



SSRC MSW Manager/Board Minutes

August 16, 2012, Hanover Town Hall

Accepted 9/20/2012

Sponsored by Bay State Textiles

Attendance: **Cohasset:** Merle Brown*; **Hanover:** Steven Herrmann*; **Hanson:** Deborah Brownell*; **Kingston:** Doug Buitenhuys*, Gene Wyatt; **Norwell:** Norm Thoms*, **Rockland:** Cynda Childs, Cheryl Conroy; **Weymouth:** Bob O'Connor*, Betsy Harris

Janine Delaney, **MassDEP**; Claire Sullivan, **SSRC**

3:10 Chairman Merle Brown called meeting to order, introductions.

Approve **June minutes:** Mr. O'Connor moved to accept the June minutes as written, Mr. Thoms seconded, AIF

Financial report: Draft budget in new format was distributed and discussed line by line. Added rows for various forms of income. Consolidated rental/utilities like with phone/internet line. Added line for Legislative breakfast. Health insurance no longer needed by Director. Anticipate possible need for new computer. Anticipate receipt of outreach grant. Dues from twelve of fourteen members received. Will finalize next month.

FY13 Plan- distributed list for Board members to rate importance of activities on scale of 1-5. Discussed Legislative Advocacy at length, 77 hours spent in FY12. Board members expressed support of continuing to spend time on this pursuit in next session, noting strength in numbers. Progress is slow, but our interests and concerns are being noted, and some advances are being made. A bill filed this session by Rep. Lewis would authorize MassDEP to set limits on residential trash volumes. Members would like input in redrafting this bill for next session.

Director performance review: EBoard did evaluation, generally positive. Noted that additional personal days have been given past 3-4 years in lieu of pay increases. Recommended that some savings from health insurance fund a 5% pay increase for Director. Bonus if new member joins. Mr. Herrmann moved to approve increase, Mr. O'Connor seconded, AIF.

DEP outreach grant proposal: As mentioned at June meeting, Director applied for a \$2000 public outreach grant, put in radio ads as placeholder. Suggestions: produce a promotional handbill to distribute to new residents, at transfer stations and events with information about the SSRC and its mission. Publicize the numbers from recycling rebates, avoided disposal cost. Other ideas welcome. Grant awards to be announced in the fall.

Bay State Textile update: Ms. Harris of the Weymouth Public Schools described the textile recycling outreach promotion that was done by a district-wide school competition. She is working with Weymouth Recycling Committee to increase awareness of waste avoidance. Schools are effective conduit for communication with residents. Placed Bay State Textile (BST) bins at all schools, BST pays each school \$100/ton. Over \$3000 was raised for the schools, monthly bonus for most lbs./student. High School has 1 bin/class. Recycled 62,350 lbs. through July. All schools will continue to host collection bins and receive \$100/ton. Town has saved same on disposal. She produced a brochure of what can be contributed. Plan to re-launch promotion in Sept. borrowing an idea from another textile fundraiser, big plastic bags with instructions and "Thank you for supporting Weymouth Schools" are folded up, packaged with a postcard and distributed through the schools .

BST uploading to Offer Beam app for iPhone, Smart phone, notifies user when near a collection point a few times/year.

She reported that BST provides excellent service, emptying bins 2-3 times/week. "Paul has been a dream to work with". The schools are very pleased with the program. Mr. O'Connor of the Weymouth DPW concurred that there are no problems with traffic flow or abandoned waste.

Abington and Plymouth schools are planning similar competitions with BST.

Cohasset, Hanover reps reported that BST bins in transfer stations are doing well. Norwell just had one placed outside Recycling Center.

Bay State Textile is paying the SSRC \$300/trailer and \$100/bin for the use of our logo on its containers. Have received \$1500 to date. Contact Paul Curry at 508-415-3855, Boston2674@aol.com.

It was noted that Got Books is adding textile collection containers at schools.

Executive Director's Report:

Fall HHW flyers distributed.

Legislative Breakfast, awards planning. Do again with PCHA? Would want to do environmental Hero awards, invite our own legislators. Dong with would avoid conflicting dates. Request more of a role in planning. Give 3 awards? Committee: SH, get more volunteers next month.

Legislation updates – Ewaste Producer Responsibility Bill, Updated Bottle Bill, Waste Reduction bill – see handout (attached to minutes). Meeting with Lewis on municipal disposal limit bill.

New business: Ms. Delaney, Technical Assistance (TA) grants: different than recent grants, no money, but up to 80 hours of her time for a specific waste reduction project, help writing RFP, volume based disposal fee implementation (pay-as-you-throw), regional compost site, Reuse guide, outreach, etc. Be creative. Give her a call. 781-690-0799 (mobile).

How did Abington get wheeled carts? Technical Assistance for RFP, and DEP SMRP grant reimburses part of cost for recycling bins. No overflow bags in Abington. Can get an additional recycling bin.

Next meeting: Sept 20, Location? Kingston? Duxbury?

4:25 Adjourn

Marshfield Fair Recycling Volunteers convoyed to the Fairgrounds for setup

SSRC Updates August 3, 2012 [Printable version](#)

Legislative session ends in stalemates, despite some heroics

The Mass. Legislative session ended at midnight on Tuesday, with much unfinished business left to the last minute, as is the tradition.

As reported in the last [Update](#), (click on “Bottle bill battle rages on”), the TUE Committee sent the **Updated Bottle Bill** (UBB, H890) to its fourteenth year of “study” in May, to howls of outrage. In the end, it got farther through the legislative process than ever before.

Two weeks ago, Weymouth **Senator Bob Hedlund**, recognized by SSRC as one of a very few **Environmental Heroes** over the years, attached the full UBB as an amendment to a [Jobs Bill](#), reasoning that it would create an estimated [1500 jobs](#). **Senate President Murray**, who has not embraced the bill, allowed it to be attached. Both the Jobs Bill and the UBB amendment passed! All of our other South Shore senators have been supporters.

The House had already passed the Jobs Bill without the amendment. A recent poll of legislators indicated that the UBB would have passed if the Speaker had allowed it to come to a vote.

Instead, the Jobs bill thus had to go to a six member **Conference Committee** (3 from the House, 3 from the Senate) to reconcile the two versions before going to the Governor for signature. Members are appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker. Speaker DeLeo has consistently opposed the UBB, characterizing it as a “tax”, as its well-funded industry opponents claim it is.

Hundreds of UBB proponents rallied on the State House steps in an event hosted by comedian and supporter **Jimmy**

Tingle, and well-covered by the press, including a commentary by **WBZ’s Jon Keller**. 54 House members signed a Statement of Support (SOS) urging the Conference Committee to include the UBB in the final version. South Shore **Reps. Jim Cantwell and Rhonda Nyman** courageously participated and signed the SOS. House members, including known supporters, were reportedly discouraged from signing the SOS by Speaker DeLeo, who is empowered to appoint chairmanships and office space in each legislative session.

Predictably, the conference committee excluded the UBB from the final Jobs Bill. I sent a [Letter to the Editor](#) on behalf of our Board to our local and regional publications thanking our three South Shore legislators who stuck their



necks out for this effort in response to their voters and municipal constituents.

Have we failed? Should we throw in the towel? In contemplating the effort that has gone into this seemingly small measure, and the influence of industry opponents, I conclude that **without this effort and attention, the entire Mass. Bottle Bill would have been repealed long ago.**

On to the **E-Waste Producer Responsibility bill, S2078**: As [previously reported](#) (click “Legislative Updates”), I had joined an “alliance” of organizations (MassRecycle, Product Stewardship Institute, Clean Water Action and the Mass. Product Stewardship Council) in discussions with Senate Ways and Means. The bill that came out of the Senate included some of the [changes requested](#) by the Alliance, but the effects of those changes were voided (and then some) by some onerous provisions inserted on behalf of the electronics industry. I withheld SSRC support for this version unless an amendment striking the worst of the bad language which allowed for double counting material collected by municipalities toward the collection goal, was adopted. I asked Reps. Nyman, Cantwell and my own Rep. McMurtry to sponsor this amendment last Friday in the midst of the chaos. In the end, House Ways and Means didn’t release it for a vote, so the point was moot.

Again, did we fail? I think not. Without our attention, an utterly ineffective bill may have been passed, which would have enabled the electronics industry to claim it was doing its part to manage its waste while providing no meaningful relief to municipalities or consumers. (see PSI Director Scott Cassel’s blog post excerpt below).



Rep. Lewis' "[Act to reduce solid waste and generate municipal cost savings](#)", H4205, the sleeper that was being eyed by leadership/industry as a "substitute" bottle bill, got to House Ways and Means, but was also not reported out. I met with Rep. Lewis as it began to move. It would have authorized MassDEP to set limits on disposed tonnage from municipal solid waste programs, with provisions for incentives and penalties. If enacted, this could significantly impact municipal programs, and should have the input of MSW managers. Rep. Lewis has invited me to work with him on a new version for the next session. I will do as the Board directs.

August 3, 2012

To the editor:

The South Shore Recycling Cooperative (SSRC) thanks **Senator Bob Hedlund**, and **Representatives Rhonda Nyman** and **Jim Cantwell** for their active roles in keeping the Updated Bottle Bill (UBB) alive almost to the bitter end of the legislative session. They stood up to industry and leadership in the interest of our municipalities, the will of the majority of the voters, and the environment.

Special interests have blocked the advancement of the UBB through the legislative process since 1998. The UBB would create about 1500 jobs, so Senator Hedlund, one of SSRC's few "Environmental Heroes", proposed it as a Jobs bill amendment on the Senate floor last week. Thanks in part to all of our South Shore senators, it passed.

But it still needed to be reconciled with the House version of the bill, which didn't include the UBB. Reps. Nyman and Cantwell and 52 others signed a Statement of Support, urging inclusion of the UBB in the final Jobs bill. Other avowed House supporters, even UBB cosponsors, backed away in submission to the Speaker.

The UBB was deleted from the final version.

We applaud the courage of our legislators who remembered who they work for- the voters.

Claire Sullivan, Executive Director

August 8, 2012

To the editor:

The South Shore Recycling Coop has advocated on behalf of its member towns for an update to the Bottle Bill for twelve years. Managing the growing number of non-deposit bottles is a burden on our towns and our taxpayers.

With elections coming up, voters may wonder how their legislators represented them on this issue.

The battle to add noncarbonated drink containers to our deposit/redemption system intensified this year, and could have finally been won if more of our elected officials had the courage to stand up to legislative leadership and the powerful beverage industry.

We are grateful to local lawmakers who have stuck with us in this fight over the years, notably Sen. Hedlund, most of our other Senators, Rep. Cantwell and Rep. Nyman.

We are most disappointed in our legislators who have not stood with their constituents and municipalities on this issue, including Reps. deMacedo, Mariano, James Murphy, and Keiko Orrall.

If re-elected, we hope all our representatives will remember who they serve.

Merle Brown, Cohasset, Chairman, SSRC

Thanks to our South Shore legislators who stood up for the Updated Bottle Bill:

Senator Robert Hedlund, Weymouth – sponsored the amendment to the Jobs bill

Rep. James Cantwell, Scituate – signed statement of Support to the Conference Committee

Rep. Rhonda Nyman, Hanover - signed statement of Support to the Conference Co

Senators John Keenan, Thomas Kennedy, Marc Pacheco- voted for Senate amendment to Jobs Bill
Rep. Thomas Calter, Kingston (Cosponsor of UBB)

Rep. Geoff Diehl, Whitman

South Shore Representatives who did not support the Updated Bottle bill:

- Rep. Vinnie deMacedo, Plymouth
- Rep. Ronald Mariano, Quincy
- Rep. James Murphy, Weymouth
- Rep. Keiko Orrall, Lakeville

Thanks to Members of Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy who voted NOT to try to kill the UBB by sending it to Study (in favor of sending it to the floor for a vote):

- Rep. Tackey Chan (D-Quincy)
- Chairman Sen. Ben Downing (D-Pittsfield)
- Rep. Kate Hogan (D-Stow)
- Rep. John Rogers (D-Norwood)
- Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton)
- Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton)
- Rep. Walter Timilty (D-Milton)

Members of Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy who voted to try to kill the UBB by sending it to Study (instead of to the floor for a vote):

- Chairman, Rep. John Keenan (D- Salem)
- Rep. Stephen DiNatale (D-Fitchburg)
- Rep. Paul Adams (R-Andover)
- Rep. Carlo Basile (D-East Boston)
- Rep. Tom Golden (D-Lowell)
- Rep. Randy Hunt (R-Sandwich)
- Rep. John Mahoney (D-Worcester).
- Sen. Eileen Donoghue (D-Lowell)
- Sen. Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster)
- Sen. Michael Knapik (R-Westfield)