



**SSRC MSW Manager/Board Minutes**  
**April 12, 2007, Whitman Town Hall; Accepted 6/14/07**

Members present: **Abington:** Susan Brennan\*, **Cohasset:** Merle Brown\*, Arthur Lehr  
**Hanover:** Steve Hermann\*, **Hingham:** Randy Sylvester\*, **Marshfield:** Bob Griffin\*, **Norwell:**  
Joanne Dirk\*; **Plymouth:** Kerin McCall\*; **Rockland:** Rudy Childs\*, **Whitman:** Elonie  
Bezanson\*

Janine Delaney, **MassDEP**, Claire Sullivan **Ex. Dir.**, **SSRC** and guest speakers Patti O'Hara and  
Daniel Peters, **SEMASS**.

\* Appointed Board Members

9:15 AM Chairman Merle Brown opened the meeting. The guest speakers, Daniel Peters  
and Patti O'Hara, were introduced. The purpose of which was to explain the devastating fire at  
SEMASS on 3/31 and 4/1/07

9:17 AM The fire started when something blew up in one of the shredders. Suspect it must  
have been more powerful than a propane tank, but even the State Fire Marshalls office could not  
be conclusive as to cause, which is believed to be accidental. When the shredder blew up, a  
substance went in different directions causing secondary fires. Additionally, the fire went up to  
the ceiling air ducts which carried the fire to other areas of the building. Mr. Peters explained  
that SEMASS has pull out of the stream about 100,000 propane tanks in the past ten years, and  
about 195 have exploded in the shredder. The area is designed to withstand propane tank  
explosions, although the shredder itself usually has to be rebuilt.

The fire ruined the tip floors, conveyors, shredders, air ducts, fuel control room (which housed  
the video monitors), computers and telephones. The southern part of the plant escaped damage.  
Of the 180 employees at SEMASS, 45 are EMTS and trained in fire control. Thirty-five Towns  
responded with 56 vehicles in a mutual aid effort. The intent is to rebuild ASAP; 170 people per  
shift are working on it. Each day SEMAS is hauling out 3-4,000 tons of trash to other facilities  
for burning or burial.

SEMASS has several insurance carriers covering both physical and business interruption. It is  
highly unlikely this will end up being considered "force majeure", resulting in permanent  
shutdown, but notification of contract communities of the possibility was required.

SEMASS hopes to get one of the three boilers operational within the week, but must repair ducts  
to ensure odor control before accepting trash.

DPH regs require that SEMASS continue to monitor loads for radiation.

It was pointed out that towns are incurring greater haul costs; Mr. Peters recommended that we  
contact Tom Dimaio about protection for that.

The estimated time of re-opening is weeks rather than months. They are searching the globe for  
specialized equipment that needs to be replaced. SEMASS is grateful that no injuries occurred  
with employees or fire fighters.

10:05 AM **Minutes:** Chairman asked if all members had read the minutes. They did. Motion to accept the minutes as written by Steve Herman, seconded by Joanne Dirk. One typo was pointed out near the end, “meal” should have read “metal”. AIF Motion carried.

10:08 AM **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Dirk gave the report and no discussion on figures, but raising the dues \$ 250.00 prompted a small discussion. The matter was tabled and will be revisited in the June meeting. Steve Hermann motioned to accept the report, seconded by Susan Brennan. AIF motion carried.

10:15 AM **Legislative Breakfast:** Chairman Brown set the Legislative Breakfast for May 18, 2007, at Cameron's on the Green, Bridgewater, MA

Claire Sullivan recommended that Senator Creedon was a good candidate for the Environmental Hero’s Award. Rep. Hynes was also suggested. Members agreed that Sen. Creedon had been the most proactive in advocating for our interests. Motion to give Environmental Hero Award to Sen. Creedon made by Joanne Dirk and seconded by Bob Griffin. AIF Motion carried.

10:20 AM **Executive Directors Reports:**

-DEP bin orders (18 gal, blue/green, @\$4.85) due 4/30, [amy.roth@state.ma.us](mailto:amy.roth@state.ma.us), 617-292-5634

-Clean Harbors – Seth Dauber is our new contract administrator beginning 4/23. His number is the same as Dawn’s was, 781-380-7121. Bob Smith will cover in the interim, 380-7126.

-HHP scheduling FY08 (see over) – still confirming dates.

-Regional curbside contracting – is an option worth exploring, may be feasible for Abington, Holbrook, Norwell, Rockland and Whitman.

-Legislative advocacy update – Budget: Governor increased recycling line by \$165K, House w&M cut by \$300k, but Rep. Smizik is filing an amendment to increase to level the Gov. proposed, \$2.52M. MassRecycle has a Legislative Analyst, I am working with her.

CEF- both Koczera’s and Hedlund’s bills assigned to Comm. on Telecom.

UBB – Discussed particulars of each of 3 bills, didn’t bring the summary. Sen. Hedlund, Rep Peterson and Rep Walz each filed Updated Bottle Bills. Described each. Board requested that I send more info. Would like a motion before Leg. Breakfast. Randy Sylvester moved to support Sen. Hedlund’s Updated Bottle Bill, seconded by Joanne Dirk. AIF Motion carried. Ex. Dir. will send info on Peterson’s UBB for email vote before legislative breakfast.

-Statewide Paper Recovery Campaign presentation – Ex. Dir. did Power Point Presentation she had made to SWANA Mass. Chapter the day before detailing the progress of the campaign, supported in part by a DEP grant hosted by the SSRC. MassRecycle is running the Campaign.

11:10 AM **New Business:** No new business.

**Next meeting:** June 14, Marshfield TH

11:12 AM **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Joanne Dirk, seconded by Arthur Lehr. AIF Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Robert F. Griffin BS, CHO, SE  
Secretary.