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Draft June 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Town Representatives Present: Nick Zaiac (Arlington), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Dixie Zens (Sunderland), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Leslie Perra (Manchester), Dan Monks (Bennington)

BCRC and BCSWA Staff: Scott Grimm-Lyon, Paula Kamperman

1. **Call to Order/Approval of Minutes:** Dixie Zens called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. A motion to approve the minutes of the 4/6/22 BCSWA meeting was made by Nick Zaiac, seconded by Tom Shuey and passed unanimously.
2. **FYE 2023 BCRC Contract & SWIP Budget:**
 - a. Scott Grimm-Lyon reviewed the draft contract between Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) and the BCSWA. He explained that the budget outlined in the contract is a subset of the larger Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP) budget passed once every 5 years, and represents approximately 1/5th of that budget and is also a management contract related to the roles of Solid Waste Program Manager and Outreach Program Manager for BCSWA who are overseen by BCRC. Grimm-Lyon said that while he based the proposed budget on an outline left by his predecessor, he will be reviewing the spending and giving regular reports to the board as he is relatively new to the role, and expects the need for additional budget scrutiny; especially as it will relate to plans for the development and management of the permanent Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection facility.
 - b. Grimm-Lyon explained that the draft shared with the board had an incorrect date in the page Header and in the field marked Contract Number, and that the final version that is ready to be signed has been corrected.
 - c. A motion to approve the BCRC contract with the modified date was made by Nick Zaiac, seconded by Tom Shuey and passed unanimously.
3. **Permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility:**
 - a. Site Plan: Grimm-Lyon reviewed the draft site plan for the placement of a prefabricated storage facility that was created with input from with RJ Joly of Bennington DPW and Richard Smith of Casella. The plan includes a concrete pad for placement of the facility and additional asphalt to increase the functionality of the existing buildings. Additional plans outlining potential use scenarios for collection days, and shipment days were also reviewed. Grimm-Lyon told the board that he shared this initial draft with Paul Dansereau, the Bennington Fire

Marshall and Building Inspector, and based on his feedback we will need a more finalized version that is to be approved by a licensed design professional. Zens and Zaiac asked that we consider ways increase the amount of Asphalt to improve traffic safety and parking availability for collection days. Dan Monks requested that we consider the option of allowing traffic to flow past the facility and turn right to exit the transfer station. Grimm-Lyon said he will examine these possibilities as he continues to work with the licensed design professional to finalize the plan.

- b. Quotes on Prefabricated Units: Grimm-Lyon went over three price quotes for the purchase and delivery of prefabricated units for the permanent household waste facility made by the companies Safety Storage Inc., Securall, and US Chemical Storage. All units include a built-in chemical fire suppression system, explosion relief panels, and three separate rooms for storage. Details including the relative size, weight, cost, and other features of each unit were discussed. The primary topic of conversation was the unit made by Securall which was favored because it was \$40,000 less expensive than the others. Members discussed concerns how the unit did not come with a 3-hour fire proof rating, did not include additional features, and the building quality as it was substantially lighter than the other units. Shuey suggested that the basic strength of the the Securall unit was similar to facilities he has used in Pownal with no problems, and that we could save money by not buying all of the preinstalled items, and instead use something like an attic fan as a mechanical exhaust ventilation to save costs. Zaiac suggested that Grimm-Lyon approach Securall and get a new quote that includes a 3-hour fire proof rating, and that BCSWA could hold a special meeting on this specific issue if necessary to secure the price.
 - c. Zaiac made a motion to table the issue until BCSWA receives a new quote from Securall, seconded by Dave Kiernan, and unanimously approved.
4. **3rd Quarter SWIP Report:** Grimm-Lyon briefly went over highlights from the 3rd Quarter SWIP report noting that labor costs are higher than previous quarters due to the onboarding period of the new Program Manager, but that overall the labor budget for the year was still under annual projections.
 5. **ISWAP Report:**
 - a. Sticker Fee Schedule: BCRC recently received a check from Casella related to the recycling access stickler fees of \$12,915. This total represents 861 stickers sold between the period of Jan 1, 2022 and March 31, 2022. Reimbursement will be issued as a credit on the monthly invoices to the towns participating in the Integrated Solid Waste Applications Program (ISWAP) starting on July 1, 2022 and based on the percentage each town pays toward the total program costs. Specific details for each town can be found on page 23 of the meeting packet.

Moving forward each quarter of payment received from Casella will be applied in a similar fashion, though it is expected that the bulk of stickers will be sold each year during the first quarter of the calendar year.

- b. **Potential Rupert Membership:** Grimm-Lyon reported that the town of Rupert requested information about joining the ISWAP program and shared a copy of the memo he sent to Deborah Baker; Co-Chair of the Rupert Selectboard that outlines the potential costs of participation in the program. Rupert is expected to discuss the issue at their June 14th Selectboard meeting. A special meeting of the ISWAP town representatives may be called this summer if Rupert requests to join the program.

6. Compost Bin Sales:

- a. Grimm-Lyon reported that 49 Compost Bins, and 24 Green Cones have been sold to the public so far, and that the sale will continue until June 9th. Advertising for the sale was largely done on Facebook and on Front Porch Forum, and all sales have been conducted via the new online store on the BCSWA webpage.
- b. Primary distribution of the items will take place on June 11th, 13th, and 15th at Abacus Automation in Bennington. 75 Green Cones and 72 compost bins were ordered for the annual sale, and overstock will be kept at the Bennington Waste Transfer Station to be sold in the future. Paula Kamperman will continue to sell bins using a POS system at farmers markets and at fairs through the summer.

7. Household Hazardous Waste Events:

- a. Grimm-Lyon reported that the May 7th, HHW collection event served 293 households and that was a reduction of over 20% from 2021, where we accepted waste from 384 households. The 293-household number was about the same number of households served in 2018, 2019, and 2020 and the boost in numbers for 2021 may have been related to people spending more time at home during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- b. Costs for the Bennington event were approximately \$37,000, which is an increase from last year where the costs were closer to \$30,000. Fees and costs increased significantly considering that less material was dropped off. Grimm-Lyon reminded the Board that unpredictable prices for these events are a key reason why BCSWA is seeking the to operate a permanent HHW collection facility.
- c. The second HHW collection event is to be held on July 23rd in Readsboro, and the third on September 17th in Dorset. Grimm-Lyon confirmed that outreach efforts were scheduled and would begin soon.

8. **Spring Tour of Casella MRF:** Grimm-Lyon reported that he has begun speaking with Casella about organizing a tour of their Rutland, VT Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for BCSWA staff and board members. More information will follow via email.

9. Public Comments:

- a. Matt Granger of Arlington, VT asked for more information about how the Permanent HHW collection facility might impact business like his (Resourceful Recycling Clean Up Services LLC) that also use the annual HHW collection events as a way to dispose of waste. Grimm-Lyon responded by saying that while a plan has not been drafted yet, it is likely that the BCSWA facility will follow the model that is used at the HHW facility managed by the Windham Solid Waste Management District; in this model local businesses are invited to arrive on the same day the facility has scheduled a shipment out of waste, those businesses then are charged a fee that is equivalent to the same rate that the BCSWA pays to dispose of its bulk waste.
- b. Granger also asked if there will be a fee to individual households for using the new HHW facility. Grimm-Lyon replied that he is unsure, noting that some VT districts charge a fee and others do not, and he will be exploring whether or not a fee would discourage the public from using of the facility before coming up with the draft operations budget.

10. Next Meeting/Adjournment: Wednesday, September 14th at 4PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nick Zaiac, seconded by Tom Shuey and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 PM.