

## Minutes

### Rockingham Planning Commission

January 9, 2019

Rockingham Economic Dev. Center  
Raymond, NH

**Commissioners & MPO Reps Present:** B. Kravitz, Chairman, F. McMahon, A. Carnaby (Hampton); N. Reynolds, P. Britz (Portsmouth); M. McAndrew (New Castle); D. Hawkins, M. Rabideau (Seabrook); J. Foley (Epping); L. Cushman, L. Gagnon (Stratham); P. Pelletier, B. Donahue (Salem); J. Kiszka, T. Moore (Plaistow); G. Coppelman, P. Coffin (Kingston); A. Davis (Hampstead); P. Merrill (Kensington); A. Brubaker, R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); M. Allen, J. Doggett (Newton); C. McCarthy (Raymond); L. Plumer, G. English (Exeter); R. Babcock (Fremont); G. Davison (NH DOT); E. Strachan (NHDES)

**Guests:** M. Dufour (Reource Recovery Assoc.); S. Kravitz, P. Bushway (Hampton); M. Heitz, P. Coombs (Kingston); J. Levenson (Portsmouth); C. Kowalski (Hampstead); A. McAndrew (New Castle)

**Staff:** T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Assistant Director/Transp. Manager); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

**1. Chairman Kravitz convened the meeting of the Rockingham Planning Commission at 7:17 p.m.**

**2. Minutes of September 12, 2018**

*Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of September 12, 2018 as presented; Coppelman seconded. **SO VOTED.** (2 abstentions)*

**3. Presentation: Mike Dufour, Executive Director Northeast Resource Recovery Association: Rising Costs of Recycling**

Dufour explained the complexities of recycling and how single stream recycling resulted in contaminated plastics that China, a very important part of the global recycling industry, now refuses to take. China is suffering from a severe environmental crisis with 60% of groundwater unfit for human

consumption and 19% of arable land contaminated with heavy metals due to putting economic growth above the environment, a lack of enforcement of existing environmental laws and their staggering increase in urbanization. The reduction of exports to mainland china and other countries has put recycling commodity prices at historical lows. The increased contamination is creating processing costs here that continue to increase as markets demand reduced contamination and this in turn drives up the cost to customers.

He reviewed ways that we can change our thinking about recycling and single stream and ways that communities can clean up their recycle stream and re-use products in other ways. Discussion followed.

**4. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary