



Solid Waste Roundtable – site visit

Minutes of September 15, 2020

BCEP Solid Waste District (115 Laconia Rd. (Rt. 107) Pittsfield, NH 03263)

Participants Present: (*sign in sheet*) – 12 attendees, including LRPC and BCEP host staff

Host Organizations Present:

LRPC Staff

Paige Wilson, Solid Waste Planner

BCEP Staff/District Committee Reps.

Lisa Stevens, District Administrator

Hugh Curley, Epsom Selectboard

Richard Bouchard, Chichester Selectboard

Successes/General Comments:

- District includes Barnstead-Epsom-Chichester-Pittsfield (BCEP)
 - Town's pay in based on population, not the tonnage of waste contributed
 - Epsom: \$180,000...Chichester: \$168,000...etc.
 - Barnstead has the largest seasonal population influx
- District committee consists of 4 representatives/town – Selectboard member, citizen rep, alternate (non-voting), budget rep
- Mandatory recycling – residents can opt out and use the scale (pay \$0.10/lb.)
- No town stickers to track resident use/trash intake from each town
- STAFF INCENTIVE: 10% of annual recycling revenue is split between staff at the end of the year as an incentive for staff to be more efficient and perform random bag checks
 - Glass and aluminum are caught the most from bag checks (~12 checks/week) – use it as a teaching opportunity
 - For years, there was no tax increase because of recycling revenue
- Public education:
 - Examples of accepted recyclables are hung up in drop-off areas (plastic containers, aluminum cans, tin, mixed paper, etc.)
 - BCEP website - <https://bcepsolidwaste.com/>
 - A letter and brochure is sent out to residents each year and distributed in town office
- One on-site baler is used for all recyclables
 - Takes ~3 hours to gather material and fill the baler & 15 minutes to actually compress and tie the wires
- No fee for fluorescent bulbs and batteries
- BCEP-owned truck hauls recycling and MSW – saves on hauling costs
 - Manages own waste schedule – hauls to Allenstown Transfer Station where it is dumped on a live floor, sorted, and Allenstown then hauls to Bethlehem landfill
 - Does not haul oil or bulk items

- Facility picks up MSW from 5 local schools – hauled to Allenstown with town trash
 - No recycling at any schools
- Construction & Demolition (C&D) is not sorted – all by weight
 - Asphalt is not accepted
- Crush glass on-site for PGA – used by some of the district towns
 - Hand-made machine cost between \$10,000 – \$20,000
 - Machine is only really loud when something is wrong
 - Crushed glass bin is hauled to another area of site and DPW picks up as needed
- Licensed Small Quantity Generators (SQGs) can use the facility
 - Bins and barrels are marked by category
 - SQG permit to ship waste – contract is with Clean Harbors
- Latex paint is accepted for a fee, year-round – poured on cardboard to dry out

Challenges:

- The population has overgrown the facility – especially on a Saturday
 - Site is 20 acres total – currently using 14 acres
- Site is built on the old town landfill. Towns all pay in for the environmental costs.
- Most of the policing is dedicated to dealing with fee items
- Does not accept household hazardous waste – references Goffstown & Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility (LRHHPF) in Wolfeboro
- Issues with ammunition ending up in the trash – needs to be handled separately
- Public education is lacking from the big waste haulers (WM, Casella, Pinard)

Overview (the #'s):

- Total population of district: 16,253 – based on 2019 estimate
 - Barnstead (4,740), Chichester (2,630), Epsom (4,787), Pittsfield (4,096)
- Annual operating costs: \$150,000 – \$180,000/year
- Annual budget needs to pass with 6 out of 8 district committee voting members
 - Town budget committee does not dictate budget and cannot appeal
 - Residents can question the budget but cannot change it
- 5 full-time staff – includes 2 admin to help with bookkeeping
 - Everything is done in house – payroll, taxes, filing, reporting, budgeting, etc.
- Bales weigh approximately 1,400 – 1,600 pounds each
- Annual cost per resident is \$53.02 – would be higher if every resident used the facility but some use a private waste hauler.
 - NHDES used to tally annual \$/resident for towns – easy to compare

Discussion Points:

- **What would you have done differently about the design of your facility? Any tips for towns looking to update/redesign their current facility?**
 - Avoid building on old dump/landfill to avoid costs
 - Include an express lane for quick drop-offs