentives for investment (e.g., composting facility will have guaranteed stream of materials).

Question: Might increased presence of new/expanded recyclables => better pricing for these commodities? Very likely. Debate now about getting more of the returnables (bottles, cans) in the recyclable stream.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN BENNINGTON COUNTY

Brief overview provided by Michael Batchter.

SWIP (9 towns) - planning and plan implementation. ISWAP (5 towns) - contracts with Casella for transfer stations and recyclables, hhw events. Other towns: Bennington and Woodford (own SW Plan), Stamford (own SWIP), Landgrove and Peru (work with Londonderry area towns).

Discussion: how to best get the word out, implement programs. ANR and SW Districts will assume a lot of responsibility. No District in our region: BCRC (for 9 SWIP towns) and individual towns will be responsible for a lot of the work.

Q: Can we do things like ACSWD? Maybe - decision made long ago to not form a district in our county. Maybe time to revisit or explore other options for greater efficiency.

Q: how many transfer stations in Addison Co? 18 that all feed into the District facility.
New requirements for electronic reporting by sw facilities may be challenging for some.

Discussion of costs for disposal and transport at different facilities in our region.

Q: how to best deal with "bottle bill?" TK: her district board is split down the middle on the issue.

Q: bulky waste - how to deal with??? More coming re implementation in the coming legislative session.

Concern about cost of handling organics. Also, issue regarding discovery of toxics in organics affecting subsequent use of the material. Q: How clean will the organic waste have to be (ie, level of contamination)? Processors will need to figure out a way to handle.

Discussion of single-stream recycling systems. Incentive - easier for people.

Waste reduction and reuse should come first! Need to promote.

An invitation was extended to join BCRC's solid waste committee to help plan for the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Sullivan