

DRAFT

**ACADIA DISPOSAL DISTRICT
Minutes of the meeting of June 7th, 2002**

PRESENT: Beverly Sanborn (Cranberry Isles), Ellen Brawley (Mount Desert), Mike Chamblings (Tremont), Chairman Tony Smith (Mount Desert), Sherry Churchill (HCPC), Lee Yeaton (Pleasant Bay Management)

VISITOR: Marianne Keitel, Harris Downeast

Call to Order: 10:00 am at the Somesville Firehouse

GATT, PERC

Lee Yeaton pointed out that MRC is currently engaged in trading of GATT tonnages for PERC. The MDI towns are sending more trash than their combined GATT, there are other towns who have a higher GATT than they need. Those of our towns who are sending too much trash could trade with the towns that are short. The reason to do this is that part of the annual distribution check is based on the amount of the GATT, so if we had a higher GATT we would get a larger check. The downside is that we might fall short. The process would be to write a letter to MRC requesting a change in GATT. This is complicated by the system on MDI where our tonnages are computed as a percentage of the total trash hauled by EMR.

Cranberry Isles has no contract with PERC, and are therefore paying the full contractor rate + \$5.00 (currently \$62 per ton and likely to rise substantially). If they signed a PERC contract, they would get a guaranteed fixed rate (probably about \$54) for the next 18 years. Charter members, like the rest of our towns, have a rate of \$45.

FUTURE OF ADD

Ellen said she felt we should proceed to make the ADD a legal entity. This would make it possible to shortcut the first couple of painful years of the process we went through this time around. Tony said that he had suggested at a selectmen's meeting last week that the group continue as a subcommittee of the League of Towns, but that now he agreed with Ellen. He added that if we started the district now, even if only Trenton, Mount Desert and Cranberry Isles were members, we could prepare now for what happens at the end of our current contracts.

Lee pointed out that the only objection is that the towns would be relinquishing power. He said that the selectmen of the towns have exercised very little power over trash costs. As an example, Tony said that his selectmen didn't balk when in December he submitted a solid waste budget with a 40% increase.

Lee suggested that we write down what the effect of the ADD efforts during this period have been. What would our rates for trash disposal have been without it?

Marianne asked whether the contracts with all the towns had been awarded to EMR. Tony said that no contracts had yet been awarded, but he shared the figures he had worked out

from the bids for the town of Mt Desert, for collecting our MSW and transporting it to PERC:

Status quo (town collection, transport to EMR)	\$179,000
Pine Tree	198,000
Gott Disposal	204,000
Harris Downeast	217,000

(All other bids were not applicable for one or another reason.)

On the basis of these figures, Tony is working with Lee Worcester of EMR to come up with a contract he can recommend to the selectmen. He said he is far more comfortable with this recommendation because of the hard numbers from the bidding process.

Lee suggested that for the next time we should learn from our experience:

1. Prepare the bid specs at least a year in advance.
2. Get more detailed information from each town – e.g. the barging requirements for Cranberry Isles
3. Require that all bids be complete and include all necessary services.

He said that if we'd been more specific and required the bidders to quote on hauling to Ellsworth, we might have come up with better numbers.

Tony suggested that we should have a paid employee who would be assigned the duties of Solid Waste Director, whether under the auspices of the League or the ADD. Lee said that if we had a lower level employee (on staff already in one of the towns) who could be assigned to run around and do some of the legwork, we could make better use of an experienced director.

Tony asked Lee to write up the advantages of proceeding with the formation of a district.

Ellen asked whether we could work with Ellsworth now for the possibility of using their transfer station as a district facility at the expiration of the contracts we're now negotiating. Lee suggested that we write a letter to Ellsworth asking them to join the district now, and to help with the planning.

Lee pointed out that we will continue to have problems because of the different contracts EMR is negotiating with the different towns. Tony and Sherry said that Frenchboro is putting in a full-service transfer station, and should be contacted about joining the district.

CRANBERRY ISLES

There was considerable discussion about the specific problems of Cranberry Isles. Many problems center on the necessity to schedule the barge to pick up from both islands, and the variability of the weather. In addition, Lee said that the town should have specific contracts with 1. the carrier, including his duties, the rates, and where the MSW should be taken; 2. PERC; and 3. if they have a go-between such as EMR, a contract with them specifying that MSW should be transported to PERC under the town's contract.

Beverly asked if EMR provides any service other than the transport to PERC. Lee said that they do compact the trash, meaning that 50% fewer runs need to be made to Orrington.

STRUCTURE OF ADD

Lee argued strongly for a board with one director per town. He pointed out that having more than one dilutes the effectiveness of each director, as none feel the full responsibility. He also felt that having weighted representation allows a larger town to railroad the smaller ones. (If we think about Ellsworth joining, it suddenly takes on a different aspect!)

APPROVAL OF INVOICE

It was moved, seconded and voted by those present and a telephone poll to approve payment of the invoice from Pleasant Bay Management for \$743.75.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and voted by those present and a telephone poll to approve the minutes of the May 17th, 2002 meeting as distributed.

ADJOURNMENT: 11:45

Next Meeting: Friday June 21, 2002 at 10:00 am at the Somesville Firehouse

Respectfully submitted, Ellen T. Brawley