



NEWSLETTER

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

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SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Meeting at the Black Bear Inn in Orono! Despite the weather, we were thrilled with the great turnout and engaging discussions.

We appreciate our guest speakers for their insightful presentations, including Maine DEP Commissioner Melanie Loyzim, who joined us via Zoom, and Susan Miller from the DEP's Eastern Maine Regional Office. Jess Masse from Designlab shared plans for enhancing connections with our 115 member municipalities through branding and marketing initiatives. George Aronson from Common Wealth Resource Management presented our 2023 audit, while Gary Hartman and Kevin Hogan of Innovative Resource Recovery provided updates on the reopening of Municipal Waste Solutions and technological advancements at the Hampden plant. We appreciate all who participated—your engagement and support drive our progress.



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS

Recently, the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) had the opportunity to assist the Town of Surry Transfer Station with important operational considerations. The town expressed their appreciation for our timely support, noting the value of the insights and ideas we've offered in recent months. As one of our valued members shared, "Thanks very much for the information and suggestions. We greatly appreciate your help with this and for all the other suggestions you have provided." At MRC, we're committed to supporting our municipalities and ensuring that each member has access to the resources, guidance, and solutions they need to thrive.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 22
Finance Committee: 9:30 AM
Quarterly Board of Directors:
10:00 AM In person at Hampden
Town Office or virtually over
Zoom.

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

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sQJtvjbtR0GKIG2d99FBRw

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

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER

Please join us in welcoming Rebecca Hapgood, Becky, Town Manager of China, to the MRC Board! The January Board Meeting marks Becky's first official participation in MRC Board business. She will serve a two-year term, and we're thrilled to have her on board. Welcome, Becky!

GREAT WORK AT CHINA TRANSFER STATION

I've said it once, and I'll say it again—great job at the China Transfer Station! Executive Director Michael Carroll recently made his rounds and visited the transfer station, where he was impressed by the fantastic plastic recycling display created for the community. A special shout-out to Tom Maraggio and his dedicated team at the China Transfer Station for their hard work and commitment to promoting sustainability. Keep up the excellent work!



LEADING THE WAY IN SAFETY

We're thrilled to announce a game-changing advancement in fire safety at our facility – the installation of the Fire Rover system! This cutting-edge technology represents a major leap forward in protecting our operations and team members from one of the waste industry's most pressing challenges.

The Fire Rover is like having a vigilant guardian watching over our tipping floor 24/7, using advanced thermal detection to spot potential fires before they can take hold. At a time when lithium battery fires are becoming an increasing threat to waste processing facilities, we're proud to be the first in our region to implement this state-of-the-art protection system.

What makes this particularly exciting is the system's ability to detect temperature changes and signs of combustion in real-time, allowing for immediate response to potential hazards. This means we can stop fires before they start – protecting our facility, our workers, and our community's essential waste processing infrastructure.

This investment demonstrates our commitment to staying ahead of emerging challenges in our industry, particularly the growing risks posed by improperly disposed lithium batteries. The Fire Rover system isn't just an upgrade – it's a complete transformation in how we approach fire safety in waste management.

We're setting a new standard for safety and innovation in our region, ensuring we can continue to serve our community while protecting our valuable resources and infrastructure. Welcome to the future of waste facility fire protection!

STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS & MWS PROGRESS

Big things are ahead for the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) as we prepare to solidify our role as a hub for waste management solutions and collaboration among our 115 member communities. In the coming months, MRC will unveil a rebranding effort that highlights the value we bring to local communities, with a focus on educational materials and advocacy. We're not just updating our look—we're strengthening connections and enhancing understanding of MRC's role in managing waste and advancing the circular economy. As we step into 2025, we're excited to share more about this transformation.

Exciting developments are also happening at the Municipal Waste Solutions (MWS) facility! MWS is gearing up for the arrival of trucks, loaders, and material-handling equipment in February, with waste processing set to begin shortly after. These advancements will establish MWS as a hub for municipal waste solutions, benefiting the communities we proudly serve. Stay tuned for more updates!