

**Executive Committee
July 7, 2009, Meeting**

Draft Minutes

Members Present: Michael Pace, Chairman
Ray O'Brien, Vice-Chairman
Alan Desmarais
Timothy Griswold
Michael Jarjura

CRRA Staff Present:

Moira Kenney, Secretary to the Board/Paralegal

Also present: Andrew Adil, Mayor of Wethersfield; William DiBella, Chairman of the MDC Board, Richard W. Vicino, of the MDC; and Miguel Escalera, Esq of Kainen, Escalera & McHale

Chairman Pace called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

1. AGREEMENT ON DATA SHARING TO QUANTIFY MDC CLAIM FOR POST CONTRACT COSTS REIMBURSEMENT

Mr. Vicino said that MDC had a question concerning the above referenced item. He asked that the "agreement on data sharing to quantify MDC claim for post contract costs reimbursements" be discussed at a later point. Chairman Pace responded in the negative, stating that the item is at the heart of the current discussion.

Chairman Pace said that the Mid-Connecticut Towns are concerned that the post project MDC cost estimates have steadily grown over time. He explained the MDC towns are concerned how that will be paid if there is an expiration of that contract. Chairman Pace said that he had told the CRRA member towns he would be willing to sit down in discussion with MDC to talk about these matters.

Chairman Pace said that the first time discussion had taken place between CRRA and MDC both parties agreed that there would be an exchange of information. He said on May 7, 2009, some information requested by MDC was sent over. He explained that CRRA had requested the actuarial tables used to estimate MDC post project costs be provided. Chairman Pace said that CRRA has not yet received the requested information. He said that data is a key component as it drives the cost model. He said he had discussed with the member towns representatives how important that information is regardless of whether a partnership with MDC will be continuing.

Mr. Vicino agreed with Chairman Pace's statements. He said that he would like to understand and establish the roles MDC and CRRA will play moving forward with a partnership prior to discussions on data sharing. He said that he is not fully aware of what transpired.

Mr. DiBella asked Chairman Pace what other information CRRA needs. Chairman Pace said that CRRA needs the actuarial tables and the electronic data from those tables. Mr. DiBella said that it was his understanding that information had been sent over. Chairman Pace said that information has not been received by CRRA. He said he believes CRRA also received a letter from MDC's attorney Mr. Halloran stating that CRRA had all of the items that will be provided at that point in time.

Chairman Pace said that CRRA has asked that MDC get data from their actuarial to share that information with CRRA's actuarial because it will give CRRA the post-project cost information which is the main concern of the project member towns.

Mr. DiBella said that he thought that information had been released. Chairman Pace said that a letter had been received by CRRA stating that no further information will be provided. Chairman Pace asked Ms. Kenney to locate Mr. Escalera to confirm that the data from the actuarial tables has not been received.

Director Desmarais said that the request pertains to data within MDC's actuaries' office. He said that CRRA additionally needs access to the assumptions that were used to calculate the dollar value to understand how that number was calculated.

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Vicino if there are bumping rights within MDC. He asked if so, what do those rights look like and where are they within the contract. He said those are the numbers CRRA has to see to understand what the real liability is. Mr. DiBella said that he thinks CRRA also needs the numbers of MDC's pension numbers relative to where they are currently. He said that it was his understanding that the documentation was given to CRRA. Chairman Pace said that the assumptions in that model are what CRRA needs.

Mr. Vicino said that CRRA made a request on May 7, 2009, and received a document. Mr. DiBella asked what documents CRRA has received.

Chairman Pace asked Mr. Escalera to clarify what information that CRRA needs from MDC's actuaries. Mr. Escalera said that CRRA needs the electronic data that MDC has transmitted to its' actuarial firm, Millman, which was used to do all of their actuarial calculations. He said a calculation has been presented and CRRA needs to check the math and analyze the assumptions and calculations that have been made and Millman has the complete electronic data base that they manipulate and perform calculations with. Mr. Escalera said that CRRA needs the electronic data base and has not received a single electronic file.

Mr. Escalera said that CRRA is not going to pass the cost of inputting data by hand to create a data base to its customers when there is already an existing data base. Mr. Escalera said that he understood from the last meeting that Mr. DiBella was going to provide that information. Mr. DiBella said that he was under the impression that was the information that CRRA was going to receive. Mr. Escalera said that CRRA had not gotten that information or any other electronic files. Mr. DiBella said that CRRA will get this information.

Mr. Escalera said what would be easiest is to let CRRA's actuaries (The Greer Benefit Consultants Group in Glastonbury, CT) speak with MDC's actuaries. Director Desmarais asked

Mr. Escalera if there are any other outstanding requests for information. Mr. Escalera replied yes. He said that the assumption for the calculation of the cost on the expiration of contract has been between 80-88 employees who would be terminated on the day of the expiration of the contract. Mr. Escalera said that CRRA's management believed that number may be smaller as the employees are union employees and have contractual bumping rights. He explained that CRRA would like to go through the exercise of the bumping that would have occurred if the contract had expired on December 31, 2008. He said CRRA would like to take a snapshot and look at the employees and vacancies and seniority and go through the process to see where the employees would have bumped to in open positions and what junior people would have bumped out of other positions to see who, if anyone would be "terminated" and what their pension entitlement would be. Mr. Escalera said in order to do this CRRA will need the employment history for each of the employees of the plant to see what positions those employees could bump into. He said CRRA has requested this data and has not received it.

Mr. Adil asked if CRRA is still responsible for the pensions of those employees at the end of their contracts. Director Desmarais said that those employees may still have jobs.

Mr. Vicino said that the two parties present can agree that Millman and Greer can communicate to satisfy the post contract costs reimbursement concerns. A discussion concerning the possible bumps and issue of employee privacy ensued.

Mr. Escalera said that the response that CRRA received requesting the electronic data was that MDC has provided the necessary reports. Mr. DiBella said that he would sit down with MDC's counsel to discover what their objection to providing these requested electronic documents may be.

Director Jarjura said that CRRA has an obligation to its customers to make sure that any valid bill presented by MDC is accurate.

2. ROLES

Chairman Pace discussed the roles of MDC's participation in CRRA activities as a service provider for the waste processing facilities, transfer stations, landfills and the power block.

Mr. Vicino asked if there has been an effort to start looking at new technologies for waste disposal. Chairman Pace said that firstly CRRA's major focus will be to recycle as much as possible in an effort to reduce the waste stream. He explained that CRRA is also committed to offering trash to energy and that new technology concerning new ways to provide this service are being investigated.

After a substantial discussion the two parties' representatives agreed that a collaborative committee or group to explore new technologies should be developed in an effort to join MDC and CRRA's efforts to provide the best service possible for their member towns and the least cost opportunity for member towns.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien agreed that a partnership exploring new technologies is a good idea. He further suggested that the workers on the floor of the Mid-Connecticut Plant be asked to

provide input in order to give them ownership and an opportunity to suggest stop gaps. Mr. DiBella agreed.

Mr. Vicino said that concerning transportation it's important to see transfer trucks with low sulfur and low fuel costs. Chairman Pace said that the CRRA Board had spent substantial amounts to refurbish the transfer trucks to ensure these factors. Vice-Chairman O'Brien said that the refurbishments had been completed in the present budget cycle.

The parties discussed the history of the Power Block at length. Chairman Pace said that efforts to improve efficiency, discover new technologies, and work in a partnership with MDC serve to build efficiencies to reduce costs for the member towns. He said much of those efforts will concern CRRA and MDC setting a performance standard.

Mr. Adil said that most of the Mayors he has spoken with would like to see CRRA and MDC reduce any redundancies to cut costs were possible. He said that he felt these small group discussions are a great idea.

Chairman Pace asked Mr. DiBella who takes care of maintenance for MDC. Mr. DiBella explained that MDC runs a full machine shop. He distributed an MDC organizational chart to illustrate how MDC functions. Mr. DiBella said that MDC maintains all of their equipment in-house. Mr. Vicino said that most maintenance is in done in-house unless it is off a certain magnitude and a sub contractor is needed. Chairman Pace said that CRRA has taken oversight on the Plant's maintenance to reduce costs. The parties discussed efforts to compete in the electricity market at length.

A discussion ensued concerning the financial models used by both CRRA and MDC.

Mr. DiBella said that he is not sure how MDC became responsible for holding household hazardous waste drives. He said that he would look into those origins. Chairman Pace said that conversations can be held concerning future responsibilities of organizing and performing those drives.

Mr. DiBella said that he can provide the budget and/or MDC CAFR for Vice Chairman O'Brien at his request for more information.

Mr. Vicino asked if there are possible federal monies available to assist MDC and CRRA with implementing new technology. Mr. Adil suggested that Mr. Larson's office be contacted in this effort. Mr. DiBella said that MDC has been successful in securing federal monies. He said that MDC has active Washington lobbyists' pursuing those monies.

Mr. Vicino said that the cooperation of MDC and MDC in pursuing new technologies will be beneficial in efforts to secure federal monies. He suggested that smaller groups be used to get results. Chairman Pace agreed and stated that the structure of the Committees and CRRA Board function in much the same manner for expediting and full vesting of topics.

The parties reviewed several topics and plans of actions and agreed to work immediately on the formation of a small group to explore new technologies. They also agreed that a second meeting of the Executive Committee and the MDC representatives will be held to further the

communication efforts undertaken during this meeting as well as efforts to create a partnership between CRRA and MDC.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Pace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Jarjura seconded the motion. The motion previously made and seconded was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Moira Kenney
Secretary to the Board/Paralegal