

Minutes for July 2019

White River Alliance Solid Waste Board July 10, 2019

Those in attendance Sandy Conrad, Moe Brigham, Grace Adams, Robert Young, Chet Brown, Judi Brigham, Joshua Powers

Call to Order 7:00pm

Minutes for June, 2019 Edit made to June meeting minutes to add Grace Adams as Absent. Moe moves to accept May minutes as written after edit. Motion seconded by Joshua. Minutes approved by vote.

Financial Report Irene FEMA Transfer dues are paid off. Slight decrease in profits, but there is a check from Casellas and from the State coming in. The Transfer Station is having an incredible month of July – hitting record numbers in the thousands of people per weekend day. Revenue from walk-in customers show up under “Fees”. Received last payment on the \$11k that Arland(sp?) owed. Vespers’ account is down to \$1,000; almost paid off. Budget only shows the first 10 days of FY19, so there are many “0”s that do not reflect true business activity. The station is closing out for the 2018 FY.

Manager Report Discussion on shingles needing to be melted down. Chet is looking for state funding to comply because the law does not require it. Don’t want to stop accepting shingles because the Station gets a lot of construction customers that come in with it. A recommendation was made to charge more, but costs are already high for shingles at the Station.

The federal government has increased the capacity that paper mills can process (pulp, shipping, etc.). It is a huge increase in what they’re allowed to move around (Maine increased by over 100 tons per year, Albany got a 300,000 ton-per-year increase). This is good news for the Transfer Station because now more paper and cardboard products can be accepted and moved. Before, there was a threat that Casellas wouldn’t take more.

VPR called Chet to ask what the Station will be doing about rising rates on recycling. Chet recommends that the Station does not raise recycling rates for customers, even though the Station’s recycling rates went up. This is because bagged trash is more profitable per ton for walk-ins than for commercial customers, and the amount of walk-in bagged trash increases when free recycling is offered.

July 1, 2020 Bag Law The State passed a single-use products ban law that prohibits retailers and food establishments from providing food customers with plastic carry-out bags, plastic straws, plastic stir sticks and more. The law exempts certain bags used for medicine, produce, etc. Single-use paper bags can be offered at the point of sale if the customer is charged *at least*

\$0.10 per bag. Styrofoam for food & beverage containers is exempt. Discussion on whether or not the State will require that Transfer Stations can no longer accept plastic bags.

New Laws for SWIP-HHW starting January 1, 2020 New SWIP has to be submitted by July 1. Closed status on the landfill – good until 2022. One SWIP is due and already written, one has to be written still – there are two SWIPs due in total. The State put out a Management Plan that includes all recycling and waste information and what they want written in the SWIP. Beginning July 1 2020, commercial haulers must offer separate food scrap collection to certain customers. The new laws are very strict, but it is unlikely that they can be enforced effectively – the policy is most likely for education purposes primarily. The Transfer Station went back to Grow Compost for food scraps because they are more interested in collecting food scraps in the local area (Bethel-Royalton). Chet compiled a list of vendors that sell food in the local area and sent that to Grow Compost for them to create a collection route. The contract with Grow Compost specifies that the Transfer Station can terminate the contract if it is not happy with services with a 30 days notice. Recommendation to add First Branch and Fox Hollow to vendor list.

Manager Job Search: Pay Scale The Station is having a hard time finding new hires. None of the applicants have all of the qualifications. Need to come up with a new job description to keep advertising. Suggestion to add “compensation based on experience” and a salary range of \$60-75k was recommended.

Wayne is getting a lot of overtime (168 hours per pay period); the town will require him to cut his hours soon if they’re not reduced.

New Office Plans Maps were passed out to discuss possible new office building plans. There will be new office rooms on top of the existing offices, with a break room and a kitchen space. The engineers’ estimate was \$88,000, but it would more likely cost around \$50,000. The Board recommends to put out a bid. There is agreement that if the Station is going to get more employees, there needs to be more office space.

Joshua moves to adjourn. Motion seconded by Robert. Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm.