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**Final Meeting Minutes – Recycling and Solid Waste Sub-Committee (RSWC) –
January 14, 2022**

Attendees (virtual Zoom) – Meryl Mandell (Chair), Gary Bernhard (Recycling Coordinator), Gail Fleischaker, Tim Logan (note taker), Susan Waite (Mass DEP Western District Municipal Assistance Coordinator)

From Casella Waste Systems, Inc., Rutland, Vt:

Vincent Allo, Massachusetts Municipal Service Solutions Manager
Jerry Galena, Market Area Manager
Erin Banfield, Senior Business Manager

- 1 - The meeting called to order at 10:45.
- 2 – The Casella representatives introduced themselves and described their relative positions with the company.
- 3 – The Casella reps offered the following responses to the interview questionnaire:

A - Does your company service rural communities in Western Massachusetts? Yes, for example, they service Gill and Erving.

B - If so, what challenges do you encounter when servicing the rural communities?
There are no significant challenges but they do look for strong support from the town to help reinforce to residents good recycling and curbside practices.

C - We understand that service contracts are a partnership between the Contractor and the Town. What aspects of a successful working relationship does your team find most beneficial? Good communication regarding all operational matters, recycling education, and customer concerns help make great relationships.

D - Does your company support pickup of trash bags at curbside? Yes.

E - Does your company provide pickup for dual stream recycling? Yes. They support and try to service whatever waste management approach a particular town wants. They can provide dual or single stream.

- 4 – Additional comments from Casella:

A - Casella operates in several states and has a number of processing sites in Massachusetts.

B - Gill and Erving use the same dual processing services (non-Casella – the MRF in Springfield) as Shutesbury and that works for Casella.

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C - Casella uses split body trucks where ½ accepts recyclables and ½ accepts garbage. One truck is currently used to pick up in Gill and Erving although Casella has multiple split trucks available.

D - The only “difficulty” winter weather in rural towns represents to Casella is the possible need for chains on storm days.

E - Cost differences between dual and single stream are not necessarily significant. It depends greatly on a particular town’s circumstances.

5 - Action items:

A – By Sunday evening (January 16) Meryl, Gary, Tim and Gail will do one more RFP edit pass. Gail will remove references to automated and add (location TBD) a statement regarding a 1 year renewal option if agreeable to both parties.

B – On Monday Meryl will forward the RFP to Becky who will in turn forward it to the Town Counsel for review; call Jim Walton (Shutesbury Fincom Chair) to determine when they would prefer to meet with Recycle Committee representatives; and contact Grace (Shutesbury Town Clerk) for the most recent Shutesbury census data.

C – Gary will send an email to Jan Ameen (Exec. Dir. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District) requesting any additional information on Erving and Gill’s experience with Casella. In addition he will search for current Casella contracts with Gill and Erving.

D – Susan will forward to the Sub-Committee DEP on-line information on processing and collection contracts as well as best practice information.