

**Mid-Coast Waste Watch
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2017**

Attendance: Josh Gerritsen, Anna Sideris, Beth Kwiatkowski, Jim Guerra, David Edwards, Alison McKellar, Marci Annis Casas, Maggie Timmermann

Absent Members: None

Guests: ecomaine staff: Lissa Bitterman, Business Development Manager, **Lisa Wolf**, Communications Manager, (communications, outreach and education programs) and **Katrina Venhuizen**, Environmental Educator, (designs curricula, on-site tour programs, and other education and outreach programming that facilitates engaged waste reduction among residents, schools and businesses in ecomaine's member communities)

ecomaine: Lissa suggested each member of the ecomaine staff and MCWW members provide an introduction and some detail into the purpose behind their interest in waste.

The members of the MCWW shared descriptions of other committee work they perform in addition to the MCWW and how the group came to be formed. The staff of ecomaine also provided insight into their responsibilities and a conversation was started on what tools ecomaine might be able to assist with to help with planning for when the contract to take community MSW to ecomaine begins. McKellar explained the group plans to be active in an outreach to the population to communicate goals which include: keeping or making new jobs at the facility and in the community, a user friendly redesign for working with the processes of how waste is delivered, clear information on hauling impacts and costs, working to increase recycling percentage, and educating the public on the "cost" of recycling. A lengthy discussion took place on recycling methods and possible hybrid models that could be considered with regard to dual or single sort/ single stream. Bitterman explained the recycling protocol at ecomaine and the fact that there is no efficient, high value hybrid system available. Guerra is looking at removing glass from the stream and purchasing a grinder that will be used to create a regional processing site which will produce a specable product for sale and still have glass product for use in our own landfill. A brief conversation was held about the pricing of the yellow bags in the future and how to work with haulers on upcoming changes in recycling when necessary. Bitterman suggested looking toward creating ordinances within the towns that will direct the process for loads coming into the facility on a commercial level. Edwards discussed food diversion and Venhuizen was clear that food waste is not an issue when discussing removing items from the waste stream as ecomaine is always willing to work toward complying with the Waste Hierarchy. A lengthy discussion on containers, educating the public/school populations, possible collection points, and equipment was held. Bitterman and Wolfe gave a brief description of the Silver Bullet program and available grants and what they find has worked with other communities.

A final discussion on the best way to present the survey results was held and the group is working to allow an initial transparent presentation of the survey before determining the information to delve into first. A presentation is due at the MCSWC Board of Director meeting on May 24th and MCWW is looking to present several goals from the survey to work toward in the next year.

Wolfe suggested the group include some key elements in the information placed with the survey link including: what the role of the Committee is with regard to the facility and community (Mission Statement), a thank you for taking the survey, a brief overview of what the Committee heard back in the survey, provide information on what mode of communication the Committee will use to provide further information (where it can be found), and a means of contact for the group (to allow feedback). Kwiatkowski also suggested the prize winners be listed. McKellar will write an informational statement to be placed with the results on social media sites and the MCSWC website a PR notice in the local papers was placed on hold at this time.

Lissa Bitterman will be added to the Waste Watch Committee email to keep her in the loop until we meet again. Bitterman will forward to Venhuizen and Wolfe as well.

The remainder of the agenda was postponed until May 25th.

NEXT MEETING:

May 21, 2017	1-5 pm	Clean Up of the Swap Shop area and Cement Pad at MCSW
May 25, 2017	12:30 PM	Richardson Room – Rockport Town Office