

## GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MEETING

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 29, 2021

1. Call to order.

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.**

**District Committee members participated remotely.**

Chairperson Beauregard read the following statement: "Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 23, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, as extended by the Governor's March 31, 2020 Order, this meeting of the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District's District Committee is open to the public, but attendees are required to socially distance. All members of the District Committee are participating remotely. Those members are Ken Blanchard, Michael Gagne, Christine LeBlanc, Daniel Patten, and John Beauregard,

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, any person may make an audio or video recording of this public meeting or may transmit the meeting through any medium. Attendees are therefore advised that such recordings and transmissions are being made, whether perceived or unperceived, by those present, and are deemed acknowledged and permissible."

Chairperson Beauregard reminded members that texting and private chats on the video conference platform are not an acceptable method of remote participation. He also wanted to make sure that all members could be heard when they are speaking and if any member cannot hear another member to please let him know. Finally, he informed members that if their remote connection is lost, that they should attempt to sign back in. The time they were disconnected and the time they signed back in will be noted.

2. Legal notices

**Chairperson Beauregard noted that the legal notices of the meeting were posted in Dartmouth and New Bedford more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.**

3. Roll call of members

**Chairperson, John Beauregard; yes**

**Daniel Patten, yes**

**Christine LeBlanc, yes**

**Ken Blanchard, yes**

**Michael Gagne , yes**

**Also present** Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Lee Ferreira, Secretary; Attorney Matthew J. Thomas, District Counsel; Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Waste Manager Reduction; Shawn Peckham, Operations Manager; Chris Lund, Senior Vice President, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB); Jennifer Porter, Vice President, Gershman, Brickner & Bratton, Inc. (GBB); Alan Kirschner, Vice President, Brown and Caldwell; Sam Chapin, Senior Principal, Brown and Caldwell.

#### 4. New Business

- a. Interview consultants for solid waste planning services

Chair Beauregard welcomed the GBB and Brown & Caldwell representative.

Attorney Thomas noted for the record that the District has an existing contract with Brown and Caldwell.

GBB representatives referred to the Strategic Solid Waste Management Facility Planning Services presentation.

Ms. Porter, Vice-President with GBB, would be the manager on the project. She reviewed GBB's presentation (Team Overview GBB, Team Overview West Group Law PLLC, Key Project Team Members, and Reasons to Select GBB / BC / West Group Team).

Mr. Kirshner, Vice-President with Brown and Caldwell would be an engineer on the project and he provided some professional background. He reviewed the presentation (Team Overview, Brown and Caldwell).

Mr. Chapin, Senior Principal with Brown and Caldwell, would be the engineer for the project. He reviewed the presentation (Team Overview, Brown and Caldwell). He discussed his professional background showing how Brown and Caldwell has served the District over the past 25 years.

Mr. Lund, Senior Vice President, would be the project principal and he has been with GBB for 12 years. He reviewed the presentation (Team Overview and Today's Presenters).

Mr. Beauregard said one of the objectives of the board is to determine the maximum amount of solid waste the District should accept to meet its operating and capital expenses. He emphasized the District's interest in determining the minimum amount of waste the District must accept to meet its financial obligations (often referred to as the "sweet spot"). He asked if that would be something that their team would be able to provide the District guidance on.

Ms. Porter said that yes. She noted the options available to the District.

Mr. Chapin added by noting that he's been impressed with the District's conservative approach on keeping the balance and maintaining the services for member communities. He believes it is going to be crucial to find a balancing point where member communities are served, and the economic health of the District and future results have maintained. They are very much on board with that aspect.

Mr. Beauregard then asked if it would be handled by a financial expert or would it be a team effort.

Mr. Lund noted that it would be handled by a financial person which is part of their team, however that person was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Kirschner discussed the look forward of the study (financial aspect).

Mr. Gagne said that with the amount of experience their firm has and their familiarity with the Crapo Hill landfill operations, the life expectancy now is seven or eight years. He questioned if they believed that their team and the people they have on their team would be able to get another 10 years beyond those seven or eight years.

Mr. Chapin said yes but noting that the ratio of the amount of incoming waste to the square footage area of landfill is going to change and the development cost per ton of waste coming in is going to go up in the future. He discussed possible vertical expansion of a mechanically stabilized earth wall (MSE wall).

Mr. Lund asked Mr. Chapin to describe how the local regulatory agency look upon steepening the slopes (changing from the traditional four to one to a three to one or three and a half to one).

Mr. Chapin replied stating that the Massachusetts standard is a three to one slope but it's something that could be looked at.

Mr. Blanchard questioned if there were any other concepts, or possible options available for extending the life of the landfill other than the MSE wall and if there was anything else that they have done and had success within the past.

Mr. Chapin discussed landfill mining. However, because the District has been subject to MassDEP waste disposal ban regulations, it has limited the waste ban materials going into the landfill.

Mr. Kirschner asked if Mr. Chapin could comment on the footprint of the stormwater basin at the Crapo Hill Landfill.

Mr. Chapin discussed the stormwater basin footprint which serves cells 7 and 8.

Mr. Lund noted that the District Committee had the right team to get the most expansion out of the landfill. He mentioned section 4, in front of section 5, and section 6 of the RFQ, and questioned if the District was satisfied with the amount of current diversion or did it feel that there was room for improvement.

Mr. Alfonse noted that there's always room for improvement and noted that the greatest potential for improvement is in the commercial waste accepted at the landfill.

Attorney Thomas asked if they could provide some input on waste characterization study (if it's important to do one, and if so how would they go about doing one).

Ms. Porter said that it was "important to get down to a few dozen categories of materials so you can really get a good sense of where your opportunities are in terms of space and weight".

Mr. Lund discussed the importance of doing a waste characterization study. He provided an example of a facility in Utah that they helped with mixed waste.

Mr. Beauregard questioned where GBB would fit into the scope of the service (would it be handed over to Brown and Caldwell, and where is the level of expertise from both companies).

Ms. Porter noted that the scope element and the characterization study would be handled by GBB as well as some of the tasks in terms of yard waste and physical planning. They also see themselves working collaboratively, but Brown and Caldwell would be focusing on the landfill due to their extensive experience on that field.

Mr. Lund noted that GBB would be the lead on the project, and they are using Brown and Caldwell's local landfill and permitting experience for the solid waste.

Mr. Beauregard asked if they have worked on any MSE walls in Massachusetts or in New England.

Mr. Chapin noted his experience with the Haverhill landfill (Covanta) which was not ultimately built. He noted that he could not point to one in Massachusetts that is existing that they have designed.

Mr. Beauregard noted that if the District decided to go with an MSE wall it may lead to questions from public. He questioned if they would be attending public meetings with the District Committee and be by its side as their spokesperson.

GBB and Brown and Caldwell said yes. Mr. Chapin noted his experience with previous public relations from early experience with Crapo Hill operations.

Mr. Alfonse questioned if the project team on the interview was the project team that the District can realistically expect to be in for the duration of the project.

GBB and Brown and Caldwell representatives said that it was.

Mr. Blanchard noted that the MSE wall in Haverhill was engineered but it didn't go forward, and he asked if they could explain why.

Mr. Kirschner discussed the issues leading to the Haverhill landfill not going forward with the MSE wall.

No further discussion.

**GBB and Brown and Caldwell representative signed off at 2:40 p.m.**

District members discussed the four consultants interviewed.

Members from the Advisory Committee (Scott, Marissa, and Shawn) provided their comments on the four consultants interviewed.

Mr. Beauregard noted the District may need someone with a new perspective who could offer a more innovative approach to the project. The board agreed.

Mr. Blanchard provided his comments on the four consultants focusing on two in particular. He noted that the MSE wall and wetlands replication as being one of his focal points. He believes that the waste characterization study is important.

Mr. LeBlanc noted that she didn't get conceptual ideas from one particular consultant. She agreed the financial aspect is important and agreed with Mr. Gagne's opinion. She provided her comments on the four consultants noting the consultant she ranked as her number one choice and highlighted the reasons why.

Mr. Patten also provided his comments for the four consultants and asked if Brown and Caldwell had ever approached the District to make a presentation about expansion. Mr. Alfonse replied noting that Brown and Caldwell never approached the District about expansion. The District has proceeded the way it was planned back in the 1990s.

Mr. Gagne said the financial aspect is of more importance to him now than engineering, which will be done at a later date.

**Motion made by Mr. Gagne that our first selection candidate would be Geosyntec subject to background and reference checks, and principally reference checks with municipal clients for municipal operated facilities, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Roll call: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, yes.**

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

Mr. Alfonse clarified that the references are subject to what Mr. Gagne suggested, assuming references come back positive, then the next step would be to contact Geosyntec and let them know that they are the preferred proposal. Start negotiating the scope and the price with them so that it can be available for discussion at the next meeting.

**Motion that if there's significant questions raised by the reference check and the prior work check on Geosyntec that the board is authorizing Mr. Alfonse to perform the same background check, check references and projects on SES Engineering and move forward with SES Engineering. (No vote).**

Mr. Blanchard said if that was the case, Mr. Alfonse couldn't negotiate a price with Geosyntec, if the references checked out, but the price is outrageous, for any reason so that Mr. Alfonse can have a #2 option (for some reason that falls through).

**Alternate motion that the board is choosing Geosyntec as number one and SCS Engineers as number two, authorizing Mr. Alfonse and staff to perform reference checks, background checks, negotiate toward a price and a contract, and if that is not successful with Geosyntec, the board is authorizing him to go with SCS Engineers. Motion made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. Roll call: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, yes.**

**Motion passed 5 – 0.**

Mr. Beauregard thanked Marissa and Shawn for their time spent on the process.

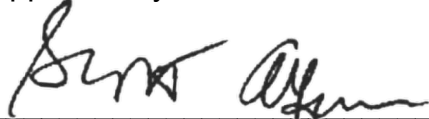
5. Adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Mr. Blanchard. Roll call vote: Chair John Beauregard, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Ken Blanchard, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Daniel Patten, yes.**

**Motion passed 5 - 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. on April 29, 2021.**

Approved by vote of District Committee on September 29, 2021.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Alfonse, Executive Director