

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL REFUSE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING  
Thursday, April 27, 2023

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District Committee held a publicly posted meeting on **Thursday, April 27, 2023**, at **8:00 a.m.**, at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 315, 400 Slocum Road, Dartmouth, MA.

**District Committee Members in attendance:** John Beauregard, Daniel Patten, Christine LeBlanc, Kelley Cabral-Mosher, Michael Gagne, John Perry.

**Also in attendance:** Scott Alfonse, Executive Director; Leonor Ferreira, Secretary; Anthony Novelli, Project Manager; Matthew J. Thomas, District Counsel (participated remotely via Teams, from 8:05 a.m. to 8:16 a.m.).

1. Call to order/ Salute the flag

**Chairperson Beauregard called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and led a salute to the flag.**

2. Legal notices

**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.**

**All 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 / Salute to the flag.

**Chairperson John Beauregard, yes  
Daniel Patten, yes  
Christine LeBlanc, yes  
Kelley Cabral-Mosher, yes  
Michael Gagne, yes  
John Perry, yes**

4. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2023, meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023, meeting regular session made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

**Motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2023, executive session made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

5. Warrant Report and Ratification

**Motion to ratify Warrant 18-23 dated March 29, 2023, and Warrant 19-23 dated April 6, 2023, made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

6. Executive Session – To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

**Motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(7). The District will discuss policies that have not been fully formulated. The draft documents are exempt from the public records law under Mass. General Law Chapter 4, Section 7, Clause twenty-sixth (d), so any discussion regarding those non- public documents should be in executive session. Once the document is fully formulated, the document and the discussion will become part of the public records. District Counsel Matt Thomas stated that no other person is able to hear the discussion at his remote location. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten. Roll call: Chairperson John Beauregard, yes; Daniel Patten, yes; Christine LeBlanc, yes; Michael Gagne, yes; Kelley Cabral-Mosher, yes; John Perry, yes.**

Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:05 a.m.

Committee adjourned Executive Session and resumed open session at 8:16 a.m.

7. New Business

- a) Discuss of District staff and organization

**Motion to discuss District staffing and organization made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.**

Mr. Alfonse noted that at the last meeting he and Mr. Peckham discussed their planned retirement at the end of 2023 / early 2024. He noted a current District employee is interested in the Operations Manager position and would be a good candidate.

Mr. Beauregard asked if the employee has managed staff. Mr. Peckham noted that his title is Team Leader and described the job functions.

Mr. Beauregard asked what the process would be moving forward. Mr. Alfonse described the process. Mr. Gagne noted that promotions should be done internally within the organization. After further discussion the group decided the employee should be at the next meeting.

Mr. Alfonse asked if District should proceed filling the Assistant Executive Director position. He spoke highly of Mr. Novelli's job performance. Mr. Alfonse noted that after his retirement, he can make himself available remotely if needed.

Mr. Gagne asked if Mr. Alfonse would be interested in drafting a consulting agreement with the District. Mr. Alfonse agreed.

Mr. Alfonse noted that the District budgeted for the Assistant Executive Director position for next fiscal year and asked if Committee wanted to proceed with filling the

Assistant Executive Director position. Mr. Beauregard proposed other staff absorb some of the Executive Director's responsibilities. He also proposed adding Attorney Thomas (who is on an hourly contractual basis) as a part time employee to assist Mr. Novelli with any issues. The group agreed.

Mr. Gagne noted that there should be a compensation adjustment for those employees who would be expected to take on additional tasks. The group agreed.

**Motion made by Mr. Gagne nominating Mr. Beauregard to meet with Mr. Alfonse and Attorney Thomas and come back to the next meeting with some recommendation, and solidify what the commitment will be. Seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

b) FY 2024 – Waste Disposal Agreements update

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Waste Disposal Agreements with Mike Del Prete and Sons, Town of Freetown, Town of Lakeville and WIN Waste for FY 2024 and (FY 2025 if applicable) at the tipping fees described. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo. He noted that there are approximately 17,500 tons of solid waste which could be allocated to other customers. Mr. Alfonse described why having fewer smaller customers and municipal customers represents a better opportunity for the District. He explained why municipal customers (such as the City of Fall River) are beneficial to the District.

Mr. Beauregard expressed his opinion on accepting waste from City of Fall River. He would prefer input from the City of New Bedford, and the Town of Dartmouth. Mr. Alfonse explained how reduced commercial and/or outside waste could result in higher assessments for New Bedford and Dartmouth.

Ms. Leblanc asked if partial tonnage could be allocated to the City of Fall River instead of the proposed 15,000 tons. Mr. Alfonse said the District would have to look at the impacts on revenue and long term plans. He described planned upcoming projects and costs.

Mr. Gagne suggested providing the District's consultant with new information and having them provide the District an updated report on what the "sweet spot" is. He agreed with Mr. Beauregard about getting input from the town and city. He wants a good recommendation that he can have confidence in.

Mr. Alfonse noted that the goal was to address the recommendations of the Geosyntec master plan report.

Mr. Beauregard is in favor of accepting the smaller haulers.

**Motion to accept the recommendation that the District Committee authorize the Executive Director to execute Waste Disposal Agreements with Mike DelPrete & Sons, Town of Freetown, Town of Lakeville and WIN Waste for FY 2024 (and FY 2025 if applicable) at the tipping fees as described (except for Town of Freetown); FY 2024 tipping fee is \$100 per ton; FY 2025 tipping fee is**

**\$107 per ton. Town of Freetown is \$76 per ton for FY 2024 and \$81 per ton for FY 2025. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

c) Contract Amendments – FY 2024 extension of existing contracts

**Motion to discuss extending various contracts into fiscal year 2024 made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Best Security Services

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo on Best Security Services.

**Mr. Beauregard asked for a motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to amend the Agreement with Best Security Services to exercise a one-year option to extend the agreement (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024) in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. Motion made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo on the Materials contracts.

**Motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreements with G. Lopes, L.B Corp. dba Tiverton Materials, K. R. Rezendes and Ondrick to exercise a one-year option to renew the Agreements from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 in accordance with the terms of the Agreements. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo on Civil and Environmental Consultants (CEC) – Environmental Monitoring Services.

**Motion to approve and authorize the Executive Director to exercise the second option to extend the agreement with Civil and Environmental Consultants for 2-years (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025) in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. Motion made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

d) District Staff reports

**Motion to receive District staff report made by Mr. Patten, seconded by Ms. LeBlanc.**

Mr. Alfonse reviewed the memo noting that progress is being made on the Personnel Handbook with the Personnel Subcommittee.

8. Old Business

a) Compost project update

**Motion to receive an update on the proposed compost project made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli provided an update on the proposed compost project.

Mr. Alfonse noted nitrogen pollution controls could be expensive. The tipping fee for food waste doesn't lend itself to that kind of expense. Ms. LeBlanc noted if the District had grant funding then it could build the structures needed. The District would need someone to operate the facility.

Mr. Gagne asked if there were any byproducts from the leachate and Mr. Novelli described the byproduct. Ms. LeBlanc asked if it could be recirculated back to the compost. Mr. Novelli noted that he wasn't certain and offered to look more into it.

Mr. Gagne noted that it would be beneficial to work towards obtaining the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant.

- b) Discuss contracts for engineering and legal services – future landfill cell permitting

**Motion to receive an update on engineering / legal services for future landfill cell permitting made by Ms. LeBlanc, seconded by Mr. Patten.**

Mr. Novelli reviewed the memo on Geosyntec Tasks 1 and 2 proposed scope of services for stormwater basin relocation. He noted the scope of services did not include legal services.

Ms. LeBlanc noted that District was also looking into legal services and asked if there were any updates. Mr. Alfonse noted that Attorney Thomas contacted several attorneys and received one response. He noted that there will be further discussion with the attorney.

**Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute an amendment to the Agreement with Geosyntec and approve the transfer of \$31,900 from the Phase 2 construction/design reserve fund into the BayCoast Money Market Account. Motion made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Mr. Patten. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Committee moved to discuss item 7e.

- e) Items which could not have been reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance.

Mr. Alfonse noted that he spoke with Mike Wainio from SK Wainio, who operates the cranberry bogs on behalf of the District. He reminded that the Committee had previously approved taking some (not all) of those bogs out of organic production. He noted that Mr. Wainio asked if he could take the cranberry bogs out of organic operation and operate them as non-organic. Mr. Alfonse described the volatile cranberry bog market.

Mr. Gagne expressed support for organic bogs. Since it's a small portion of District's revenue he prefers revisiting the percentage Wainio receives versus what the District receives and make some adjustment there instead of going back to non-organic. Mr. Alfonse noted the percentages for each. He explained

that the organic certification had to be renewed now. Mr. Gagne asked if Mr. Alfonse could work with Mr. Wainio and see if he could go another year operating the cranberry bog as organic. Mr. Alfonse said he could do that, but the reason he asked the question was because it's that time of the year when the organic certification had to be renewed.

Mr. Patten asked what the revenue was for this fiscal year. Mr. Alfonse noted the revenue.

Mr. Beauregard likes the idea that the District is promoting an organic cranberry bog.

After further discussion it was agreed that the cranberry bogs continue to be operated as organic bogs.

9. Set Meeting Schedule (May 23 date is set; June ??)

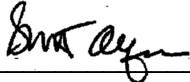
Committee postponed the May 23, 2023 meeting, and scheduled the June meeting for Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

9. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gagne, seconded by Ms. Cabral-Mosher. All voted in favor. Motion passed 6 – 0.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

Approved by vote of District Committee on June 13, 2023



Scott Alfonse, Executive Director

**MEMOS –**

- 7a. District Staffing dated 4/21/2023
- 7b. FY 2024 / 2025 Waste Disposal Agreements update dated 4/21/2023
- 7c. Contract Amendments for Security Services, Various Materials & Environmental Monitoring Services dated 4/21/2023
- 7d. Staff Reports dated 4/21/2023
- 8a. Composting Update dated 4/13/2023
- 8b. Approval for transfer of Phase 2 Construction funds for consulting services regarding stormwater basin relocation dated 4/13/2023