

MINUTES OF MEETING
MONTGOMERY REGIONAL SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
November 16, 2023

Vice Chair Steve Fijalkowski called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Authority's Recycling Center Building and declared the existence of a quorum. Present were Authority Board members Mr. Steve Fijalkowski, Mr. Barry Helms, Mr. John Boyer, Ms. Sharon Scott, and Mr. Robert Broyden. Also present were Mr. Alan Cummins, MRSWA Executive Director, Mr. Joe Levine, NRRA Executive Director, Dr. Chris Kiwus, former MRSWA Board member, Ms. Betsy Arlen with Sun Tribe, Mr. Austin deButts with Sun Tribe, Ms. Sandy Warner with CHA, and Ms. Kim Stafford, MRSWA Administrative Coordinator.

At this time, Mr. Cummins opened the floor for nominations for MRSWA Board Chair. With Dr. Kiwus' resignation, the position needed to be filled for the remainder of 2023. Mr. Helms nominated Mr. Fijalkowski and moved to elect him as Chair. Ms. Scott seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Boyer then nominated Ms. Scott and moved to elect her as the Vice Chair. Mr. Helms seconded that motion, which passed unanimously.

Chair Mr. Fijalkowski continued the meeting with the consent items being reviewed. Mr. Cummins made two changes to the agenda. He requested the Sun Tribe presentation be presented next so the presenters could leave prior to the meeting being over since they had to travel back to Richmond. He also requested to add "D. VDEQ Inspection" under Administration. Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the agenda changes. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Mr. Cummins introduced Ms. Arlen and Mr. deButts from Sun Tribe and they spoke about the proposed Solar Farm on the closed landfill. Ms. Arlen said Sun Tribe is a clean energy company that was founded in 2016 by two Virginia Tech graduates and they are based in Charlottesville. She said the planned solar project at MRSWA would use approximately twenty-five acres of the old landfill for a 3-megawatt solar farm. Sun Tribe specializes in brownfield projects, which are projects on previously used land that is not suitable for development. Mr. deButts then gave an example of this by talking about a solar farm Sun Tribe constructed on abandoned coal mines in Wise County, VA. The solar farm at MRSWA would be called the Montgomery Regional Energy Center. It is estimated that the project will be completed in three to five years. Several Board members asked questions with the main concern being how long the solar panels last and what happens to them once they reach their life span. Mr. deButts said the panels last 30 to 40 years and currently there is no clear-cut process to recycle solar panels. Research is currently being conducted and he expects recycling technology to be in place before demobilization of the panels. Board members thanked Sun Tribe for the presentation and said they appreciated that a Virginia Company would be performing this project.

Following the presentation, the consent items continued with the MRSWA Board minutes dated October 19, 2023. No changes were recommended. Mr. Cummins reported expenses for October were 2.01% below projections and there were no transfers. All departments were below budget. Mr. Cummins noted several invoices. An invoice from Carolina Refrigerant was to decommission white goods that contained freon and a Montgomery Sanitation Services invoice was to clean the scales at the pump station. Mr. Cummins also noted there were two invoices from Sands Anderson. One was for August charges and the other was for September charges. The monthly

financial statement was presented for informational purposes. Mr. Helms moved the consent items be approved. Mr. Broyden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Tonnage Reports for October were reviewed. Mr. Cummins said solid waste tonnages in October totaled 7,271 tons bringing the fiscal year total to 29,176. This is 2,169 more tons than last fiscal year. He stated that construction waste, jurisdictional waste and sludge all increased. Commercial solid waste has decreased. Mr. Cummins gave the Board an update on Meridian tonnages. He said they brought in 536 tons of construction material and 206 tons of municipal solid waste in October. He added that Mr. Paul Jacobson, Authority Counsel, sent a letter to the attorneys of the Town of Blacksburg and Montgomery County for their review concerning Meridian reaching their flow control diversion limit. Mr. Cummins and Mr. Jacobson also had a zoom meeting with Montgomery County representatives, and it was decided Montgomery County would like to have a sit-down meeting with Meridian first, and if necessary, then send a letter.

Recycling tonnages in October were 529 tons bringing the fiscal year total to 2,103. This is a decrease of 206 tons when compared to last year with most of the decrease due to lower single stream tonnages. The rejection rate in October for single stream was .58%, bringing the fiscal year rejection rate to .25%. He explained to the Board members that the rejection rate is contamination within the single stream that is removed, before being sent to RDS for processing. To date RDS has never rejected a load from MRSWA. Depending on the commodity price for single stream, either MRSWA must pay RDS for processing or MRSWA gets paid by RDS for processing. The November single stream commodity rate is \$62.19, which is an increase over October. The contract with RDS ends June 30, 2024, so Mr. Cummins said he has been working with RDS on a new agreement and has CHA (MRSWA's general services consultant) performing a regional single stream material recycling facility study.

October revenues were discussed. Mr. Cummins stated revenues were 4.57% above projections. A transfer of \$24,725 was made to pay for the pump station liner project. The recycling profit loss report showed revenues exceeded expenses by \$9,195. For the fiscal year, revenues have exceeded expenses by \$20,955. This brings the recycling position to \$55,755. Mr. Cummins stated that MRSWA is now using five mills to bid on cardboard, so MRSWA is getting a competitive price. He added that MRSWA still offers a payback program to cardboard customers.

The next item on the agenda was approval of a Resolution Approving the Agreement Relating to the Solar Facility. This resolution authorizes the Chair of the Board, the Vice Chair of the Board, and the Executive Director of MRSWA, or any of them, to execute and deliver the Interim Agreement and the Option and Lease Agreement on behalf of the MRSWA. Mr. Cummins explained that this was the exact same resolution the Board approved in October. It needed to be reapproved because the Interim Agreement and the Option and Lease Agreement between MRSWA and Sun Tribe had not been posted on the MRSWA website the proper allotment of time prior to the October meeting. The information was posted on the website in accordance with guidelines to be approved at the November meeting. Mr. Helms moved approval of the resolution. Mr. Boyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.


The added item of the VDEQ Inspection was discussed. Mr. Cummins stated DEQ inspected the transfer station and the tire facility in October. No deficiencies were noted.

Mr. Levine gave the NRRRA update. He stated their auditors presented NRRRA's FY 22/23 audit to the Board and all went well. The meeting schedule for 2024 was presented and the first FY 24/25 budget meeting is set for December 6.

During the public comment section, all Board members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Kiwus for his service on the MRSWA Board. Dr. Kiwus said he would miss working with such a fantastic group of people. Mr. Fijalkowski officially welcomed Mr. Broyden to the Board.

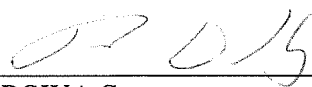
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Accepted:



MRSWA Chair

2/15/24
Date



MRSWA Secretary

