

**Member/Operation Marketing Meeting**  
**September 9, 2015**  
**NRRA Offices, 2101 Dover Road, Epsom, NH**

**NOTES**

**In Attendance:** Jack Kozec, Newton, NH; Patrick Bowne, Dunbarton, NH; Tom Rothermel, Jaffrey, NH; Dennis Patnoe, Lancaster, NH; Brian Patnoe, Littleton, NH; Andrew Shaheen, Carroll, NH; Greg Hogan, Carroll, NH; Nathan Akins, Warner, NH; Mike Provost, Alexandria, NH; Kregg Pinard, Lisbon, NH; William Straw, Weare, NH; Steve Wheeler, Salisbury, NH; Tim Redmond, Weare, NH; Carol Burgess, Greenfield, NH; Chuck Whitcher, Candia, NH; Joan Cudworth, Hollis, NH; Roger Rice, Lee, NH; Dustin Bowles, Loudon, NH; Jon Edgerly, Bartlett, NH; Varick Proper, Warner, NH; David Hartman, Warner, NH.

**NRRA Staff:** Mike Durfor, Bonnie Bethune, Mike Nork, Stacey Morrison

- I. **Introductions-** Group introductions were made
- II. **Approval of Notes from Previous Meeting-**Tim asked for a motion to approve the notes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Roger Rice made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Dennis Patnoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- III. **Market Update-**Mike Nork began the market update by stating that the current market is a "mixed bag". The fiber market has not changed despite market instability in China. Plastics pricing has gone down a little which is not surprising since fuel costs have also gone down a bit. Scrap Metal (light iron) pricing continues to drop about \$10 a week. Copper pricing is way down. Mike attributes this drop in metals pricing to difficulties in exporting these materials due to the strong U.S. dollar, also China is not importing. Bonnie asked Members how they gauge the need for non-ferrous pick-ups. Chuck Whitcher replied that he holds his material until pricing is high. Finally, Bonnie reminded members that the Freon Recovery Special Pricing of \$8/unit is effective 10/1/15.
- IV. **Scrap Metal Container Placement-**Bonnie told members of a note that we received from one of our scrap metal vendors stating that some of the scrap metal containers are being pushed too close to the wall. The vendor asks that the transfer station staff pull the container away from the wall prior to a scheduled pick-up to avoid damage to the transfer station wall, the container or the vendor equipment. Bonnie also noted that transfer stations need to be sure that the material in the containers is no higher than the water level (mark) so that it can be safely covered and transported. Members then discussed if it was beneficial to control their resident's access to the scrap metal container to avoid over filling and contaminants being placed in the bin. A few members stated that they collect the scrap in smaller bin then use a Bobcat to load it into the vendor container.
- V. **Gripples-**Bonnie explained that a Gripple is a fencing tool used in baling and it can be very useful to our members. We offer Gripples through our cooperative purchasing program (we get them from Walnut Farm). You'd need to purchase one "Gripple Tool" with the first purchase. Pricing is as follows: 200 Gripples=\$.88 each. Gripple Tool & 50 Gripples \$114.00.  
Bonnie also announced that thanks to some assistance from NH the Beautiful, NRRA will have Plastic Gaylords for sale and that anyone interested in purchasing them should call their Member Services Rep.
- VI. **Empire Recycling-**Mike Durfor announced to the Members that as of this date (9/9/15) Empire Recycling is no longer in business. We regret that this has happened as they have been a key vendor for multiple commodities with NRRA for 10-15 years. Unfortunately, as of late their service and equipment quality has deteriorated and that combined with pricing that was neither competitive nor sustainable led to their downfall. Member Services has been working very hard to redirect materials. Dual stream material is particularly difficult to move at this time and will be treated as Single Stream material which would mean Members will be paying up to \$65/ton without trucking to move it. This is almost as much as MSW. Members were reminded that material quality must be high. Bonnie explained that Member Services is struggling with finding vendors with the coverage area that Empire served and that we've been doing more work with Casella but this means that pricing/haul fees will be changing.  
John Edgerly stated that the Bartlett Transfer Station is struggling without service and they are having to throw many of their recyclables in with MSW yet they are continuing to have the residents sort the materials.
- VII. **Value of NRRA Membership-**Mike Durfor discussed how the budget cuts at NHDES have forced them to cancel all operator training workshops for the rest of the year. Tim Redmond confirmed that all paid employees of the Transfer Station must be DES certified. Mike explained to our Members that moving forward, NRRA will help them get their DES credits: Our M.O.M Meetings are worth 1.5 credits each, we will be having a special workshop in October that will also count toward a continuing education credit, the NRRA Webinar (available on-line) is worth 1.5 credits and we will be adding an additional M.O.M Meeting in December to help further credits. Mike reminded Members to review their Operating Plans as DES is checking: Have emergency phone numbers readily available in the scale house etc. Mike further discussed the benefit of NRRA memberships by reminding Members that we've been successfully helping Towns renegotiate their MSW and C&D contracts. In addition, our finance department steadily reviews BOLs, invoices etc. to make sure our Members are not being over charged and we are working with vendors to get them to give Members more notice when prices increase.
- VIII. **NH the Beautiful-**Stacey announced that the next NHTB board meeting will be on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the new NHTB Fiscal year begins on November 1 therefore everyone starts with a new set of 60 sign points and those who may have received a grant earlier in the year can reapply for another grant if need be. Members mentioned that it would be helpful if there were an option for a non-standard (special order) sign that cost 60 points. Stacey encouraged members to call or email her should they have any other suggestions for updating the sign packet.
- IX. **School CLUB Update-**As the meeting was beginning to run a bit late, Mike briefly announced that thanks to the USDA grant that NRRA recently received, the School CLUB will be expanding its staff and its outreach.
- X. **Other Business-**Tim Redmond reminded Bonnie that the Weare Transfer Station would like a SWAT visit soon. Roger shared a quote for a Bobcat that his Transfer Station would be purchasing. Steve from Alexandria expressed concern regarding a key that Empire still has (NRRA will try to get that back for him). Mike announced that our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference would be held in May at the Radisson in Nashua, the theme will be "It's Not Easy Being Green".

Tim called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30, the motion was seconded by Roger Rice and passed unanimously.