



Approved Minutes
Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District
February 19, 2003

Present: Andrew Singelakis - NRPC
Angela Rapp - NRPC
Sally Hyland - City of Nashua
Russ Heinselmann - Town of Brookline
David Lent - Town of Merrimack
Mike Fimbel - Town of Mont Vernon
Tammy Scott - Town of Milford
Bruce Berry - Town of Amherst
Art LeBlanc - Town of Hollis

Andrew called the meeting to order at 11:35 am.

The group decided to postpone reviewing the HHW Bid received until Sally Hyland was at the meeting since the City of Nashua conducted an independent review of the bid.

I. Discussion of Staffing at HHW Collection Events

The first item discussed was the current staffing levels at the HHW Collection events. The reason this is questioned right now is because Clean Harbors charged us for batteries that were not shipped at the November 2002 collection event. The batteries were recycled by the District in the middle of December. The manifest from the November 2002 collection event also reflects that the batteries were shipped. When Clean Harbors was questioned about this, Bill Moar, the Project Manager, responded by sending a manifest that was hand corrected (see attached). The invoice reflecting the \$650 charge for the collection of the batteries, however, was not corrected. After speaking with Melanie Wheeler, NHDES, regarding this, it is recommended that an additional staff person be positioned in the garage with the next disposal service to monitor what is collected and double check it before the waste is packed up at the end of the event. This will eliminate overcharging and any misunderstandings about what was or wasn't collected. Ms. Wheeler has offered to be at the first collection event (May 3rd) to assist us in this transition. The District members agreed that an additional staff person at these events will eliminate this problem in the future.

II. HHW Program Funding Strategy

In November 2002, the District discovered that Hitchiner Manufacturing, Inc. had been fined for transporting waste from their Milford facility to their Littleton facility without the proper permits. Ms. Wheeler suggested that we submit a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) proposal. An entity can choose to do a SEP in lieu of paying the monetary fine. The District proposed that instead of paying the monetary fine, Hitchiner could choose to fund two satellite HHW events. Unfortunately, the District was informed too late about the SEP. However, the group agreed that follow-up with DES is necessary to determine exactly what the status of the proposal is.



While talking with Ms. Wheeler, she suggested searching for other possible SEP projects through other companies that have been fined by the EPA. The EPA has a website which can be searched for companies nationwide that have been fined for environmental violations. http://www.epa.gov/echo/compliance_report.html There are about 70 violators in the Nashua Region alone. Ms. Wheeler suggested writing letters to them all, educating them about our program and ask them to participate monetarily. The group decided that this is a good idea and directed NRPC to follow through with this strategy. The idea is to get the company (ies) to fund two additional HHW collection events.

III. **HB 578 - Establishing a self-certification program for SQGs**

Ms. Rapp explained that Representatives Allen and Phinizy have introduced legislation to establish a program for self-certification by small quantity generators. The program requires SQGs to submit certification every three years to the DES on a per county basis. The legislation provides initial funding from the General Fund to support four staff members and an educational program for SQGs. Mr. Singelakis asked what the changes were. Ms. Rapp replied that RSA 147 did not mention SQGs before this, this bill basically establishes a program to deal with SQGs. There is no real benefit to the HHW program, no additional funding to the HHW program. Mr. Singelakis said that there is probably no reason to endorse this bill then.

IV. **Review of Bid received for 2003 Collection Events**

Only one bid was received this year. It was from Clean Venture, Inc., a company out of Framingham, MA. NRPC reviewed the bid in advance and checked all of the references listed. The reviews were overwhelmingly in favor of the company. The respondents said Clean Venture is responsible, responsive, on-time, offers competitive, low prices and many of the references have renewed their contract with them several times now. They quoted a price of \$12,500 as a flat rate for each collection event, with a total approximately \$61,000 for the year. This is \$30,000 less than our 2002 collection season with Clean Harbors.

Art LeBlanc asked if we will still be reimbursed from DES for half of the amount of the collections. Yes, this will actually make it easier for DES, because they will know in the beginning of the season how much we will be reimbursed due to the flat fee for each event.

Bruce Berry asked about the fluorescent light bulbs. Why can't communities recycle them? Ms. Rapp said that DES reimburses the District for collecting them at events, and we charge anyone who brings in over a certain amount (i.e., a town, a church, etc.). The answer is still not clear why communities can not collect the bulbs themselves, however.

Currently we have \$18,000 in the District account. This will cover two events, with some leftover for administrative costs and advertising. Having a flat fee will be more of an incentive to get better attendance.

Sally Hyland asked if the performance bond was going to be included in the contract. Mr. Singelakis replied that it is probably too late to add it since it wasn't in the original packet. Mr. Heinselman agreed. A performance bond would ensure that the District will be covered if for some reason the Contractor fails to comply with the contract.



Mr. LeBlanc asked if there is such a difference in price, what is the difference in service? Why is it so much lower? There are several reasons it could be lower: the method of shipment (the way it is packed), the disposal methods, the disposal locations, and the efficiency of the company itself.

Mr. Heinselman said that just because this is the only bidder doesn't mean that we have to go with them – the District could use Clean Harbors again. However, Clean Venture has made a very attractive offer and their references check out. It was suggested that the District invite them up to the site and ask some questions.

Mr. Berry noticed there was an error on the second page of the Mobilization and Site Set-up Plan section, page 2. There is mention of the Brookline, MA Fire Department. It was probably a standard plan that is tailored for each contract.

Mr. Berry made a motion to approve the flat rate proposed by Clean Venture, Inc. with the condition that they meet with District representatives and answer any questions set by the District. The motion was seconded by Mr. LeBlanc.

The group charged Ms. Rapp with calling Martin Gaffney, the Project Manager for Clean Venture, to set up a meeting with him. If there are any questions from the District, send them to Andrew over the next week (until February 28th) and a meeting with Mr. Gaffney will be set for the following week.

V. Other Business

Ms. Hyland had some other business to report. The HHW site on Riverside Avenue is under construction. In November, the City broke ground to construct an ice-rink. Ms. Hyland is proposing to use Stellos Park entrance as the entrance for the HHW events. The cars will be led around the back side of the garage and cue up. They will enter and exit the bay the same way, but now traffic will be crossing. The Nashua Recycling Committee will help with the flow of traffic. The site should be available for events until at least August.

The City is trying to construct another building at the landfill. It could possibly accommodate hazardous waste.

Ms. Hyland asked if we were advertising about the change to the HHW Site yet? Ms. Rapp commented that NRPC is in the process of changing the website, and the flyers for the events have not gone out to the communities yet, but will have that information on them. Signs also need to be made for the day of.

Mr. Fimbel commented that we need to be clear with the communities who is responsible for what days and how many volunteers are needed.

Mr. Fimbel also asked about the increase in membership for 2004. What were the reasons for that again? Mr. Singelakis stated there are two main reasons: increased participation rates and to offset the City of Nashua costs for the events. The City incurs many expenses for these events: facility costs, trash, staff time (including Sally's time), onsite storage, clean up, etc.



Ms. Hyland asked if any of the other towns attended the three day certification course DES sponsored. Three employees from Amherst attended, but Amherst does not want to collect waste.

Ms. Hyland said that we need to start thinking about volunteers for the collection days. She proposed that NRPC generate a schedule and send it out to the Board of Selectmen. It will include a request to send volunteers to the collection events. The letter should be sent after Town Meeting so it doesn't get caught in the shuffle. The District members should be Ccd.

Mr. Fimbel moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Berry.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm

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Attachment