

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING

Tilton School – Davis Lecture Hall
 Tilton, NH
 March 29, 2010

PRESIDING: Robert Snelling, Chairman **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM

QUORUM: Yes **COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 9

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maggie LaBerge, Alexandria
 John Cotton, Andover
 Scott Dunn, Gilford
 Richard Wait, Gilford
 Martha Twombly, Hebron
 Todd Elgin, Holderness
 Robert Snelling, Holderness
 Warren Hutchins, Laconia
 Wayne Crowley, Northfield
 Doug Read, Northfield
 Patricia Jones, Ossipee
 Roger Murray, III, Wolfeboro
 Chuck Storm, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT: Seth Dawber, Clean Harbors; Dean Robinson, NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES); Alexandria: Bonnie O'Brien-Poire; Franklin: Rep. Leigh Webb; Gilmanton: John Weston; Ossipee: Roger ter Kuile; Tilton: Robert Haberman; Wolfeboro: Sarah Silk. LRPC: Kimon Koulet, David Jeffers, Marie Gelinias; and other interested parties.

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Robert Snelling called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all members. He asked for a motion for those present to declare a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, a motion was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Waitt/LaBerge*

2 Minutes of January 25, 2010 Commission Meeting

Chairman Robert Snelling asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting. There being none, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented. *M/S/P Storm/Waitt*

3. Brief Overview of Household Hazardous Waste Collections in the Lakes Region

R. Snelling said a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Product Facility (LRHHFP) was established in 2002 in Wolfeboro, supported by the towns of Wolfeboro and Alton and has a 7%-10% local participation rate. The national rate is 3%. The program expanded to include medical waste. He then

introduced Kimon Koulet, LRPC Executive Director, who provided a brief overview of the annual collections from 1987 to the present. In 1987, LRPC coordinated a HHW collection with six participating communities, then increased to two collection days in 1988. The number of collections per year fluctuated until 2003, when two per year was fixed. Eight collection sites were established in the communities of Belmont, Bristol, Franklin, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, and Ossipee. There were 23 participating communities in 2009 and 24 are planned in 2010, with the addition of Andover for the first time.

4. Permanent Household Hazardous Product Facilities: Is Another in the Lakes Region Future: A Panel Discussion

K. Koulet introduced Seth Dawber, Clean Harbors Eastern New England Regional HHW Specialist, who spoke on the HHW trends throughout New England regarding permanent HHW facilities. He described the benefits of having a regular collection program. It allows communities that might not be able to sponsor a collection option for residents to host an HHW event, it reduces cost to the community, and provides more opportunities for residents throughout the year. He identified obstacles to having just one HHPF: residents are not willing to drive, there is more responsibility placed on the host community, and determining cost for non-host residents using another town's site.

Mr. Dawber briefly discussed some of the successful programs in New England including, the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), Johnston, RI; the Minuteman Facility, Lexington, MA; Riverside Transfer Station, Portland, ME; South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) and Essex County, MA. He said Wolfeboro is invoiced on a per drum basis, provides onsite storage for waste and supplies, has a facility manager, and holds six main events. Alton hosts two satellite collections with the waste transported to Wolfeboro. In conclusion, he said there are different styles of pricing: price per car is better for rotating sites like Essex County, and price per container is best for permanent facilities such as Wolfeboro and RIRRC. The contractor and customer work together, and money is saved while increasing waste removed from communities. Following the presentation, the audience raised many questions some of which are as follows:

Rep. Leigh Webb asked what happens to the material. S. Dawber said the material is transported to Braintree, MA and, depending on the type of material, is shipped to an incinerator. Materials not incinerated are shipped to other locations for disposal.

Rep. Leigh Webb asked about broken fluorescent bulbs. S. Dawber said they are packaged and shipped separately from unbroken bulbs.

Rep. Leigh Webb asked if Clean Harbors deals with medical waste and sharps. S. Dawber said they do handle medical waste, but do not want sharps at regular HHW collection days due to hazard. In order to accept sharps, it must be in a rigid container and clearly labeled – Sharps – Do Not Recycle. S. Silk commented that it is legal in the state of New Hampshire to dispose of sharps at transfer facilities.

Dick Waitt enquired about electronics and what the next steps would be for accepting e-waste. S. Dawber said there are companies who recycle electronics and under bid Clean Harbors. Dave Jeffers said LRPC reviewed this by piloting an electronics collection in conjunction with its regional collection. LRPC found a wide variation in what communities put their price structure at.

Maggie LaBerge asked what the end point is on some HHW waste. S. Dawber said paint chips are sold and reused in Greenbrier, TN, sharps are treated as bio-waste, and pesticides are sent to an incinerator.

R. Snelling then introduced Dean Robinson, NHDES HHW Coordinator, who spoke on the state-wide perspective on HHW collections, and the future of HHW funding and programs. He touched on the subject of bulb crushers which are a form of hazardous waste treatment and not disposal. There are no licensed hazardous waste treatment facilities in New Hampshire. The state currently has a universal waste contract, and is looking into an electronic waste (e-waste) contract. The e-waste contract would be for all municipalities and non-profit organizations to use. The state bids on behalf of the communities to obtain the best prices, and secures contracts for three years. He researched the amount of e-waste generated in various state departments and found each building only generates 100 pounds per year. The state's IT Department sends working e-waste to auction, but does not know where non-working e-waste goes.

M. LaBerge asked what happens to recycled HHW when there is no end-point. D. Robinson said it depends on who the contractor hired, what they will accept, and how they handle it.

Rep. Leigh Webb asked if DES tests waste water to get a sense of how many people are illegally dumping waste (toxins, oil, etc.). D. Robinson said DES has a program run by the Source Water Protection Program and suggested Mr. Webb contact them. S. Silk said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) performs ongoing monitoring and conducts extensive testing especially for pharmaceuticals.

D. Robinson referred to the HHW grant noting he does not know if the funds will be available next year. D. Jeffers said the reimbursement funding is to help offset disposal costs. This year it is approximately \$0.12 per person. The state HHW program has been in effect for 20 years, providing \$200,000 per year towards safe disposal. There were 30 applicants in 2008, 27 in 2009, and 22 in 2010. D. Robinson said there are innovative ways for source reduction such as the use of green cleaners in schools. Should the grant disappear, towns can still do this on their own through swap shops. HHW cannot be stored overnight unless you have an HHW storage facility.

R. Snelling asked what is involved for permitting an HHPF. Sarah Silk said Clean Harbors is the generator for their facility contract. The town purchased a prefabricated hazardous material building that met all of the requirements and installed it in a fenced, secure area. She said Clean Harbors inspects the building when they come to the facility, and the town checks the building once every seven days. It costs approximately \$25 per year to insure their portion of the solid waste site. D. Robinson said a successful HHWPF program depends on how much is being collected, the number of times delivering, and the number of people showing up.

Dick Waitt asked if there were facilities on both sides of the lake, would it increase waste collected. D. Robinson said it would make it more convenient for those who do not want to travel to Wolfeboro which could increase the amount of waste collected. There would need to be educational outreach to communities.

Wayne Crowley questioned the state disposal fee of \$0.06 per gallon charged by Wal-Mart on motor oil purchases. D. Robinson said he is unaware of the charge. Towns can opt in for the state reclamation fund for disposal of waste oil and batteries. This fee is applied when vehicles are registered.

Rep. Leigh Webb asked how facilities are permitted. D. Robinson replied that they are allowed to operate under the local enforcement office. They must obtain a permit from DES and staff must be trained to be a hazardous waste operator. An EPA identification number is also required.

R. Snelling introduced Sarah Silk, Wolfeboro Selectman, who spoke on the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility: Status and Outlook. She said the facility was built in 2002 as a cooperative effort with the NHDES, LRPC, and the town of Wolfeboro. The Lakes Region HHPF is a permanent storage facility where residents can safely and conveniently store unwanted materials. The town of Alton also hosts two HHW collection days per year and transports waste to Wolfeboro.

S. Silk said member town residents must obtain a pass that allows them to transport up to ten gallons of HHW per pass to the Wolfeboro facility. Residents of non-member towns may use the facility on a "pay at the gate" fee of \$40 for each five gallon increment. Medical waste collection began in 2006. Clean Harbors takes all medical waste except for controlled medications. There is a \$25 per non-member household pharmaceutical waste fee to cover the cost of the program. A pharmacist is on site to verify and count all prescription drugs, a police officer takes all controlled drugs, and a data operator inventories all material.

Ms. Silk said there was a change in state law exempting towns from strict liability in the event of an accident while transporting HHW materials in a town vehicle with a trained town employee. This exemption enabled LRHHPF to conduct satellite collections in Alton. She identified some of the challenges as being: geographic area and where to locate the facility, increased traffic on weekends, reaching biggest population possible, getting word out to people in all communities, newspaper deadlines, towns getting to list information on their websites, the economic downturn, and getting towns to work together. Transportation challenges include: fill issue, strict liability, the need for annual recertification, and methods for correct disposal. In conclusion, the LRHHPF provides Lakes Region residents with numerous opportunities for safe disposal.

R. Snelling asked how would LRPC sell a program that marginally increases participation and if there is a more cost-effective model. S. Silk said it requires that people be trained and there is a limit on how long materials can be stored. S. Dawber said the most cost-effective way is to have regional centers. S. Silk said for the satellite collections in Alton, the Wolfeboro facility hires a certified chemist.

R. Snelling asked if there is a model that would work with an interim storage facility that could be open every day with a certified transfer station operator. D. Robinson said they might have to turn some people away, and prescriptions would only work if they are properly labeled.

R. Snelling thanked the panelists adding that there are challenges and no easy solutions. He envisions higher participation from communities. D. Jeffers commented there has been an increase in calls regarding disposal of waste.

5. **Other Business**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 PM.