

Minutes for July 2020

White River Alliance Solid Waste Board July 8, 2020

Those in attendance Sandy Conrad, Moe Brigham, Judi Brigham, Robert Young, Jenn Bartleman, David Barker, Rebecca Beguin

Call to Order 6:59pm

Minutes for June 2020 Sandy moves to accept June minutes as written. Motion seconded by Robert. Minutes approved by vote.

Review Budget Ending The budget status report passed out includes cash receipts through June, but there are some outstanding bills and payroll that still need to be added. Total revenue is over \$1M, but an overall deficit is still anticipated for FY19-20. There was a deficit of \$118k for FY18-19. Question on timing of audits – audits for the previous year are not typically completed by the time current budgets must be submitted to the towns. Request for balance sheets and larger print, Jenn will ask if reports can be printed differently. Request to have Teresa in to discuss accounting process and budget status reports so new Board members can better understand the process.

Sullivan, Powers & Co., P.C. Agreement The Town of Bethel signed the agreement to have Sullivan, Powers & Co. do their audit again this year. Bethel is in a 3-year contract with Sullivan, this being the 2nd year. Since Bethel handles the Transfer Station's payroll and insurance, which are both part of the audits, it makes sense to have the same company do both audits. This will be the 4th year of Sullivan doing the Transfer Station's audit. They charge just under \$10k; the cost increased from last year but it would likely cost more if the Station switched to another auditor. Suggestion to compare costs with other vendors. Rebecca moves to sign the agreement. Motion seconded by Judi. Motion approved by vote – agreement signed by all Board members.

Composting Discussion The State's new Food Scrap law went into effect July 1. Currently the Transfer Station takes compost at no charge, but it costs \$500/month to get rid of with Grow Compost (the Transfer Station's compost vendor). Randolph charges \$2/gallon and Jenn suggests to match that. There are other fees that also need to be raised, such as tires, refrigerators, etc. Teresa and Jenn calculated that prices would need to be raised by 50% in order to cover costs, but that would be unfair to customers to implement all at once. Questions on composting. State law says that meat products can be included in compost when you're composting at a facility like the Transfer Station. Grow Compost comes every Friday to pick up the four bins and charges per bin (mostly hauling/transportation fees). Suggestion to charge landlords as commercial, or to charge per volume. The Board would like to have a more local

vendor but there are not many options available. Casellas only picks up commercial. There is a lot of consumer confusion around what is and what is not compostable – compostable bags, utensils, plates, etc. are not accepted.

Report on Moe's Volunteer Experience Moe volunteered on the floor over the weekend. Most people are compliant, but there's 10% who disregard all rules and don't care about authorities trying to point people in the right direction. Enforcement of rules is a challenge for the Station. Question on what the corrective action could be. Suggestion to issue permits for Alliance town residents.

Other Business Zero sort recycling has not been rejected recently, which is good to avoid back charges and fines. There have been some customer complaints of people not feeling welcome at the Station, likely due to increased enforcement of rules. Discussion to do more public outreach so that residents are more aware of all Transfer Station rules and policies (some of which are new). Suggestion to strengthen disciplines for violations. Question on whether it would it be worth it to advocate for volunteers – that is a liability for the Transfer Station so not possible. Returnables are now accepted again.

Robert moves to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rebecca. Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.