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## Draft April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

To: Keith Squires, Stu Hurd, Rob Gaiotti, Rickey Harrington, John O'Keefe, Tom Shuey, Mark Lourie, Suzie dePeyster, Sandy Gaszek, Dave Kiernan, Nancy Bushika, Steve Bendix, Mike Charette

Cc: Jim Sullivan, Andrea Lenhardt, Michael Walker

From: Michael S. Batcher

Subject: **Draft April 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Date: May 7, 2019

**Town Representatives:** Keith Squires (Arlington), Stu Hurd (Bennington), Rob Gaiotti (Dorset), John O'Keefe (Manchester), Tom Shuey (Pownal), Suzie dePeyster (Sandgate), Dave Kiernan (Shaftsbury), Nancy Bushika (Stamford), Dixie Zens (Sunderland), Mike Charette (Woodford)

Total of 11 towns and 17 votes

**Not in Attendance:** Rickey Harrington (Glastenbury), Mark Lourie (Rupert), Chris Reynolds (Searsburg)

**BCRC Staff:** Michael S. Batcher

**Outreach Program Manager:** Paula Kamperman

**Location and Time:** Arlington Town Hall – 4:00 to 6:00 PM

**Public and Others in Attendance:**

Josh Kelly, VT ANR  
Anne Bijur, VT ANR  
Pam Clapp, Solid Waste Alliance Communities  
Deane Wilson, Rutland Solid Waste District

***Introductions:*** Keith called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

***Recycling Issues and Materials Management Plan Requirements:*** Michael introduced Josh Kelly and Anne Bijur of VT ANR. He had invited them to discuss the requirements of the draft materials management plan and to discuss recycling issues. Josh reviewed the major changes in the draft materials management plan that will be relevant to updating the Alliance SWIP. The plan is still a draft and this is an initial review. The plan will be modified based on comments and then sent out for a second, formal review.

One of the changes discussed is to require that household hazardous waste events be held such that residents of an area, such as the Alliance service area, have access to one event within 20 road miles their location. The current standard is 15 miles by radius. It is likely this will require the Alliance to hold a third event annually.

A second change was a requirement that solid waste districts, alliances and independent towns provide containers for events, including private events such as weddings. Michael said we did not have the facilities to manage and store containers. Stu Hurd and Tom Shuey objected to our having to serve private events. While we can provide advice, it seems that the Alliance should focus on public events rather than private events, some of which could be small. Some of the towns require permits for events.

There was discussion on the survey requirement, which has been changed to be completed at the end of the five-year plan. John O'Keefe said most respondents were over 50 and that our sample was skewed. He felt a statewide survey would be more meaningful.

Josh went on to discuss how recycling markets were down, largely as China no longer takes materials due to contamination. Some paper mills are being reopened to recycle cardboard, but paper and plastics have saturated the market. It may take 2-5 years for the markets to recover. In the meantime, towns are left subsidizing recycling. There was a question about moving to dual stream from single stream. Josh explained that single stream was safer as a driver did not have to get out of a vehicle, and that there are accidents in the hauling world. In addition, the materials recovery facilities are designed for single stream and it is unlikely they will go back to dual stream. Contamination is a problem though contamination at the Chittenden MRF is 6% and at the Rutland MRF 13%.

Josh reviewed legislation. S159 will allow haulers at drop offs or fast trash to charge separately for recyclables. Transfer stations can do that now. Haulers have lobbied to have the requirement for curbside pickup removed as it is not economically feasible in their opinion. VT

ANR has advocated for commercial and housing units of 4 or greater units to continue to have pickup.

The plastics bill is advancing and is likely to pass. The expanded bottle bill is being considered, but redemption centers are overloaded now and may not be able to handle extra material.

**Approval of the Minutes of April 10, 2019:** Stu Hurd moved and John O'Keefe seconded a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

**Contract with BCRC for 2019 to 2020:** Michael reviewed the contract for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2019 and running to June 30, 2020. The contract is for the budgeted amount of \$173,980.00. Stu Hurd moved and John O'Keefe seconded a motion to approve the contract. The motion was adopted unanimously.

**BCSWA Outreach:** Paula Kamperman briefly summarized her work so far for the Alliance including meeting with several schools and businesses, enhancing the Facebook page and reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce. She explained that many of her efforts were intended to reach a younger audience than we had in the past.

**Town Outreach via Web Sites and Other Means:** Michael reminded everyone that the next HHW event was on May 18, 2019 at the Bennington Transfer Station from 8 AM to 1 PM. We will be working with Southern Vermont Medical Center to accept prescription drugs at the event as well. He asked members to post notice of the event on their web sites and Facebook pages.

**BCSWA Report to VT ANR:** Michael is working on the 2018 report to VT ANR. He discussed some of the statistics including an increase over the last several years in the amount of material being disposed and recycled, including a dramatic increase in organics used for making compost. The amount of HHW materials has also increased since 2015.

**Public Comment:** The meeting was opened for public comment and there was no comment.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment:** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, most likely at the Arlington Town Hall. Stu Hurd moved and John O'Keefe seconded a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned just before 6:00 PM.