

accepted 1/31/12

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY CORPORATION  
BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

9:00 A.M.

65 Shun Pike

Johnston, RI 02919

In Attendance

Douglas Jeffrey, Chair

Sheila Dormody

Geoffrey, Kirkman, Treasurer (Arrived at 9:08 A.M., departed at 9:15 A.M.)

Jared Rhodes

Richard Licht (Arrived at 9:10 A.M. taking Jared Rhodes place; departed at 10:45 A.M.)

Michael Quinn

Michael Sabitoni

Charles Lombardi (Arrived at 9:15 A.M.)

Staff Present

Michael OConnell, Executive Director

Brian Card, Director of Operations and Engineering

Christine Jocelyn, Director of Human Resources

Nancy Minson, Human Resources Coordinator

Sarah Kite, Director of Recycling Services

Gary Maddocks, Chief of Security and Facilities Manager

Patricia Cerbo, Purchasing Director

Marcel Lussier, MRF Business Manager

Timothy McCormick, Chief Financial Officer

Bill Anderson, Engineering Manager

Rob Lough, Safety Supervisor & Security Officer

Krystal Noiseux, Recycling Program Manager

Inga Lermontov-Hoit, Sr. Environmental Engineer

Dan Szetela, Environmental Engineer

Others Present

Linda Guglielmo, Allied Court Reporter

Ray Choiniere, House Policy Office

Kelly Carpenter, Senate Fiscal Office

Joe Rodio, Sr. Rodio & Ursillo

Paul Stockman, K&L Gates

Tim, EcoRI news

Sam Bond, Broad Rock

Wendy Mackie, Clean The Bay

## Absent

Geri-Ann DiPaolo, Vice Chair

## **Call to Order**

Chairman Jeffrey called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M. Pledge of Allegiance followed by Roll Call. Commissioners Sabitoni, Quinn, Rhodes, Jeffrey, and Dormody present.

## **Agenda Items**

### **1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 10/19/11**

Motion to accept the minutes made by Commissioner Sabitoni. Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Passed 4 – 0.

### **2. Executive Director's Update**

a. Odor Complaints and resolving odor issues.

We are working to resolve the odor issue and we still respond to every odor complaint. In 2009, we had 7 odor complaints for the year, in 2010, 8 complaints, 2011 up until September we had 9 complaints and since September to November over several hundred complaints. Two thirds of complaints have been from Johnston residents while the rest are from other cities and towns. An air quality assessment will be done by mid-December. There are no health issues that are a threat to workers or residents.

We are working with DEM and SCS, a third party engineering firm, the largest in the country providing these consulting services. We have installed 23 vertical wells and have 15 more to install. We are putting in a dewatering system in the wells we're installing. We are covering all of Phase V with 8-12 inches of soil for better coverage and to keep it from migrating odors so that the system can pull it out. Twenty-one wells have been drilled and the de-watering system is hooked up and will be online late this week or early next week. Cover has been placed over Phase II.

Gasses are extremely affected by weather and wind direction. 90% of the complaints occur between 5 P.M. and Midnight. We are answering every complaint, and we are working through our plan. It's a quality of life issue, and we're not counting the pennies. We're doing what we have to do to fix it. We are doing everything we said we would do, either on schedule or ahead of schedule.

The engineering studies will assist us in planning for the future. They're doing a full evaluation of the system as constructed. We already know that horizontal wells are not very efficient. Another issue is that the wells extend 1,000 feet from the outside edge of the landfill, and this extreme length makes it very difficult to maintain a strong enough vacuum to extract the gas. On top of that, the wells get watered in, so even more vacuum is lost. SCS is looking at the flows, the vacuum, the header vacuum, and doing surface emissions exceedence.

The vertical wells that we are installing are drilled straight down. They have a more capacity to pull the landfill gas versus a well that sits horizontally. What is important to know is that Resource Recovery was already on a path to complete this work. It was planned and budgeted, but for later in the year. We always do surface emissions, monitor every well at least once a month. We saw wells getting some water, we saw vacuum issues over a year ago, and we started down the path of putting wells in along perimeter edges, started the dewatering system, getting the system upgraded. We used odor complaints as a gauge. We went from two to three a month and then it went to nine, then jumped to 60 just like that.

We have learned from this experience so that we can prevent similar issues in the future. In fact, we have re-designed the Phase VI expansion and resubmitted it to DEM for approval because we saw inefficiencies in the design that we currently have and use. We're being proactive and trying to do our best to eliminate this from occurring again.

The new Broad Rock power plant will have a perimeter loop instead of pulling gas from four different collection pits. The perimeter loop will have a single collection point to pull all the gas to a single point out of the landfill so that the vacuum on the landfill stays consistent. Now, when one control device wants a little more gas, it fights a little harder and affects one or another part of the system in another area of the landfill. This does not eliminate underlying problems in the wellfield or inefficient horizontal collectors or verticals that are now where they need to be. That is being addressed right now. Broad Rock added a header extraction system which doesn't necessarily change the destructive amount of gas but does allow more extraction of gas.

There is a large amount of sulfur in our landfill, larger than most landfills. A sulfur treatment plant has been installed. The sulfur could be coming from construction and demolition debris or it could be due to wastewater sludge. We historically took a lot of sludge but are now down to 20,000 tons a year. It could be industrial waste coming in. It could be some combination of all of these. We are still trying to pinpoint how all the other sources that generate sulfur and address those for the future. The sulfur treatment system has been part of the system design from 2007 because of historical sulfur. Hydrogen sulfide is heavier than air. If it goes up, it will drop down in these areas around.

The composition of trash has changed from 75% commercial waste and 25% municipal waste to about 50-50. The odors are the result of many different factors. It could be the trash composition, it could be the cover, it could be the moisture content which has accelerated gas generation, it could be the mix of all of these. We know that extra rain has accelerated and exaggerated those things.

We do know that we have gone from 1.2 million tons to about 700,000 tons a year. When we took in 1.2 million tons of trash a year, it allowed us to have a wider working face of the landfill. The way the landfill was built, however, does not lend itself to less

trash because there is too much exposed working face and insufficient trash to act as cover and thus prevent gas escaping. Once the new gas collection system is on line, there will be more efficient monitoring of the gas extraction and the ability to pinpoint things more quickly and fix them more quickly. At that point Broad Rock will burn 100% of the gas as opposed to the current 2/3 of the gas. Currently 1/3 of the gas is flared off.

Once Phase V is capped, in about three years, there should be no odor issues with it. It is much more controlled. Our earlier Phases that are capped have virtually no odor issues whatsoever.

Communications will continue with officials and residents. Another letter is scheduled for one to two weeks, which is about the same time as our second meeting with officials.

### 3. New Contracts:

#### a. Marketing of Recycling Commodities

Note: Under this contract with WMRA, we are now able to syphon off materials for sale to local manufacturing concerns utilizing recyclables.

Motion to amend the resolution to exclude \$200,000 limit made by Commissioner Sabitoni and seconded by Commissioner Dormody. Passed 5-0.

**Resolution:** Be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a contractual agreement with Waste Management Recycling America LLC, of Williamsville, NY. To provide commodity marketing services for the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) as outlined in their alternate proposal #1 dated November 4, 2011 in response to RFQ RFP No. 899, for the per ton price ranging from \$2.05/ton to \$1.75/ton based on volume. The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00. The contract will commence on or about January 1, 2012. The contract will be for one year with the option to renew, at RIRRC's discretion, for two additional one-year periods. Motion made to accept the amended resolution made by Commissioner Sabitoni and seconded by Commissioner Dormody. Passed 5 – 0.

### 4. Contract Renewals:

#### a. Legal Services for 2012

Note: RIRRC will continue to provide quarterly updates to the Board.

**Resolution:** Be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to extend and renew the existing contractual agreements between Rodio & Ursillo, Hinckley Allen, and Adler Pollock for the period 1/1/12 thru 12/31/12 at the same terms and conditions existing in 2011 for a total amount not to exceed \$500,000.00. Motion to accept made by Commissioner Quinn. Seconded by Commissioner Lombardi. Passed 5 – 0.

#### b. Tires

**Resolution:** Be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a renewal agreements for tires and tire repair services (IFB#895) between Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the following two

bidders: Ocean State Tire Co., Inc. of Cranston, RI and Service Tire Truck Centers, Inc. of Bethlehem, PA. The total aggregate amount of these contracts is \$300,000.00, to be split between the two vendors based on the Corporation need for repair service and for tire purchases. The renewal terms will commence on or about January 1, 2012 and continue until December 31, 2012. Motion to accept made by Commissioner Lombardi Seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Passed 5 – 0.

**5. Contract Increases**

None.

**6. Other Business**

a. Clean the Bay Overview/Tip Waiver Request

Wendy Mackie presented a video and PowerPoint highlighting Clean the Bay's mission and efforts. Clean the Bay partners with various agencies for services and in-kind contributions, including NOAA, CRMC, DEM, Save the Bay, Resource Recovery. Clean the Bay removes large debris from the coast and bay such as tires, derelict boats, pilings, and docks. They receive diversified funding from federal government, industry, individuals, grants, state support, and other non-profits. There is no other agency championing this type of work that is being done on behalf of the state. The agency is unique in that the clean-up is occurring essentially on state land/waters. Clean the Bay is requesting a tip fee waiver for 60 tons of debris to be hauled in the future.

A motion to approve a tip fee waiver for 10 tons of material and to send the request for additional waiver to the Environmental subcommittee for policy development was made by commissioner Sabitoni and seconded by commissioner Dormody. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Governmental/Communications Consultant

Chairman Jeffrey proposed a position of Business Manager internal to Resource Recovery, probably to be added in the spring. Based on our legislative agenda, there may be a need to engage a lobbyist. A motion was made to refer this to the Governance subcommittee to study and present at the January Board meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Sabitoni and seconded by Commissioner Lombardi. Passed 4-1. Commissioner Quinn voted nay.

Motion to move to Executive Session under RI General Laws to discuss pending litigation made by Commissioner Dormody and seconded by Commissioner Sabitoni. Passed 5-0.

Motion to move out of Executive Session made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Lombardi. Passed 3-0.

Motion to seal Executive Session meeting minutes made by Commissioner Lombardi and seconded by Commissioner Quinn. Passed 3-0.

Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Quinn and seconded by Commissioner Lombardi. Passed 3-0.

Adjourned at 12:34 P.M.