Progress on Road and Utility Construction

Work on the road is moving along well. Construction contractor, Sargent Corporation has cleared and grubbed the access site, installed 50% of the gravity sewer system, and installed culverts to handle stormwater. Up next Sargent will install the pump station and force main. Depending on the weather over the next two months, work is expected to be completed by February.

Sargent Corporation installing utility pipes and building the approximately 1 mile road.

Fiberight Update

With winter approaching and the road and utility construction underway in Hampden, validation of the project design and engineering continues at the Fiberight's demonstration facility in Lawrenceville, Virginia. This work also has confirmed the markets for the end products such as recyclables and biofuels and allowed for the securing of the process warranty insurance. MRC has been assisting Fiberight with completing investor due diligence prior to financial close. Pending a successful decision of the permit appeal, Fiberight expects to have the financing in place in time for the facility to be open in April 2018.

Settlement Update

The MRC reported in its October newsletter that the MRC Board had approved a settlement with USAE that had been recorded and bound by the parties with the court. The settlement terms in sum concluded the litigation outstanding and also included a fair and positive wind up and conclusion of the existing PERC Partnership. MRC has been working with USAE since that time to also restate the terms in a final settlement agreement signed by the parties. We will update the membership on these efforts at the annual meeting.

Municipal Review Committee, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 395 State Street | Ellsworth, ME 04605 | www.MRCMaine.org

ISSUE 4.1 | December 2016

Groundbreaking Ceremony

There was a bright spot on a cold and wet October morning when the MRC, Fiberight, Partners and Supporters celebrated the start of the construction of our Post 2018 MSW disposal option. Prior to the ceremonial groundbreaking, MRC Executive Director Greg Lounder, Board President Chip Reeves, Hampden Mayor David Ryder, and Fiberight President Craig Stuart-Paul spoke to a crowd of approximately 50 people about the importance of reaching this milestone. It was an exciting day and thank you to all who attended!

Top: *MRC VP Jim Guerra, MRC President Chip Reeves, MRC Executive Director Greg Lounder, Fiberight President Craig Stuart-Paul, Sargent Corporation VP–Operations Tim Folster, CES, Inc. President Denis St. Peter, HO Bouchard Amos McCannell, Commonweath Resource Management George Aronson, and Hampden Mayor David Ryder;* **Bottom Left:** *Hampden Mayor David Ryder, MRC Board Member Karen Fussell, Fiberight CEO Craig Stuart-Paul;* **Middle:** *CES, Inc. President Denis St. Peter and Sargent Corporation VP-Operations Tim Folster;* **Middle Right:** *Commonwealth Resource Management George Aronson and Town of China Selectmen Irene Belanger;* **Bottom:** *Attendees gather for ceremony*

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 14
Annual Membership Meeting
3:00 PM–5:00 PM
Cross Insurance Center
515 Main Street, Bangor

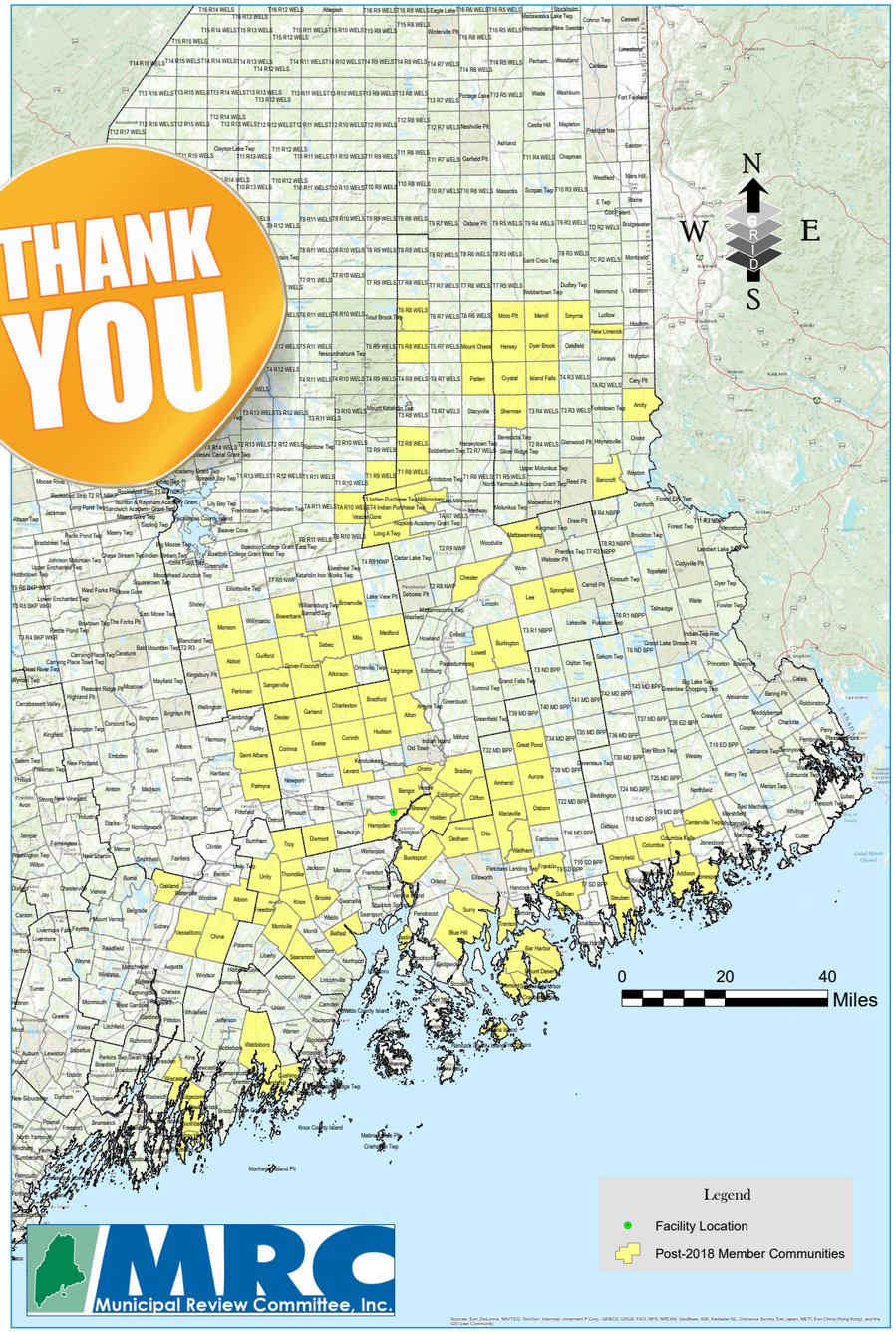
ABOUT THE MRC

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is a non-profit association of Maine communities led by an elected, volunteer board of directors. For more than 25 years, the member communities of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC), now numbering more than 180 cities and towns, have used the PERC waste-to-energy incinerator in Orrington to process their municipal solid waste (MSW). After 2018, the contracts with PERC will expire. The MRC has partnered with Fiberight to offer an innovative solution to recycle and process our MSW post 2018.

Visit www.mrcmaine.org or contact Greg Lounder at 207-664-1700 or glounder@mrcmaine.org to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our email contact list.

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

MRC regularly sends updates and announcements by email to those who have signed up for our alerts.
We also have active Facebook and Twitter accounts, and we've posted informative videos from recent meetings on our YouTube account. All of these are accessible from the homepage of our website, **mrcmaine.org**.



MRC Post 2018 Members Map

More Towns Expected to Join: The Town of Carmel is expected to sign-up with the MRC at its March 2017 Town Meeting. There is still a chance for a limited number of additional communities to join. If you'd like to sign-up, please contact Greg Lounder at glounder@mrcmaine.org or 664-1700.

From the State House

The 2016 election cycle was perhaps the most memorable and tumultuous political saga of the last century and Maine's role in that story is certainly not insignificant. While President-elect Donald Trump was defying pundit prediction on his way to a winning electoral college score nationwide his unprecedented success among rural, white voters allowed down-ballot Republicans to have a night better than they might have expected here in Maine. In addition to Maine splitting its four electoral votes (three to former Sec. Hillary Clinton, one to Trump), Republican strength in the state's interior meant the GOP would retain Rep. Bruce Poliquin for a second term in the sprawling, northern 2nd Congressional District, Democrats would be stymied in their hopes of reclaiming the state senate, and the Democratically controlled House would be fought to a breathtakingly close margin 76-73, with two unenrolled members.

However, Democratic and progressive hopes were not entirely shattered despite a night of national disappointment. The party's exceptional candidate recruitment efforts allowed them to have a resurgence in a scattering of rural areas, most notable among them Aroostook County where the party will control two senate seats for the first time in recent memory. In fact, Senate Democrats were able to pick up four seats in difficult districts that each presented abstract challenges. Despite this, their hopes were dashed by the GOP knocking off two of their incumbents meaning Republicans will hold a razor-thin majority at 18-17.

The House of Representatives will be headed by incoming Speaker Sara Gideon (D-Freeport) and Democrats will be lead on the floor by Rep. Erin Herbig (D-Belfast) with Rep. Jared Golden (D-Lewiston) serving as her Asst. Majority Leader, or whip. Rep Ken Fredette (R-Freeport) will continue to lead his caucus for a third consecutive term and Rep. Ellie Espling (R- New Gloucester) will return as House GOP whip. In the Senate, President Mike Thibodeau (R-Waldo) will serve a second term as presiding officer while Sens. Garrett Mason (R-Androscoggin) and Andre Cushing (R-Penobscot) resume their posts from the 127th Legislature as Majority Leader and Asst. Majority Leader, respectively. Senate Democrats took an unprecedented step in the era of term limits by electing Sen. Troy Jackson (-D-Aroostook) as their Minority Leader immediately upon his return to the chamber, having not served in Augusta since the 126th Legislature. Sen. Nate Libby (D-Lewiston) will round out leadership for the Democrats and serve as Asst. Minority Leader.

Despite the tumult and drama of this particular election season, the Municipal Review Committee's goals, strategy, and tactical direction should not be significantly recalibrated during the 128th Legislature. While the peculiarities of personalities, the political environment and public opinion mean anything and everything can change and require an adjusted legislative focus, MRC's priorities remain the same while the centers of power in Augusta do as well. Governor LePage is still likely to have a contentious relationship with the Legislature which will continue to be controlled by House Democrats and Senate Republicans. It is also important to remember the now-famous relationships built between both parties' leadership during the budget battles of 2015 are still present and mean there is precedent for bipartisan cooperation.

In the upcoming session, the Municipal Review Committee will continue to effectively educate legislators and other government power brokers on its efforts to serve the solid waste needs of its member communities. This will mean everything from reminding the Legislature of the new Fiberight Facility's benefits to the state solid waste hierarchy right down to each and every member's specific story. As always, it will be critical to aggressively and effectively advocate the specifics of who we are and what we do. This means we will be relying on individual member communities to contact their local legislators and explain the necessity of MRC's goals to them. Remember: nothing is more effective in trying to influence policy than letting your senator and representative know where you stand and what you feel is best for your community.

This remains especially important because we know with all certainty our opponents will be out in full force from the first day of session (January 4) until its close in the early summer. To ensure effective communication, efficient execution of our tools and resources for legislative strength, and, ultimately, our success, we will be keeping you updated as incoming legislators are sworn in on December 7 and all-important committee assignments are finalized later in the month before the new year.