

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 12:00 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; Greg McCarron, Vice President, SCS Engineers; Vita Quinn, Financial Planning, SCS Engineers; Ali Khatami, Landfill Design, SCS Engineers; Amy Ball, Wetlands, Horsley-Witten.

4. New Business

a. Interview consultants for solid waste planning services

Chair Beauregard welcomed the SCS Engineers representatives.

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

Mr. McCarron, PE, Vice President for SCS Engineers, would be the point of contact for the project. He reviewed SCS's presentation (Key Issues | Facing the District, Overall Strategy, Business Solutions, | #3: Organics Diversion, and Business Solutions | #6: Buffer Land Use).

Mr. Khatami would be the engineer for the project. He has over 40 years of experience in landfill design. He reviewed the presentation (Business Solutions | #1: Landfill Expansion).

Ms. Ball with Horsley-Witten based in Sandwich, MA, would be assisting with wetlands issues, including stormwater management. She reviewed the presentation (Business Solutions | #2: Wetlands and Basin).

Ms. Demers would be the covering waste reduction and recycling matters for the project, including a waste composition study, if necessary. She reviewed presentation (Solutions | #4: Enhanced Recycling Studies).

Ms. Quinn would be the financial planner for the project. She reviewed the presentation (Business Solutions | #5: Financial Planning).

Attorney Thomas noted that the District has learned that in some instances a waste characterization study would not be needed, but SCS seems very strident that one needs to be done. He asked if they could explain why it was so important.

Ms. Demers noted that although a waste characterization study is helpful, it is not really necessary. She discussed the differences between a waste characterization study tailored to a specific community and a desktop model which provides general modeling numbers.

Attorney Thomas noted that this was a planning study which would lead to options for the District. He said that assuming they were the successful bidders, he questioned how they would initially proceed.

Mr. McCarron replied noting that the initial critical step would be to meet with District staff to come up with a detailed scope and an associated budget.

Mr. Beauregard said that one of the objectives of the board is to determine the maximum amount of 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 "sweet spot"). He asked if SCS could help the District determine that "sweet spot".

Ms. Quinn replied by noting some options available to the District in order to determine that "sweet spot".

Mr. Blanchard said that during the presentation it was mentioned that because of the number of wetlands involved there would be a three tier approach needed (state, local and federal). Because of a recent administration change, he asked for their input on the success rate of wetlands replication during a federal administration change.

Ms. Ball noted that the protection of wetlands, particularly in Massachusetts is pretty stringent compared to the federal level and there's a cooperative approach between the state and federal, particularly in Massachusetts. She noted that a change in administration at the federal level would not change the permitting process. She discussed the wetland replication processes at the state and federal level.

Mr. Beauregard said that an "MSE", mechanically stabilizing wall, seemed very expensive.

Mr. Khatami noted an MSE wall is not that expensive if the source of material is available and discussed the type of materials and sources that the District might have available. Attorney Thomas said that if the material is taken from a borrow pit at the District, would there be a certain consistency or does it have to be gravellier or more clay, or can you add to it. Mr. Khatami noted that they could work with any type of soil and that there are different grades of material used for an MSE wall construction.

Ms. LeBlanc questioned if Mr. Khatami could describe a landfill project in New England where they permitted, designed, and installed the MSE walls. Mr. Khatami noted their experience with MSE wall which they designed and constructed in other parts of the country, but not in New England.

Mr. Beauregard said that if the MSE wall would be an issue getting approved in Massachusetts.

Mr. Khatami noted that the technology has been around for many years but the state would have difficulty absorbing it or understanding it. Mr. McCarron noted the South Hadley landfill (now a closed landfill), as an example which has an MSE wall. He also noted that MSE wall is not new technology to Massachusetts and Massachusetts landfills. Mr. Khatami noted a contract that SCS had with Miami Dade County as an example. It is a landfill with an MSE wall around the entire landfill.

Mr. Blanchard said that he would imagine that as part of the process for the MSE wall construction there would be a cost benefit analysis. Mr. Khatami agreed and noted that it would be the District's choice as to what kind of system it would want in place. He also noted that they could assist and participate in public meetings, if needed.

Mr. Alfonse noted that Mr. McCarron mentioned the work he did for Burlington County, New Jersey, and noted some of the similarities between the problems they were facing and the problem the District is facing now. He asked if Mr. McCarron could discuss the outcomes. He said there was an evaluation of increasing the capacity since the study was completed, maybe a little over a year ago, and asked if Mr. McCarron could provide an update as to what path they are going down.

Mr. McCarron provided an update noting they are still looking at the landfill expansion options. Ms. Demers noted the tentative start date for the Burlington County's project and what the project consisted of (residential vs commercial vs suburban vs urban).

Mr. Khatami described the reason why SCS didn't want to build an MSE wall on the yellow line on the trans view shown on the presentation.

No further discussion.

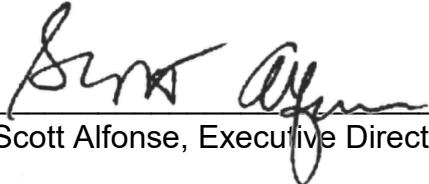
5. Adjourn.

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

Motion passed 5 - 0.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m. on April 29, 2021.

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



Scott Alfonse, Executive Director