

Approved 5-29-2003

**ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT
Minutes of the meeting of April 22, 2003
at Hancock County Planning Commission**

PRESENT: Bob Kates (Trenton), Beverly Sanborn (Cranberry Isles), Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Leon Yeaton (Pleasant Bay Management)

VISITORS: Lee Beal, Greg Lounder and Tim King (Ellsworth), Terrence Kelly (Housing Authority), Sherry Churchill (HCPC), Ellen Brawley (MD), Laurie Schreiber (BH Times)

CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion: (Kates, Sanborn) approved 3-0 to approve the minutes from the March 19, 2003 meeting.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

City of Ellsworth: Tim King said that the arrangement the city has with Pine Tree to run the approximately 20-year old transfer station is cost effective, but they have been looking at the level of service they are providing, and wondering if they should cut back. Discussion of joining the ADD has not come up at city council meetings; he feels we should go through the solid waste committee first. (Lounder and Beal are both on the solid waste committee, which is why they were at the meeting.) Bob Kates indicated that the town of Trenton would be really interested in having Ellsworth as a member of ADD and using the Ellsworth transfer station for the district.

Tony and Leon gave a summary of ADD's history from the initial attempt in 1991 to its current nearly legal status, and spoke of the desirability of economies of scale in providing for environmentally friendly and cost effective disposal of trash. It appears the most effective system would be for the ADD to own and operate its own facility. Because land is even tighter on the island than on the mainland, the possibility of purchasing the Ellsworth transfer station could provide some advantages.

Bob pointed out that as time goes on trash will not only be more expensive, but also more difficult to process as increasingly complex regulations (such as the current universal waste regulations) come into existence.

Tim asked some questions about the details of how an ADD managed transfer station in Ellsworth would be run, and the possible timing of a sale were it to take place. Leon explained that most of the island towns have contracts with EMR that don't expire for another two to four years. Tony asked if the city had a timetable for selling the transfer station, and Tim replied no, that the sale of the station was just one of a list of cost-cutting options. Sherry said that the state planning office was concerned about Ellsworth's declining recycling rate, and would probably look very favorably on collaboration between Ellsworth and the ADD. Leon said that if Ellsworth were to join ADD we could likely get some state money to upgrade the recycling area of the transfer station.

Greg wondered how much it would cost the city to join ADD. The upside potential seems large, and the downside risk is small, as long as the city could drop out if the district decided to go with a facility on the island. Tim said that the city council will want to know about the financial benefits, and will want to protect city residents from reduction in service. He also said that they have acquired two acres across the road from the facility, and that some land behind the station might become available for purchase.

Bob suggested that Ellsworth has three options:

1. Ellsworth joins the ADD now, considering the ease of opting out should we go in the wrong direction.
2. ADD write a letter to Ellsworth, inviting the city to become a member of ADD, indicating our interest in acquiring the transfer station, and saying that as an important member, Ellsworth could help fashion the proposal for moving ahead.
3. Do nothing until ADD provides a real legal offer to purchase the transfer station.

Greg indicated there are three main upside advantages: a favorable sale of the transfer station, economies of scale on waste costs, and possible benefits for the host community. The only downside risk is the loss of the initial investment, which would only be the city's share of the budgeted total \$5000 per year. Tim added a fourth upside: that they might be able to continue to have curbside pickup and keep the transfer station open for residents at a lower cost.

Tony said we could send a letter to the council or agree to attend a workshop.

MOTION: (Kates, Sanborn) That Tony Smith and Leon Yeaton should send a letter to the Ellsworth City Council inviting the city to become a member of the Acadia Disposal District. Carried 3-0.

Ellsworth Transfer Station: Sherry said the abutter would be getting in touch with her about the land behind the station. She had figures from the assessor's office, which valued the facility at less than \$300,000.

Cranberry Isles: Beverly has developed a solid waste committee, and is working on getting a contract with EMR and with PERC. Leon suggested that she compare the EMR contract line by line with the contracts between EMR and Mount Desert and Trenton, so that additional provisions do not get put in. He also suggested that the expiration date be no later than that of Mount Desert.

Crooked Road Site: Tony found that the site is indeed land locked, but wonders if a land swap might be made for access to the site. The soils maps look as if it would be suitable for a transfer station. There is some question as to whether Trenton would be able to use the site, as it was earmarked for the island towns. Leon said we'd have trouble getting the site approved by Bar Harbor. Terrence Kelly said that the housing authority spent \$250,000 getting the town's approval for a subdivision just across the road. He described the history of the authority's interest in the parcel. Bar Harbor and the Town Hill Village Improvement Society (VIS) both were enthusiastic about transferring their interest, but Tremont indicated that ADD was "actively

pursuing” its use for a transfer station. Terrence said that if the ADD doesn’t want to use the site, the housing authority is very interested in it.

Leon Yeaton’s Report: The Interlocal Agreement and Articles of Organization are in the hands of the lawyer, but are nearly done. He needs names and addresses of initial officers and incorporators. Leon will keep on him.

The information program spreadsheet is installed in two of the three ADD towns. Cranberry is getting a new computer, which will enable installation of the spreadsheet. Leon is working on an additional version that will consolidate the data for ADD.

The GAT trading applications must be in by June 30th. Each town is encouraged to look at its GAT to see whether it should be changed. At the same time, all are warned that some of the tonnage they are credited with comes from EMR clients without PERC contracts. Should this get squared away, who knows what tonnage remains?

MRC: Greg summarized the history of MRC from its beginnings in 1991 as a watchdog to make sure that PERC was run properly, to its position today as a partial owner of PERC, and manager of some \$30,000,000 in funds belonging to the member communities.

HCPC Involvement: There was discussion of getting Sherry to take a bigger role in ADD. It will be necessary to find grant funding to cover her time.

NEXT MEETING: 10:00 AM, Thursday May 29, 2003 at Somesville Fire House.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen T. Brawley