



SSRC MSW Manager/Board Minutes

Thurs., Dec. 7, 2017, Abington Town Hall

Attendance: **Abington:** Lorraine Mavrogeorge*; **Cohasset:** Merle Brown*, Mary Snow*; **Duxbury:** Peter Buttkus*; **Hanson:** Arlene Dias*, Matt Tanis*; **Hingham:** Randy Sylvester*, Brenda Black; **Hull:** Joyce Sullivan*; **Kingston:** Paul Basler*, Gene Wyatt*; **Norwell:** Brian Flynn*; **Plymouth:** Kerin McCall; **Weymouth:** Fred Happel*; **SSRC:** Director Claire Galkowski, RECO Julie Sullivan

(*Appointed Board Representatives)

Guests: **Waste Management:** Jim Nocella

Waste Management provided breakfast.

9:05 Chairman Brown called to order

Jim Nocella of **Waste Management (WM)** discussed the recycling market disruptions resulting from China's imminent import ban on mixed recyclables. WM processes single stream recyclables (SSR) from six of our member towns. He affirmed the accuracy of the Director's article about China's "National Sword" in the SSRC December Updates.

About half of US recyclables are exported, and China is a major buyer. Last July, China notified the World Trade Org. of a ban on the importation of mixed paper and plastics by the end of the year. Despite much trade association pressure to change policy, China appears firm.

China stopped issuing import licenses a few months ago. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) stopped shipping to China, uncertain that there would be a buyer. This caused a glut, which reduced the values and enabled other buyers to tighten their specifications.

MRFs including WM have thus slowed their sort lines by 15-30% and added labor to make bales saleable, raising processing costs to about \$80/ton. They are seeing the worst of it now, seeking alternative markets. Indonesia and Italy are accepting materials.

The domestic market will take time to redevelop. Many US mills have closed in the past several years due to their inability to compete with China. WM is looking at upgrading sorting technology.

A sustained effort is needed to improve quality at the curb long term. WM is working with communities and SSRC's RECO to improve what goes in to recycling containers. He recommended that municipalities budget for outreach to residents that use town recycling programs.

WM is keeping specs of acceptable materials simple: Clean, dry paper and cardboard. Empty food and beverage containers. 1-7 rigid plastic containers- some is not currently recyclable, but they are not big problems, and markets may form. Soft plastics, film, bags and bagged recyclables impede processing.

Q: Should we **discourage glass in SSR**, and provide separate drop off collection for it? Glass has negative value, and shredded paper sticks to it. Only bottles and jars are recyclable, and there is only one area processor, in Franklin, SMI, which is overloaded, and prefers source separated glass. Source separated mixed glass costs \$15/ton at SMI, plus haul. Separated clear glass has a value of \$20/ton.

Taking it out of SSR would reduce the cost of mixed recycling, BUT it is difficult to change habits, and much glass would end up in the trash at higher cost. Mr. Nocella would rather focus on eliminating soft plastics, food, yard waste and tangles from SSR.

WM is stepping up load inspections from individual communities. It is time consuming but will inform where to focus education efforts. When in doubt throw it out.

Have plastic bag bans made a difference? Hasn't noticed yet, is too soon to tell.

Approve **October minutes** Mr. Basler moved to accept as written, Mr. Buttkus seconded, AIF

HHW contract proposal FY19 The Negotiating Team of Mr. Sylvester, Ms. McCarthy, Mr. Koep and Ms. Galkowski met with Stericycle reps, who reported that they weren't making any money on our current contract. Asked for another proposal, had conference call.

There are only two State Contract (FAC82) vendors, Stericycle and Clean Harbors. CH wouldn't negotiate its FAC82 rates. One other company provides this service in our area, but couldn't provide competitive pricing.

Stericycle proposed FAC82 pricing plus a 5% volume discount, which would apply to the majority of our events. The Negotiating Team recommended acceptance. Mr. Basler moved to accept Stericycle's HHW proposal, Mr. Sylvester seconded, AIF.

Grind Screen IFB, committee (click on [link](#) to view). Third extension of current contract expires 12/31. Release Invitation for Bids next week, vote at next meeting. Director gave draft to Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Basler, Mr. Flynn to review. Abington, Cohasset, Hingham, Kingston, Norwell, Rockland use contracts. Hingham DPW will host bid opening. Current contractor Wicklow Wood has trouble getting rid of wood chips, No outlets for wood chips. Storms have generated a lot.

Small scale **outreach grant** proposals: \$2000 DEP Outreach grant. Director proposed allocating half to social media promotion and maintenance, half to WATD FM radio ads. Other suggestions included video production, new movable signs reminding people to keep recyclables clean. May be able to do signs through RECO grant. Presented social media proposal from Jess Wozniak. Julie is too busy, but could provide guidance. Keep Julie longer? RECO grant is through Jan 2019, maybe next year. Messages: When in doubt throw it out? No Wishful recycling? Please, only these? Revisit next month.

FY19-23 **IMA extension** (click on [link](#) to view) Mr. Sylvester, Mr. Buttkus, Ms. Dias will have their Town Counsels review by Jan. 5.

RECO report (Julie Sullivan) Finished work at Hanson Transfer Station, put Do Not Bag signs at mouth of compactors, people noticed. She also stopped people en route, advised, answered questions. A few got aggressive. She sent the license plate list of those who wouldn't cooperate to BOH. TS staff noticed a difference. Spreading out over several weeks was effective. Trying to track down "after" pictures, now going to Casella. Mr. Tanis, Mr. Basler can help Julie connect with ABC.

Middleboro lid flipping- on 3rd of 4 weeks, going well. Town sent mailers to targeted routes first then to whole town. Steph helped first 2 weeks, Naomi from Green Hanson last 2 weeks, using Middleboro RDP funds. 2 Hwy Dept staff ride with her. First week 23% tagged, much fewer subsequently. Will announce results when done.

Kingston and Plymouth private hauler enforcement is next, Kingston Transfer Station in March.

Executive Director's Report

Review SSRC [Updates](#)

Meeting venue options- couldn't schedule Duxbury Senior Center Dec. or Jan. meetings. Scheduled at Kingston Town Hall Jan. Mr. Buttkus will check Duxbury library. Hanson available, but out of the way. Discuss alternative venues next month, trying to be as convenient as possible for all.

Textile, book, mercury rebates – Tell Director if you are not receiving rebates. Mercury rebate may end this month, SEMASS contract towns should call for a pickup before end of year.

New business : Kingston will be opening swap shop 12/16! Duxbury went from Single Stream Recycling to 4 sort. Some issues with residents, DPW is adding staff to help transition.

Ms. McCall asked if interest in ewaste collection events? Funded by town. How much would it cost?

Next meetings: Jan. 18, Kingston Town Hall; Mar.1 Abington TH

10:40 adjourn