



Regional Collaboration to Manage Solid Waste (PART 2)

Minutes of February 10, 2020

Meredith Community Center, Room B

Roundtable Participants

Adam Tasker, Wolfeboro DPW
Beth McCarthy, Tamworth Recycling Project (TRP)
Dave McGraw, Campton
David Babson, Carroll County Commissioner
Ellen Farnum, TRP
Glenn Johnson, Tamworth Transfer Station
Harry Cody, New Hampton DPW
Maureen Diamond, TRP
Richard Shea, New Hampton DPW
Roberta MacCarthy, Freedom
Susan Marks, Freedom
Tara Albert, NHDES
William Farnum, Tamworth Selectboard

LRPC Staff

Paige Wilson, Assistant Planner
Jessica Bighinatti, Assistant Planner

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS- 9:00AM

Participants introduced themselves, their affiliations, and reason for attending

Paige Wilson (LRPC)

- Meeting purpose: second of discussion series to talk about solid waste costs, revenue markets and regionalization of waste management to lower costs.
- Efforts are stemming from [House Bill 617](#) report findings. One recommendation is to have Regional Planning Commissions work with municipalities and help develop SW districts.

Outcomes of Jan 6th meeting (first session)

- Discussion: high-cost SW equipment, towns generate different volumes of materials, landfills are reaching capacity, contracts vary from town to town.
- Casella has contracts with multiple towns with varying contract prices.
 - Towns should not always settle for what their hauling/disposal company offers
 - What are some strategies to help restore town negotiating power in order to get the best price for your SW contract?
- BCEP Solid Waste district works with 4 towns – use a shared facility, rather than having a facility in each town. Has been open for 20 years. Residents drop-off waste to the transfer station located in Pittsfield, NH (no curbside pickup). Recycling is source-separated to keep costs low. Costs \$53/resident a year. All towns pay in depending on their population.
 - What kind of data is helpful for towns to learn their true disposal costs?

Ellen Farnum (Tamworth Recycling Project)

- The group formed in October 2018 from noticeable skyrocketing costs in Tamworth and reduced options for recycling.
- Interested in how other towns are dealing with similar situation. Every town has different resource options and recycling can generate revenue for towns/communities.
- Is there a way to collaborate with neighboring communities? Goal is to gather information from other communities on what they are paying for their SW contract, in order to get better contracts to gain more profit/revenue.

Opening discussion

Recycling systems: DES does not have authority to dictate whether a facility uses single, dual, or source-separated recycling system

1. Single stream
 2. Dual stream – mixed paper (newspaper, cardboard, magazines) vs. metal (aluminum, tin, steel)
 3. Source-separated (everything is sorted)
- Transfer station sticker prices vary among each community. Range from 1 to 2-year spans.
 - 3 paper recycling facilities are opening in New England, 2 are in Maine.
 - There are few vendors buying recycling because very few consumers buy products made with post-consumer recyclables. It's currently more expensive to reprocess materials than extract new, raw materials.
 - Price of products don't reflect the price of recycled products. The price of recycled products should lower than the price of traditional developed products.

Tara Albert (NHDES)

- Landfills are filling up with valuable materials. What if New Hampshire locations close? Shipping costs will dramatically increase.
 - Landfills are permitted to a specific capacity, could submit another permit to a new capacity, if approved.
 - Rochester got an extension on their landfill, DES is in a yearlong discussion, defending that decision.
- MSW may be cheaper to landfill now, but we need to look in the future.
- Need to focus on public education so residents understand the changes
 - Legislations is extremely important; we need citizens to write letters
 - Citizens have a role, state has a role, DES has a role. DES only has the authorization to talk to SW operation managers not citizens.
- Will there be changes in the single stream rules?
 - People who are using single stream may see exponential increases in disposal costs
 - The cost to remove contaminated items will go up.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT – CURRENT SUCCESSES, ISSUES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

BCEP (Barnstead-Chichester-Epsom-Pittsfield)

*BCEP representatives unable to attend the roundtable due to bad weather conditions – Paige will schedule a roundtable (facility site visit) with Lisa Stevens, District Administrator, to discuss the successes and challenges working as a district.

Adam Tasker (Operations Manager for Wolfeboro Public Works Dept.)

Waste Disposal and Hauling Contracts

- Adam writes the contracts for Wolfeboro (since 2015) - he noticed the town was losing money by accepting the vendors contract – tipping and hauling were combined.
 - Waste Management (WM) had “fine print” contract details (i.e. - Wolfeboro was losing money because contract said that all recycling was owned by WM)
 - Wolfeboro owns their cans – written in contract (made \$25,000 in revenue from aluminum in 1 year)
- NOW sends out Request for Proposal (RFP) for tipping contract first, then hauling. Contracts are separate and leads to competitive bidding. Allows Wolfeboro to receive the best price and have a choice in the decision.
- Staff hand-sort recyclables at transfer station
- Annual percentage rate increase is around 3%, tipping fee.
 - Casella is typically higher with their annual percentage rate increase

Waste Contract Tips (based on case examples from Wolfeboro, NH)

Write your own contract(s) so you know exactly what you're getting

- 1. Request that vendor include impact/environmental fee(s) in the bid pricing**
 - All fees need to be shown in the hauling price. Helps to better understand how much you are going to pay and not be surprised by the companies hidden fees.
- 2. Include performance clause(s) to hold your hauler accountable and make sure they are meeting your standards**
 - Example 1: set a timeframe for vendor pickup after the shipment call is finished
 - Wolfeboro: WM is 45 min. down the road, sometimes performance is unsatisfactory – added a clause that WM needs to pick-up the shipment within 3 hours of the call or the town does not pay.
 - Example 2: Give the town an option to revoke the contract with a 30-day notice. Use that time (and time beforehand) to prep with another vendor.
- 3. Avoid automatic renewal contracts**
 - 3 year fixed with two additional 1-year options (extensions are determined by the town)
 - If prices are going down, another contract can be put out to bid. If you're still getting a good price, continue with the contract extensions
- 4. Set your trucking standards**
 - Example: Wolfeboro does not allow their waste to be transported in packer trucks (large trash collector vehicles w/ a compactor – typically used for curbside pickup)
 - Trucks may be contaminated with food particles – town may bear the cost even if the contamination wasn't from your recyclables
 - They have fees for private haulers who don't separate their material – may lose their privileges (a 30-day suspension)
 - If a packer truck is used, hauler must only pick up from towns that also do source separating.

PERMITS – TARA ALBERT (NHDES)

Permit-by-Notification (PbN) are a 'forever permit' for high level operations that manage waste

- Can process up to 30 tons/day (incoming – does not include what's stored on site)
- Terms and conditions follow "active waste management"
 - There are ways to word your operation plan to allow for innovative management of recyclables outside of the normal system (i.e. – one town could manage aluminum, another glass...plastic)
 - No need to notify DES if you change your operating plan
 - On-site storage – can have x tons limit for land capacity (determined in the permit)

Standard permit – 50% of NH facilities – can process more than 30 tons/day

- Much more intensive application process (abutter notifications, public hearings, etc)
- Operation plan needs DES approval – outlines all the details of HOW the waste/facility will be managed. Must go tot DES to change operating plan.

TOWN CASE STUDIES/EXPERIENCES

Franklin – paying \$140/ton for single stream

New Hampton

- Creates 3x5ft. bales (700 lbs each)
- Storage – pack 24 bales in a tractor trailer and then fill PW trailer

Sanbornton

- Originally bought into the single stream systems – now moved to source-separated system
- Switched from standard permit to PbN
- Use PAYT – MSW is covered by bags and taxes
- PbN operation plan is "based on the recycling market" - which enables them to store recyclables on site until the market is in a good state to sell/dispose of
 - Tara Albert (NHDES)
 - This activity qualifies as permits “active management” terms and conditions – however, the facility needs to move the material within a reasonable amount of time. Cannot hold the items longer than a few years.

Tamworth

- Pays \$300 for trucking
- Costs \$135/ton for processing and sorting mixed paper
- Seeing a 3.7% increase in tipping fees
- WM in Tamworth decided to take their glass due to the NRRRA involvement in contract review.

DISCUSSION

- Would collaboration get us good contracts? As waste districts?
 - Economics depends on town budget
 - Are they able to make enough revenue selling their recycling?
- Massachusetts has closed 2 of their landfills – now, 50% of NH’s landfilled waste comes from out of state, nothing can stop it.

Pay-As-You-Throw

- It works if you modify the system to work for your town and residents
- Some want to recycle everything – education is important
 - Avoid wish-cycling
 - The more people recycle, the less MSW
 - Will always have people that won't recycle.
- Enforcement?
 - Perform random bag checks (you can hear the glass bottles/cans)
 - Police department helps Wolfeboro enforce their rules
 - Encourage your citizens take action and call out those who aren't complying – post rules to town Facebook page
 - Use your town ordinance to state that solid waste staff can do bag checks
 - Police should oversee those dropping waste on the side of the road.
- Call DES about a hauler if there is a problem. Call for pickup number.
- The transfer station is there for them to use so their tax rate isn't reduced because they violated the rule, the loss the right.
 - i. If people can't make the hours, communicate to the towns to see if the hours can change.
- **MSW/C&D (How much do you receive at your facility? Costs? Where is it going?)**
 - Data sharing and data collection needs to be shared to the communities, to help understand how expensive SW can be and the importance to the community it provides.
 - Waste profile for the region?
 - Create an email lister for the lake's region and surrounding towns,
 - i. An email network, to ask questions and have those answered by those who may be able to provide information on that topic
 - 1. Information sharing opportunity
 - What is the flow of the facility?
 - i. Do towns produce the same amount of waste, can they have one facility?
- **Waste Disposal/hauling Contracts (Who is your waste Hauler? Costs? Terms?)**
 - NHDES has a list of haulers on their website
 - New Hampton doesn't write contracts
 - Would it be helpful for the NRRRA or LRPC to help write a template for contracts?
 - i. Executive director from NRRRA, road show is specifically for contracts, **in June will be in concord at DES to host a class on writing contracts, 2.5-hour class, to help municipals write contract, template parts.** NRRRA **conference in May** will discuss this as well. Templates can be difficult because of NH transfer stations; many states do not have the transfer station set up. Northeast resource recovery association they have 350+ communities and help, almost all of new England states are in this region, headquarters are in Epsom New Hampshire
 - ii. Milk run-small pick up
 - 1. Put small towns together to share resources (equipment).
 - 2. Have a central location

- a. Would towns be willing to travel to the central location?
 - iii. Creating a Waste district can be beneficial to the small towns that may not be able to afford equipment. Cost effective
 - 1. How do you divide the revenue from recycling?
 - a. Population?
 - 2. Different stickers for towns?
 - 3. Is it just recycling? Or everything?
 - a. It may be better to receive everything, instead of traveling to multiple locations and better costs for the facility.
- Gilford got old shipping containers and they store recycling until the market is the best for them to sell in order to make the most revenue from selling.
 - i. Their shipping containers they got used and for cheaper.
 - ii. Gilford *Recycle Right* website – good public education method
- How much can a facility store and for how long?
 - i. If they are actively managing you can keep it, if you are holding on to it for two years maybe get it out of there.
 - ii. MSW (trash) is not actively managing, don't store it.
 - iii. Select recyclables can be "actively managed" by storing until the market value is high
- Shipping containers need to be dry to keep commodity value up (wet cardboard is an issue)
- Wolfeboro Average truck load is around 21 Tons, has be at 20 Tons and not more than 23 Tons, you don't pay for the haul its built into the contract.
- Solid waste districts/rules
 - Rules expire in 2014, no adoption, in the statute, **149M 24** each town can participate in planning efforts as town or SW districts. Subdistricts may be formed, two additional laws (**RSA:53A & B**)
- Permit waivers - what if towns recycle one product and bring to another town who then manages it?
 - i.e. - Tuftonboro collect aluminum from three towns, cost may be lower.
 - i. Depends on permit, standard or permit notification
 - ii. Typically, a facilities service area is just the town you live in, however that can be changed. You can apply for additional permit from the town you want to collect from, define area, define material.
 - 1. Terminate old permit and apply for a new permit with the new and improved permit including that additional permit information.
 - 2. If you want to do a district, its politically bound and bind.
 - iii. Open a select recycling facility, the facility would only take in specific material?
- Any changes in laws? HB 617?
 - i. Law is already in place for districts, look into how communities want to do it, it's in place.
- Group of towns identify they want to do this.
 - i. Some are DES questions, some are NRRRA questions, pre permit meeting at DES.
 - ii. Email, ask questions, look at classes, research information, get involved.
- 1500 solid waste operations in New Hampshire.
- **Regional Collaboration (How can we work together? Ideas and Concerns)**
 - **Feasibility of developing a centralized recycling "hub" by sub-region**
 - **Interest in setting up solid waste districts**

- i. What's the distance of driving between possible centralized locations?
 - ii. Explain the benefits of cost reduction to the citizens
 - iii. PAYT roundtable?
 - iv. What comes first? Hubs, districts, legislative action?
- Site visits to possible centralized locations
- Community discussion on working together to form districts
- Municipal composting – requires DES permit (27-40% of waste could be composted)
- **Funding (USDA? NH the Beautiful? Northern Border Regional Commission?)**
 - NH the Beautiful - container sale
 - USDA Solid Waste Management grant- LRPC has received SWMG since 2016
 - i. USDA are always looking for something new
 - ii. LRPC helps with grant writing administration
 - NBRC
 - i. Visit their website for more information on grants and due dates
 - ii. Typically for communities that are a smaller population under 20,000 – all Lakes Region communities qualify.
 - DES - annual facility report
 - i. March is when the reports come out- report was reduced in term of what information they were asking for, data was cut in half, data is still collected, LRPC will submit a formal request of DES information
- **Public Education and Data Collection (What are your data gaps? Key research questions? How should regional data be presented to community leaders and the public?)**

NEXT STEPS – HOW SHOULD WE MOVE FORWARD FROM HERE?

1. Collect data – where is the waste being generated? How much of it is non-recyclable? Recyclable?
2. Contracts – use Survey Monkey to ask questions based on Wolfeboro's contract terms
 - Do you include an option to revoke your contract with a 30-day notice?
 - Do you have x, y, z stipulations?
 - Work with Adam to write a contract template vinyl's
3. Research funding – USDA grants/loans, Northern Border Regional Commission, EDCs
4. Economics – what do we need for infrastructure? Opportunities to collaborate?
5. Schedule site visit and discussion at BCEP Solid Waste District (Pittsfield, NH)
6. Contact NH Economic Development Councils
 - Belknap EDC
 - Coos EDCorp.
 - Grafton Regional Develop. Corp
 - Wentworth EDCorp