

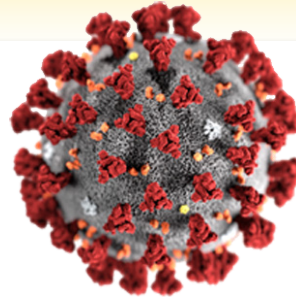


# NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 213 | Orono, ME 04473 | [www.MRCMaine.org](http://www.MRCMaine.org)

ISSUE 18.1 | April 2020

## MRC, Coastal Resources and COVID-19



In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, MRC members have been faced with the complex task of maintaining essential services for residents. We can all rest assured knowing that Coastal Resources is there to continue solid waste processing and recycling services regardless of local collection methods.

Now more than ever having a waste recycling plant to handle household waste that comes in from our communities is important to members, residents, elected officials and regulators.

While some communities may have scaled back recycling programs, Coastal Resources, by design, is equipped to ride out these market fluctuations and will continue to accept and handle waste and recycling through their "One Bin-All In" program. If your community has scaled back on separated recycling collection, please know that those materials are continuing to be recycled at Coastal Resources.

As you know, concerns regarding worker safety and preventing exposure to the novel coronavirus led the facility to temporarily shutdown in March. Solid waste and recycling are considered essential services and plant workers need to be on-site, the time was needed to assess safety concerns, acquire appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE,) and instruct employees in CDC and OSHA recommendations for social distancing and enhanced safety procedures.

We are fortunate that at time of printing, there have been no reported cases of COVID-19 at the plant. Together with Coastal Resources, we remain vigilant in the health and safety of the plant workers.

We appreciate your understanding as we all work to navigate the necessities of the new environment in which we all find ourselves while trying to maintain everyone's health and safety. **Most importantly, we wish to thank all of the plant workers who are the front lines of providing this essential service!**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

*In accordance with the guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control, the MRC is conducting its April Regular Board Meeting virtually through Zoom. Please email [jpottle@cesincusa.com](mailto:jpottle@cesincusa.com) for a link to the meeting. We are also endeavoring to have the meeting on Facebook Live.*

**April 22, 2020**

**9:00 AM | Finance Committee**

**10:00 AM | Board of Directors Meeting**

Zoom (email [jpottle@cesincusa.com](mailto:jpottle@cesincusa.com) for a link to watch)

## ABOUT THE MRC

The Municipal Review Committee (MRC) is a non-profit association of Maine communities led by an elected, volunteer board of directors. 115 members have joined together to ensure the affordable, environmentally sound disposal of MSW in the long-term and send their MSW to the Coastal Resources facility in Hampden for processing.

Visit [www.mrcmaine.org](http://www.mrcmaine.org) or contact Mike Carroll at 207-664-1700 or [execdirector@mrcmaine.org](mailto:execdirector@mrcmaine.org) to learn more about the Municipal Review Committee and to add your name to our email contact list.

**ARE YOU 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 where we share articles and post about events and interact with members. **Make sure to "like" or follow us through your town's accounts too!**

# MRC Loans \$1.5M to Coastal Resources

At the special board meeting February, the MRC Board of Directors approved a request by Coastal Resources for a short-term loan of \$1.5 million dollars subject to certain conditions. The two installments of the money was advanced from an existing account specifically set up to address contingencies associated with plant operations. These funds will support the ongoing efforts to ramp up this state-of-the-art facility. Coastal Resources recently passed a round of key tests, but as we have acknowledged, more needs to be done at the plant to meet our operational expectations.

In order to continue our progress toward full commercial operation, the board believed the short-term loan should be made. Release of funds depended on having a commitment for further outside investment of at least \$10 million, a commitment Coastal Resources is currently working to complete. The short-term MRC loan would be repaid from the proceeds of that outside funding. We expect to hear an update of that investment during April's board meeting.

While the current financial situation for Coastal Resources is not ideal, it also is not unexpected. The changes in recycling markets, delays in permitting, and the nature of the technology involved have presented significant challenges over the last year.

In the context of at least 25 years of expected operation by Coastal Resources, however, we believe it's prudent to meet these challenges with sufficient funding, time, and due diligence to ensure the plant's ultimate smooth operation.

**2020 marks 50th Anniversary of the 1st Earth Day**

How are you celebrating this year's Earth Day in light of social distancing and the ongoing COVID-19 situation? Let us know on our Facebook page so we can share!



## Shout Outs!

### Town of Millinocket Public Works Department

We are sending a special thanks to the Department for removing these wires before they ended up at Coastal Resources. Just a reminder for residents that all wire should be cut into 3-foot lengths before disposing.



### Casella Waste donates N95 masks

"We are grateful to have the opportunity to help communities where we can, when we can. So far we have been able to contribute more than 130,000 N95 masks to hospitals and frontline responders throughout our operating footprint, including 10,000 to EMMC. We were fortunate to have a surplus and were able to help these hospitals while still being able to ensure the safety of our essential workers. We're grateful to be a part of some really wonderful stories of communities coming together from all walks of life to help each other throughout the pandemic." – Jim Dunning, Assistant General Manager



## Postponed: Membership Survey

Originally, the MRC had planned to release a membership survey during the first half of the year to develop a better understanding of our members' needs, improve our database and make our members' waste disposal efforts more efficient. In light of the current situation, we are postponing releasing the survey until the Fall during the rescheduled Maine Resources Recovery Association's Annual Recycling and Solid Waste Tradeshow in October.

**Your Curbside Collection Just Got Easier**

**CITY OF BANGOR**

Beginning June 29, 2020, your residential curbside trash and recycling will be picked up by an automated side-load truck. All of your household's trash and recycling will go into your cart. Your trash collection day will remain the same.

In June, prior to the start date, you will receive a new 96-gallon cart on wheels that will be specific to your address. There is no need to be home to receive your cart. Carts will include additional instructions for placement and use.

Requests for a 35-gallon bin in lieu of the standard 96-gallon bin can be made **prior to April 1** by calling Public Works at **207-992-4500** or visiting **bangormaine.gov/trash**

Please visit **bangormaine.gov/trash** for more information.