Director's Report 4-7-2021

At this month’s meeting we will have our annual organizational meeting with the election of officers. That alone is worth the price of admission, but there’s more…

Since the last meeting of the full board the ad-hoc forklift committee and Executive committee both met to approve our purchase of a forklift and rack shelving for the warehouse. NWSWD staff and the committees agreed that a refurbished forklift and rack shelving from Crown will be offer the best combination of performance and price. We look forward to receiving the new equipment in the next few weeks and making better use of our space.

The weather is warming and one sure sign of spring we have noticed is our drop-off sites are beginning to get busier. We have seen an increase in traffic in the past few weeks. HHW appointments are up. Residents are cleaning up their properties, basements, attics. This is a welcome change from last year where we were just beginning a drastic reduction in services to keep safe and focus on necessary services for our residents. We have been planning some maintenance and improvements for the warmer weather including repairing railings, improving signage, and roll off box repairs and hope to begin these projects in the next few weeks. At our St. Albans Drop-off site we’ve been dealing with large amounts of off-hours dumping which we are working to curb.

The end of sugaring season means it is the beginning of sap tubing collection season. We expect to collect a significant portion of our annual volume of maple sap tubing in the next couple of months as producers clean out their woods. We are exploring new possibilities to also divert polycarbonate taps and spouts from the maple industry from the landfill and towards a second function. We have sent a test load of about 1000 lbs to a facility in Pennsylvania that could end up using them as a source of carbon in recycled steel. We are waiting to hear more about this possibility, but it is exciting. If successful we could divert 2.8 million spouts in one truckload!

In this remote Legislative session, there have been several solid waste related bills presented. The bottle bill and changes to how the state the environmental contingency fund (ECF) both received a fair amount of committee time but much of the larger business of the legislature has surrounded the budget and allocation of federal relief funds. So larger waste legislation is on hold.

In March we applied for a grant from the Agency of Natural Resources to help increase our capacity to collect recyclable materials. The grant included new roll-off boxes, improvements at the remote sites, and a portion of the planned facility improvements at the Georgia Recycling Facility (what we are calling the commodity storage addition.) We have not heard whether the application was accepted but there was initial interest in our project.

As always, thanks for your commitment to what we do and know that I value your input and contributions to our mission.

Onward - John