



NEWSLETTER

Municipal Review Committee | 20 Godfrey Dr., Ste 300 | Orono, ME 04473 | www.MRCMaine.org

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Board of Directors UPDATE

At our last quarterly meeting, we said thank you to Sophie Wilson for 18 years of service to the Municipal Review Committee. A staunch supporter of the MRC and the collaborative approach to regional municipal solid waste, Sophie was a valued member of the Board serving as Treasurer, providing guidance, tough love and championing our organization on behalf of all members. We wish her the best of luck as the new Town Manager for Freeport. We thank you, Sophie, for volunteering to make a difference in the solid waste landscape of our region.



KEVIN HOWELL

We all share in the grief and sadness of losing Kevin Howell last January. In Kevin's honor, MRC has donated to the scholarship fund for his son in recognition of his ongoing support and dedication to the MRC. We will miss him and his supportive approach to problem-solving.

MRC at MRRA

Will you be attending MRRA's Recycling and Solid Waste Conference and Tradeshow on April 29th and 30th? Stop by the MRC booth and say hi! James Condela, CEO of Innovative Resource Recovery will also be presenting at the conference. More details about the event are on MRRA's website www.mrra.net **We are looking forward to seeing you there!**

MRC efforts featured in local news

Our efforts to reopen Hampden's waste facility were recently featured on WABI news. [The full story is available on WABI's website.](#)

QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 24

Finance Committee: 9:30 AM

Board of Directors: 10:00 AM

In person at Town of Orono (59 Main Street, Orono) or virtually.

Please register in advance via

Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n0CLF2cqS-eBRNu4IAyvPg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n0CLF2cqS-eBRNu4IAyvPg)

Wednesday, July 24

Wednesday, October 23

ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



MRC regularly sends updates and announcements by email to those who have signed up for our alerts. We have an active Facebook account 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!

Also, we're on YouTube!

Please subscribe and hit that notification bell so that you don't miss any of our uploads!

VISITING MEMBERS

Executive Director Michael Carroll has toured over a quarter of our member facilities over the past few months. Not only has he met with some of the workers at each of these locations, but he has also been able to meet with a few of the Town Managers and Select Board members of these communities. These visits have provided invaluable opportunities for the MRC to witness firsthand the work being done on the ground by our members. It's through these interactions that we gain deeper insights into the challenges and successes within our network, ultimately guiding our efforts to better serve you, our members. On his visit to China, check out who the Executive Director ran into in one of his visits our past Board Member Irene Belanger.



FACILITY UPDATES

MRC and Innovative Resource Recovery are focused on the Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS) facility in Hampden reopening. With approval from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, MWS has been conducting waste test runs to assess equipment performance and refine system designs. Technical consultants and local service providers have been involved in these trials, and coordination with gas utilities is ongoing for the safe injection of Renewable Natural Gas into the local pipeline. The MRC is impressed with Innovative's expertise and transparency, emphasizing the importance of addressing plant bottlenecks and ensuring long-term economic viability while diverting waste from landfills. The partnership aims to positively impact waste management, economic sustainability, and environmental stewardship, with the facility's reopening being a gradual but promising process.

[More information about the progress toward reopening can be found in our March update available on the MRC's website.](#)

COMMENTS TO BEP ON EPR

The MRC submitted comments in March to the Board of Environmental Protection on the rulemaking for the Chapter 428: Stewardship Program for Packaging or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). To facilitate a better understanding, the DEP has provided a [Fact Sheet](#) on the [Draft Rule](#), which we encourage you to review. MRC's comments are summarized below and we encourage your town to take an active role in the rulemaking process too.

The MRC expressed support for the DEP's proposed EPR rule, aiming for a progressive approach to recycling and waste management. MRC appreciates DEP's dedication to EPR and acknowledges collaborative efforts with DEP's EPR team, including active participation and addressing concerns raised by us and other processors.

MRC highlighted the potential of facilities like the Hampden processing facility, operated by Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS), which MRC partially owns, to contribute to the EPR program. We suggested streamlining the process by having the SO collaborate directly with MRC.

However, the MRC raised concerns about certain sections of the EPR draft rules regarding alternative management, reimbursement for municipalities, and determining commodity tons. We are advocating for more clarity, particularly regarding fiber processing through anaerobic digestion at facilities like MWS, arguing it should count as reuse/recycling, contrasting with landfill disposal.

We urge the Board of Environmental Protection to carefully consider our concerns and suggestions to ensure clarity, fairness, and effectiveness in achieving environmental and waste management goals. We believe that the process will continue the collaboration toward a more sustainable waste management system in Maine.