



NEWSLETTER

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

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BOARD NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms and cover letters were sent to all MRC members on September 12. The deadline to return nominations was October 15, 2024. There are six open slots to fill: three 3-year terms (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2027), two unexpired terms ending December 2026 and one unexpired term ending December 2025. Nominations for MRC Board of Directors will be presented at the October 23rd Board meeting.

EPR UPDATE

In August, the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) submitted a public comment supporting the Maine DEP's proposed Chapter 428, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rule. The MRC highlighted the potential benefits for its 115 member communities and the Hampden facility, operated by Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS). We emphasized recognizing anaerobic digestion in the rules and advocated for utilizing larger facilities like MWS to enhance recycling efforts statewide. Read the full public comment [here](#).

MMA CONVENTION

What a whirlwind week at the Maine Municipal Association's 88th convention! The Municipal Review Committee had a fantastic time at our booth, connecting with new faces, catching up with member municipalities, and engaging in exciting discussions about the future of waste management in Maine. A special congratulations to the City of Bangor and Police Chief Mark Hathaway on receiving the Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award, recognizing his dedication to good local government.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 23 Finance Committee: 9:30 AM

Quarterly Board of Directors: 10:00 AM

In person at Hampden Municipal Building (106 Western Ave, Hampden) or virtually over Zoom.

Participants can register in advance to attend the meeting via Zoom through this link:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WA_4r8oiQTiRcmD4zyqDYw#/registration

and can ask questions through Q&A. If you miss the meeting, you can watch the recording over our YouTube channel later.

FOCUS GROUP

We held three ninety-minute Focus Group meetings last month to discuss the MRC branding. Each meeting averaged seven attendees, not including myself or the Designlab staff. Jess from Designlab did an excellent job running and moderating each session. Every meeting featured two different MRC board members. MRC made an effort to ensure that all other invited attendees had a strong understanding of the MRC, whether their views were good, bad, or indifferent. We aimed for a good mix of MRC members, non-member communities, members of the general public, and municipal government representatives in each group.



National Drivers Week

NATIONAL DRIVERS WEEK

Executive Director Michael Carroll personally visited some of the hardworking truck drivers who help keep our communities clean and running smoothly. As a small token of gratitude, he handed out Subway gift cards along with cold Gatorade and water, thanking them for their dedication to waste management. Their commitment truly makes a difference, and we are proud to recognize their efforts. A heartfelt thank you to all the drivers and helpers in waste management!



MRF UPDATE

Phase 1 funding for the updates and design changes to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), requested in September, has been approved and finalized by the White Oak Board of Directors. This funding, exceeding \$20 million, will initiate revisions to the MRF construction. In late August and early September, Innovative placed a significant deposit on critical equipment for the MRF, including machines designed to open bags at the start of the recovery process, capitalizing on a unique opportunity. The next funding request will cover the investment needed for the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) system. While the design and engineering for the AD system are still being finalized, a substantial amount will also be requested for this project.

WELCOME TO THE MWS TEAM

Municipal Waste Solutions is excited to announce two key additions to its team. Gary Hartmann has been hired as Chief Operating Officer (COO) and started on-site on September 9th. With over 20 years of experience in the waste industry at companies like Waste Connections and Waste Management, Gary will oversee day-to-day operations and lead the restart of the MRF. His appointment allows CEO James Condela to focus on strategic initiatives, including the Anaerobic Digestion (AD) project. Additionally, Kasey Fisher, a senior process engineer with extensive facility development expertise, has joined on a consulting basis to provide vital technical support for the MRF project. Kasey previously collaborated with James at Continues Materials, delivering their first commercial-scale plant.