

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 10:30 AM
Warneck Pump Station
James W. Wright Conference Room
23557 NYS Rt. 37, Watertown, New York

The Development Authority of the North Country Board of Directors met in regular session in person and via Zoom Videoconference at the Warneck Pump Station, 23557 NYS Rt. 37, Watertown, New York on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 10:30 AM.

Members Present

Voting

Margaret Murray, Chairperson
Mary Doheny
Alex MacKinnon
Dennis Mastascusa
Kenneth Bibbins
Mark Hall *
Thomas Hefferon
Eric Virkler

Non-Voting

Nancy Henry
Brian McGrath*

*Attended via videoconferencing.

Members Absent

Steve Hunt

Staff Present:

Carl Farone, Executive Director
Jennifer Staples, Chief Financial Officer
Carrie Tuttle, Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Bohmer, Director of Information Technology
Dawn Caccavo, Comptroller
Michelle Capone, Director of Regional Development
Thomas Haynes, Director of Engineering
Jacqueline LeClair, Assistant Director of Telecommunications
Laurie Marr, Director of Communications and Public Affairs
Brian Nutting, Director of Water Quality
Shawn Thornton, Director of Materials Management
David Wolf, Director of Telecommunications
Angela Marra, Executive Assistant
Tonya Cumoletti, Administrative Associate
John Phelps, Recycling Coordinator

Guests:

Jennifer Granzow, Counsel, Wladis Law Firm

1. Chairperson Murray called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. Chairperson Murray requested a roll call.
 - A quorum of voting and non-voting members was established.
3. Privilege of the Floor -

A. MacKinnon expressed his appreciation to the Authority for the support he received at the passing of his wife of 57 years.
4. Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by K. Bibbins, the minutes from the March 28, 2024 Board Meeting were unanimously approved.
5. Chairperson's Report
 - a. The next scheduled Board meeting is on June 27 at 10:30 AM at the James W. Wright conference room with the purpose to review and accept the fiscal year 2024 audit.
 - b. A meeting of the Audit Committee will be scheduled for the week of June 17. Staff will be contacting the committee to schedule the date and time.
 - c. In compliance with the Public Officer's Law, the Development Authority of the North Country authorizes the use of video conferencing for meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. The previous law allowed video conference participation, to expire on July 1, 2024. We are happy to report that on April 20, Governor Hochul signed into law a two-year extension, providing for video conferencing participation until July 1, 2026.
 - d. Following today's regular Board Meeting, the Board will go into Executive Session.
6. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Mission Statement –

C. Farone stated that the Mission Statement and Performance Measurements were reviewed in March, and at that time, Board Member McGrath had recommended that we integrate Fort Drum into the Mission of the Development Authority. C. Farone proposed to modify the Mission of the Authority to include Fort Drum, because the Development Authority was created for Fort Drum, Fort Drum is integral to the North Country economy, and it is appropriate to include them in our Mission Statement.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon, and seconded by D. Mastascusa, the proposed modification of the Mission Statement to include Fort Drum, was unanimously approved.
 - b. Performance Measurements –

C. Farone reviewed the Performance Measurements Report for FY 2023-2024, which notes the accomplishments in achieving our goals as defined in our

performance measurements for the fiscal year April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. He noted that the items shown in red represent negative or non-performance items. He continued with an overview of this report noting important accomplishments, such as the Army Water Line operating with no violations for the year, Materials Management operating without violation according to numerous permits, and the certification of 12 additional Water Quality division employees. Noted negative bullets were reviewed such as SDVOB Goals not being reached, Army Water Line EPA Administrative Order, 36 Environmental Incident Report Forms which are part of an internal process, and 21 SPDES Violations with proper documentation filed. Federal, State and Local Safety Requirements that were met or exceeded were reviewed showing that we are meeting OSHA safety requirements. Another mentionable highlight was the Army Water Line rehabilitation project which has been substantially completed and staff were able to obtain \$5,750,000 in grants to offset the cost to Fort Drum. We continue to operate transparently with accountability to our partners through a new quarterly stakeholder newsletter that is being distributed electronically and by holding our first Open House since COVID. Through Environmental Stewardship items, the Authority continues to work toward being a more sustainable organization with projects such as a pollinator garden, shrub planting on the side slopes at the landfill to reduce the amount of mowing and benefit wildlife, building a fish passageway at the landfill, and continuing to hold Household Hazardous Waste events with great success. Many great things are listed within Regional Initiatives that staff have done from Regional Development to Engineering that provide support to the various communities in the Tri County region.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler, and seconded by A. MacKinnon, accepting the Fiscal Year End 2024 Performance Measurements Report, April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024, was unanimously approved.

- c. Armed Forces Day Breakfast -
C. Farone reported that he was fortunate to attend the Armed Forces Day breakfast sponsored by the Greater Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce with six Authority staff members who are veterans. These six employees represented each division within the Authority of the 10 veterans that are part of our 92 Authority staff members.
- d. Next Move NY –
C. Farone reported that we have made it through the first round and received a second round of questioning through Empire State Development (ESD). Responses were provided by C. Farone and M. Capone on Friday, May 17, and we are now waiting for ESD to inform us what the next step will be. We hope to have a determination of whether the Authority has been selected or not within the next few months so we may begin implementation of the program.
- e. Army Water Line – Capital Project Update –
C. Farone reported that we are wrapping up this project and the properties along Patterson Road look nice following the contractors remediation.
- f. Educating Elementary Students (Science Fair) –

C. Farone stated that two Authority staff, B. Nutting and J. Phelps, attended the Glen Park Elementary Science Fair to bring what they do to the students and help encourage them to get interested in what we do.

e. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Events –

C. Farone reported that the first event in Canton was a success with 220 households participating. He then reviewed the upcoming schedule for four more HHW events.

B. McGrath asked if this is different from the electronics recycling. C. Farone stated that electronics are not accepted at the HHW events. S. Thornton explained that electronics are accepted at all transfer stations during regular business hours.

C. Farone commented that there is a tremendous amount of paint collected at these events. Staff have been proactive in creating a solution to alleviate some of the paint being brought to the HHW events and reduce the wait time for participants.

A. MacKinnon asked if there is a way of putting empty paint cans into the trash. J. Phelps commented that in Jefferson County empty paint cans can go into the regular trash. If there is a small amount of paint, kitty litter can be used to absorb the paint and they can be accepted then as well. He continued by stating that we want to encourage people to bring their paint cans to the certified events or a PaintCare location, a list can be found at paintcare.org, so the paint can be recycled and kept out of the waste stream. C. Tuttle stated that St. Lawrence County would also accept empty paint cans. S. Thornton stated that hardware stores that sell paint would accept paint cans during business hours as part of a New York State Program. C. Tuttle explained that it benefits everyone by taking it to a paint supplier because they will recycle what they can and you do not have to wait for an annual event.

f. Staff Updates –

C. Farone shared that T. Haynes, the Authority Director of Engineering, has been named as one of Northern New York Business Magazine's 20 Under 40. This program recognizes Northern New York's emerging business leaders. While working for the Authority, Thomas is also the assistant chief of the 60-member Gouverneur volunteer fire company. T. Buckley has recently earned the Project Management Professional Certification. C. Farone further shared a list of employees who have reached longevity service awards with the Authority, ranging from 5 to 25 years.

g. National Security Seminar –

C. Farone reported that he would be out of the office the first week of June to attend the National Security Seminar.

7. Financials –

a. Finance Report – Chief Financial Officer

J. Staples offered a review of the highlights to the Authority's Fiscal Year End, March 31, 2024. The Audit Committee will meet in June with the auditing firm to review the year-end results in detail. The auditing firm will also meet with the full Board on June 27 to review the results.

Prior to reviewing the financials, J. Staples explained that the March financials provided in the Read Ahead Packet have changed because adjusting entries have been made. The first change is attributed to a find made by the auditors regarding two invoices in April that should have been received into March. These invoices were associated with capital projects, one with the Army Sewer Line (ASL) and the other with the Army Water Line (AWL) pipeline replacement project. Both invoices were for work performed in FY24. The affecting entry was to increase the capital assets and to increase unvouchered receipts. When the year-end was closed on March 31, 2024 there were invoices still coming in April for the previous year. There is a manual process between administration and finance to process these invoices; unfortunately, these two invoices were missed resulting in an adjustment amount of \$685,000. Corrective actions have been put into place as a result to prevent this from occurring again. Because of that entry, adjustments needed to be made to the worksheets regarding the AWL and ASL true ups. Each year following the completion of all entries, the AWL and ASL true up work sheet is completed as both are zero profit contracts and we then invoice or credit them for those expenses incurred during the year that are over/under the expected budget. It was while adjusting those worksheets that the error was discovered. There were debt issuance costs for the financing of the AWL and ASL that we expensed because of GASB requirements. They were financed costs that had been marked as expenses to be charged to the Army. These had to be adjusted, which caused another adjustment to be made adding to the amount we owe the Army in FY24. This increased our liability and decreased our customer billings by \$82,000. These entries have been made and will change the financials that were sent in the Read Ahead. We wanted everyone to be aware of these entries that will be reflected in the audited financials.

J. Staples continued reviewing the highlights within the March year-to-date financials. Customer Billings came in \$2 million below budget with Telecom being the only division that came in over budget. Materials Management was 11%, or \$1.2 million, below budget due to waste volume being lower than projected, mainly due to municipal solid waste and contaminated soil. ASL and AWL are both below budget due to lower sewer and water usage and credits owed to the Army at year-end associated with the Army true up referred to above. Engineering is down \$186,000 due to delays and staffing issues on the LGE project in Tupper Lake and delays in regulator approvals associated with other Engineering projects. In total, Operating Income is \$2.1 million less than the budget.

Operating Expenses ended the year under budget by \$1.6 million. O&M costs were under by \$444,000 mainly due to fuel coming in under budget, Wastewater treatment costs were under budget \$296,000 associated with less sewage. Water purchases were under budget by \$208,000 mainly associated with less water being used throughout the year. Fringe benefits came in over budget by \$340,000 associated with the GASB 68 Pension Adjustment that

was made for \$746,000. Depreciation expense came in \$1.9 million under budget, and all divisions with capital projects came in under budget due to several FY24 projects being capitalized late in the fiscal year. The Total Operating Income came in \$1.5 million better than budget.

Interest Income came in at \$344,000 over budget as we continue to see decent interest rates. The Market Adjustment has moved to a positive \$724,000; however, this is not a realized gain but a necessary accounting entry. Pension expense paid to New York State came in at \$58,000 under budget, however, we are required to make an adjusting entry to comply with GASB 68 and this is strictly an accounting entry made as part of our participation in the New York State Retirement Pension Plan. We are required to report our pension liability and pension expense as part of this. This year the adjusting entry was the \$746,000 mentioned previously. We do not pay this amount to the state, and we do not receive funds in years this is a credit as this is strictly an accounting entry required by GASB. Waste Volumes projected tons were off from actual tons by 11% due to municipal solid waste and contaminated soil. Host Community Benefits for the landfill came in under budget by \$172,000, associated with actual tonnage being lower than projected.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler, and seconded by D. Mastascusa, financials ending March 31, 2024, were unanimously approved.

8. Technical Services Summary Report –

a. Non-Lewis County Contracts –

- I. Town of Gouverneur, SCADA Services Agreement, East/West Side Ross Valve SCADA Integration, Total Agreement Amount of \$10,000, 4/1/24 – 12/21/24, St. Lawrence County
- II. Town of Gouverneur, Technical Services Agreement, Sewer District No. 1 CCTV Inspection, Total Agreement Amount of \$20,500, 4/15/24 – 8/01/24, St. Lawrence County
- III. Town of Louisville, Technical Services Agreement, Water System Improvement Project Amendment # - Construction Phase Services, Total Agreement Amount of \$54,500, 4/1/24 – 9/30/25, St. Lawrence County

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon, and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Board Contract Summary Table items numbered I through III for the month of May were unanimously approved.

9. Engineering –

- a. Resolution No. 2024-05-39, amends the technical services agreement by and between the Authority and the Village of Malone, and further authorizes and directs the Executive Director to execute this agreement.

C. Tuttle explained that these requirements are new to the Authority, have never been requested of us before, and we do not believe these requirements

apply to us, given the scope of services we will be performing. However, given the need to complete this project by October 1, we do not have a choice or it will put the Village at risk of violation leaving them unable to utilize the grant funding. She further explained that we are including this amendment to our contract while applying for a full waiver of the requirements and we have not conceded that these requirements apply to us. We will do what we need to move this project forward at the staff level, but we do not wish to create more bureaucracy that would create legacy issues for our customers or ourselves. C. Farone stated that they have agreed to provide us with a full waiver, but we need to have this in our agreement, with the challenge of making sure this does not affect the Authority in the future. J. Granzow stated that this is required due to the federal funding source, and the same thing will apply on future projects that are funded the same way. She further stated the EFC's hands are also tied on a bureaucratic issue that should not exist.

Upon a motion by K. Bibbins and seconded by M. Doheny, Resolution No. 2024-05-39, Technical Services Agreement, Village of Malone, Lead Service Line Inventory Amendment No. 1, was unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-05-40, approves the technical services agreement by and between the Authority and the Village of Malone, and further authorizes and directs the Executive Director to execute this agreement.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2024-05-40, Technical Assistance Services Agreement, Village of Malone, Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Landfill, Leachate Pretreatment, was unanimously approved.

10. Materials Management –

- a. Resolution No. 2024-05-41, authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into Memorandums of Understanding with Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties to establish PaintCare Drop-Off locations at select county sites and provide Authority staff support as identified above.

C. Tuttle explained that this is a State program, paid for by the State, with no cost to the Authority or the homeowners by dropping unused paint off to the retail location to be recycled or properly disposed of. She further explained that the Authority pays 50% of the cost of the Household Hazardous Waste events. By taking paint to a PaintCare location, the Authority would not need to increase tip fees to cover this expense, which would also save the residents money. Residents may also find it beneficial to utilize these retail locations because they can drop their paint off anytime and do not need to wait for an HHW event.

S. Thornton stated that the agreement with PaintCare is contracted directly with the counties. The Authority is only providing a staff person to support the counties on the scheduled paint drop off days at their transfer sites.

C. Farone stated this is a creative way to meet the need of the paint issue after seeing the amount of paint being collected at our HHW events. He further

expressed appreciation to Shawn (Thornton) and John (Phelps) for this idea and working with the counties to make this happen.

M. Murray asked if this included stain, or is it just paint. C. Tuttle stated that it does include stain, and there is a link on the NorthCountryRecycles.org for PaintCare.org where they list all eligible products for recycling.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by K. Bibbins, Resolution No. 2024-05-41, Materials Management Facility, Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence County, Memorandums of Understanding Establishing County PaintCare Drop-Off Locations, was unanimously approved.

11. Telecommunications –

- a. Resolution No. 2024-05-42, finds that standardization for purchases of certain classes of information technology and telecommunications equipment for use in the Telecommunications Network, as defined in Schedule A attached to the resolution, as necessary for construction or operational activities and will provide economic and efficiency benefits, and is in the best interests of the Authority. This resolution will take effect immediately.

C. Tuttle explained that the Authority needs to ensure that the standardized fiber for large projects is specifically designed for cold climates where freezing can be an issue. This had not been included in previous standardization resolutions, but because of upcoming larger projects, this needs to be added to our standardization resolution to ensure consistency.

Upon a motion by D. Mastascusa and seconded by K. Bibbins, Resolution No. 2024-05-42, Amendment to Standardizing Upon Certain Equipment for Use in Relation to the Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-05-43, accepts the additional \$176,000 from the Northern Border Regional Commission for broadband planning and construction in St. Lawrence, Jefferson, Lewis and Franklin Counties, and authorizes the Executive Director to execute any required documents. It is further resolved that the Authority does hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer to establish a new Telecommunications Division Capital Project, NBRC Broadband Project in the amount of \$245,055.

Upon a motion by M. Doheny and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2024-05-43, Capital Project, Northern Border Regional Commission Broadband Planning and Construction Grant, was unanimously approved.

12. Water Quality –

- a. Resolution No. 2024-05-44, authorizes and directs the Executive Director to enter into an Amended Water Service Agreement with the Town of Cape Vincent for Water Districts 2, 3 and 8.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by D. Mastascusa, Resolution No. 2024-05-44, Water Service Agreement Amendment No. 8, Town of Cape Vincent, Water Districts No. 2, 3, and 8, was unanimously approved.

13. Regional Development –

a. Loan Report –

C. Farone stated that primarily all borrowers are paying as scheduled. He noted that the Authority Board did authorize the Thompson Park Conservancy for an interest and principal moratorium through June 1. We will be meeting with the Thompson Park Conservancy to review the financial situation and determine next steps. These details would be discussed with the Board at the June meeting.

M. Doheny asked what the payment gap in time would be for the June payment. C. Farone responded that the moratorium goes to June 1 so the payment would be due in the month of June. He further stated that the Watertown Trust is considering a moratorium as well.

B. McGrath asked if there was an expectation that they would not pay on June 1. C. Farone replied that is correct. B. McGrath further asked if the Board should discuss an extension of a moratorium or modification now. C. Farone agreed that this is a foregone conclusion that there will be an interest and principal moratorium request from the Thomson Park Conservancy. M. Capone commented that she had planned to bring it to the June Board meeting, and it will likely be an additional three or six month request. C. Farone continued by stating they currently do not have the capability to pay as we have seen in the newspaper. It is at the Board's discretion if we would like to look at extending the moratorium for another three to six months, or wait until the June Board meeting for review.

M. Doheny commented that C. Farone and M. Capone may want to have financial flexibility in the negotiations with the Thompson Park Conservancy when they meet next. C. Farone stated they would look at their interim financials to see where they are in terms of projections and to keep this going in the right direction. M. Doheny agreed that they are going to need the time as they do not have the money today, and we will see if they have it in six months.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by M. Doheny, an extension of the Thompson Park Conservancy principal and interest moratorium for six months from June 1, 2024 was authorized.

- b. Resolution No. 2024-05-45, accepts the Annual Report with the Authority as the sole member of the Creek Wood Housing Development Fund Company (HDFC), and waives by written consent the Annual Meeting of the HDFC. Furthermore, effective May 23, 2024 the existing directors of the HDFC will continue in office until the next Annual Meeting. These directors are as follows, Thomas H. Hefferon (Chair), Dennis Mastascusa (Vice Chair), Carl E. Farone, Jr. (Treasurer), and Michelle L. Capone (Secretary).

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2024-05-45, Annual Report, Creek Wood Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., Waiving the Annual Meeting, Appointing Directors, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2024-05-46, accepts the Annual Report with the Authority as the sole member of the Creek Wood II Housing Development Fund Company (HDFC), and waives by written consent the Annual Meeting of the HDFC. Furthermore, effective May 23, 2024 the existing directors of the HDFC will continue in office until the next Annual Meeting. These directors are as follows, Thomas H. Hefferon (Chair), Dennis Mastascusa (Vice Chair), Carl E. Farone, Jr. (Treasurer), and Michelle L. Capone (Secretary).

Upon a motion by D. Mastascusa and seconded by K. Bibbins, Resolution No. 2024-05-46, Annual Report, Creek Wood II Housing Development Fund Company, Inc., Waiving the Annual Meeting, Appointing Directors, was unanimously approved.

M. Hall commented that there had been no formal vote on the previously discussed moratorium regarding the Thompson Park Conservancy or a vote to authorize the extension. C. Farone stated this will be reflected within the minutes with no resolution number, that the Board authorized an extension regarding the six-month moratorium. All members indicated they were in favor with zero members opposed. The matter was passed unanimously.

14. Executive Session – for the purpose of discussion regarding the employment history of a particular person or matters leading to the appointment or employment of a particular person.

Upon a motion by K. Bibbins and seconded T. Hefferon, the Board moved into Executive Session at 11:30 AM.

M. Hall left the meeting at 12:30 PM.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded A. MacKinnon, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 12:32 PM.

No action was taken.

15. Staff Presentation – Earth Day

S. Thornton, Director of Materials Management, and J. Phelps, Recycling Coordinator, gave a review of what the Authority has been working on from a recycling perspective.

S. Thornton began by giving an overview of the purpose and goals of the focus they have been working on since late last year. This started with a need to understand what data they had and what data they needed regarding waste diversion, and then focus on getting good data that could be relied upon and used to share with the counties. This information could then be used to move forward with data driven solutions through data driven recommendations. They started with a five-year update on the Local Solid Waste Management Plan and then amended the Annual Waste Diversion Report when some of the data didn't tie in with what was anticipated, and last fall they attempted a waste composition study where they learned a great deal. This all allowed us to now have a Waste Composition Study that supports and ties into our Annual Waste Diversion Report which also ties into the data that the counties are reporting to the DEC on an annual basis. This all ties in to what is reported in the Local Solid Waste Management Report and these four data sources all support one another now.

He continued with a review of the results of the 2024 Waste Composition Study and how this provides us with data to establish where we want to focus.

J. Phelps continued with examples that had taken place this spring because of this information. As a goal for Earth Day, they had wanted to collaborate the three county partners and reach out in the community and affect as many people as possible.

In Jefferson County, single use plastics were identified as the largest recyclable material in the Waste Composition Study so focus was placed there. Herbalife Tea, the owner of four independent local retailers, was a focus because they serve their tea product in a 32 ounce single use plastic cup. We worked with them to create flyers and consumer education to promote Earth Day every day and suggest customers bring their own tumbler. This promotion will be continued throughout the year, as well as expand to other shops in the area.

In Lewis County, we partnered with the Adirondack Mountain Club, Black River Chapter in cleaning the litter along Rt 177 from the Materials Management Facility to Barnes Corners. Twenty large contractor bags of waste was collected during this event, and were later collected by the Lewis County Highway Department. Participating in this event laid the foundation for future partnerships with this organization, as well as offering a route for volunteerism for Authority staff. Going forward we will be checking their calendar, and noting events that align with our values and goals. We can then send information out to our staff to solicit for volunteers. This also introduced J. Phelps to Save the River as a partnering source to salvage PVC to be used with fishing-line recycling stations along the St. Lawrence River. DEC currently has a similar program along Lake Ontario tributaries.

St. Lawrence County offered an opportunity for us to participate in a textile recycling "Take It or Leave It" event at Clarkson University. This is a program many colleges statewide are working to replicate at the end of the school year when students are leaving the dorms and leaving unwanted items behind. Two of the issues they had were disposing of leftover textiles and hardcover books. The larger textile collectors do not operate in St. Lawrence County because of the county's remote location. J. Phelps was already in the area for the HHW event in Canton and offered to drive to the campus and assist by recycling 493 pounds of textiles. He has also reached out to St. Pauly Textile Recycling to ask about them going into that area once or twice a year to help with these events at the local colleges, which they have agreed to do. The college also needed a way to recycle their hardcover books. J. Phelps was able to put the college in contact with the North Country Library System (NCLS), who are already in the area for the libraries, to request book recycling pick-ups as needed or by request, and the NCLS have agreed to help.

Hardcover book recycling through the NCLS has been an extremely successful program. In 2022, they were able to recycle 16 tons of hardcover books, in 2023, this increased to 91 tons, and this year we are already two tons ahead of schedule. Transfer sites in Croghan, Massena, Ogdensburg and Gouverneur have recently been added to their pick up routes this year, showing that the program continues to grow. J. Phelps has also kept in contact with the library system to offer assistance with transporting bins while on his routes as well.

Compost Awareness Week, the first full week of May, offered plenty of compost friendly events. J. Phelps worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County and met their new horticulture and education lead, Sarah Williams, for an opportunity to discuss how we can collaborate on future projects. On May 22 we participated in their composting event and helped by advertising through NYSAR and through DEC. Sarah hosted the event and created the flyers, while J. Phelps solicited 17 registrations and the event was a great success.

S. Thornton concluded in discussing HHW, waste diversion and paint collection. In 2023, 97,000 pounds of HHW was collected, and roughly 75% of this was paint. This prompted the partnership with the counties and PaintCare to help offset this large volume accepted at the HHW events by establishing drop off locations at the transfer stations. The counties are in the process of signing their agreements with PaintCare and should be holding their first collections this summer, and then continuing with collections on the first Thursday of each month.

When we are able to give the counties innovative ideas resulting in solutions based upon data and facts, and we are able to continue to track and show where we are affecting the amount of waste in the waste stream, it closes the loop and gives us some great success stories. We recognize and continue to promote that while we are doing many great things in the North Country, we have some unique challenges due to our remote location, so we need to be innovative with our solutions and figure out what works best for us.

M. Doheny asked if they were in touch with the state parks regarding the large quantities of fishing line that can be found piled up there. S. Thornton stated they have been talking with DEC, but not the state parks.

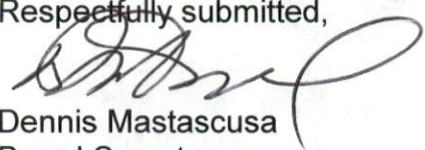
A. MacKinnon commented that he noticed Geiter Done is done without ever having opened for tire recycling. C. Farone stated that they are in fact done and have sold the property. M. Doheny asked if they sold the property or the business. C. Farone stated that they are no longer doing that business, have sold the property, and he is not certain of what the current owner will be doing but has heard they will be creating 10+ jobs. We do know they will not be meeting our goal for having local tire recycling.

16. Next Board Meeting Date – June 27, 2024

17. Adjourn -

- a. Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by E. Virkler, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Dennis Mastascusa
Board Secretary