

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
WILLISTON POLICE STATION
CONFERENCE ROOM
WILLISTON, VERMONT
January 27, 2010**

APPROVED COPY

PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bolton	-----
Burlington	Steve Goodkind
Charlotte	Stephen Brooks
Colchester	Dirk Reith
Essex Junction	John Lajza
Essex	Alan Nye
Hinesburg	Thomas Nostrand
Huntington	-----
Jericho	Bert Lindholm
Milton	-----
Richmond	Adam Sherman, alt.
St. George	-----
Shelburne	Mark Brooks
So. Burlington	Paul Stabler (Chairman)
Underhill	Mike Wiesel
Westford	Michelle DaVia
Williston	-----
Winooski	-----

STAFF:

Tom Moreau
Amy Jewell
Susan Chapman
Jenn Holliday
Brian Wright
Thomas Melloni, Esq.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

AGENDA: Public Hearing: FY11 Proposed Preliminary Budget

1. Call to Order and Agenda
2. Public Comment
3. Minutes
4. Finance
5. MRF Tip Fee Adjustment
6. Pending Vermont Solid Waste Legislation
7. Compost Relocation Capital Cost
8. Board Meeting Time
9. Program Updates
10. Other Business

11. Executive Session
12. Adjournment

PUBLIC HEARING: FY11 PROPOSED PRELIMINARY BUDGET

The public hearing was opened at 7:04 p.m. There were no comments.

MOTION by Alan Nye, SECOND by Dirk Reith, to close the public hearing on the FY11 proposed preliminary budget. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

1. CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA

Paul Stabler called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Changes to Agenda

Tom Moreau suggested in consideration of Jenn Holliday who will be testifying before the legislature tomorrow that the report on pending Vermont solid waste legislation be heard prior to discussing the MRF tip fee adjustment.

[Note: the minutes reflect the order of the published agenda.]

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no comments from the public.

3. MINUTES

December 16, 2009 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Dirk Reith, SECOND by Mike Wiesel, to approve the meeting minutes of 12/16/09 with the following corrections/clarifications:

Page 1, Board Members Present – note John Lajza (Essex Junction) was not present;

Page 8, Executive Session, VOTING – note that Michelle DaVia (Westford) voted ‘nay’.

VOTING: all ayes except two abstentions (Hinesburg – Thomas Nostrand, Richmond – Adam Sherman); motion carried.

4. FINANCE

a) Finance Committee – Report of Warrants

There were no comments or questions.

b) Bank Balances as of 12/31/09

In response to a question from Steve Goodkind about the bank balances Susan Chapman noted a minimum balance is maintained in the sweep accounts.

5. MRF TIP FEE ADJUSTMENT

Brian Wright reported the MRF has a surplus and staff is proposing to change the tip fee to \$7 per ton in-district and \$12 per ton out-of-district. The processing fee for out-of-district material will be decreased as well. The changes will be effective 2/1/10. A letter to haulers has been drafted. The FY11 budget shows the tip fee rates holding without

subsidy. Tom Moreau stated the surplus will either be 'frozen' or grow more slowly as a result of the changes. The \$150,000 budgeted to subsidize the MRF is not needed and a Board decision should be made regarding use of the funds. Haulers want more carts and/or to get involved in the program.

Alan Nye mentioned haulers who do not use the MRF, such as Gauthier's. Tom Moreau noted CSWD does receive some recyclables from Gauthier's. Michelle DaVia asked if the customers of the haulers will benefit from the fee decrease. Tom Moreau said Burlington will not increase their collection rate, and other haulers may do the same. Ms. DaVia asked about CSWD requiring the haulers to make accommodations to customers or using the money to purchase carts for every household in the district. Tom Moreau noted as a point of equity the haulers currently in the cart program paid 70% of the cost of the carts. Bert Lindholm mentioned the difficulty of requiring carts for the small hauler who serves a certain segment of the population, but cannot afford compactors to handle the carts. Ms. DaVia asked staff to give more thought to how the residents in the district can benefit from the fee change. Stephen Brooks calculated the return of a portion of the surplus to each household would equate to about \$5 each. Also, the nature of the competitive marketplace makes the marketplace boil with competition. Offering a lower price is how haulers compete. Michelle DaVia reiterated the need for the haulers to return something to the customer. Tom Moreau said the CSWD charter does not give authority to order the haulers to lower their rates. John Lajza suggested the haulers identify the tip fee as a surcharge.

6. PENDING VERMONT SOLID WASTE LEGISLATION

E-Waste

Jenn Holliday reported the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee took testimony for the past two week on the E-waste bill. The Agency of Natural Resources is in support of the bill and will be the primary witness in the House Ways & Means Committee to discuss the financial portion of the bill. The bill will then go to the Senate for approval. The E-waste bill will require the Agency of Natural Resources to come up with a plan that electronic manufacturers (computers, printers, televisions, and such) can sign on to (via payment of dues, for example). The bill will require implementation of a system where electronic waste is collected at a minimum of three locations in every county. Consumers will be able to drop off e-waste at no cost (cost will be covered by the manufacturers). An alternative is the manufacturers develop and implement a plan with the same criteria of a convenience factor at a minimum of three collection locations. Towns/cities with at least 10,000 in population must have a permanent collection point. The statewide recycling goal mandates collection of a minimum of five and a half pounds per capita in the first year of the program. If the goal cannot be met then the state must reevaluate the convenience factor and get more programs in place. Electronics manufacturers will pay for this. Collection sites include solid waste districts, charities, and retail outlets. The state will negotiate a contract to implement the bill. The bill will pay collection facilities on a per pound basis of \$.20 for the recycling portion and \$.10 for the collection portion. CSWD will be paid for collection and recycling.

Alan Nye asked about addition to the cost of a product. Jenn Holliday stated the program is on the national level and incorporated in a manufacturer's business plan. Vermonters today are paying for programs in 20 other states and will not see a difference at the retail level. Mr. Nye asked about increase in cost as more programs are added. Tom Moreau explained according to industry literature manufacturers are setting up regional distribution return centers so overall consumer cost should go down. Jenn Holliday added the bill will allow for manufacturers to design products they want to take back and recycle for reuse of parts in new products.

Bert Lindholm noted presently computers are being recycled in China in non-environmentally friendly ways and people are getting sick. Jenn Holliday stated the bill will require the Agency of Natural Resources to draft guidelines for recyclers. Standard certification programs are anticipated. No local Vermont recycler has met the certification. There is concern about the China issue and the matter will be addressed on the national level. Tom Moreau added the desire is to ban export for dismantling such as being done in China and rather export the computers to less developed countries for use.

Paint

Jenn Holliday reported the Senate Natural Resources Committee will take up the paint bill which reflects seven years of work by manufacturers, retailers, and local and state governments. Manufacturers want to handle waste paint which will save CSWD \$50,000 per year. Vermont is on line for the program in 2012. Oregon will add \$.80 per container of paint to implement the program in their state.

Mercury Lights

Ms. Holliday reported the Senate Natural Resources Committee is the producer responsible for the mercury bill. The manufacturer will be required to pay into a state plan to support existing programs and disposal of mercury lights or come up with an equitable new program. Existing programs and collection rates are good in Vermont. The program costs CSWD \$25,000 per year.

Vermont Extended Producer Responsibility Act

Tom Moreau stated the beverage industry initiated the Act. Bottle recycling is seen as needed, good environmentally, and done better than with a bottle bill. Manufacturers want to take over recycling and eliminate the bottle bill. The cost will be \$.04 per unit for handling. Vermont is the test ground because it is a small and manageable area. Other states are watching. There was mention and discussion of the success of similar programs in Canada (Ontario, Toronto, British Columbia).

Compost-able Bags

Tom Moreau announced Frito Lay is producing bags for their products that will compost. Newspapers and candy bar manufacturers will also be responsible for recycling their product wrapper.

7. COMPOST RELOCATION CAPITAL COST

There was discussion of potential sites for relocation of the compost program (Lavak sandpit in Richmond and CSWD property in Williston). The largest sector of items landfilled is biodegradable organics. CSWD currently collects approximately 2,500 tons of food waste per year. There needs to be investment in qualified staff, MRFs, sensible package and product stewardship, and composting. Composting materials are sought after for applications in agriculture and storm water erosion control. The Intervale Compost Program in FY09 handled approximately 15,000 tons of materials including 4,000 tons of food waste (this has decreased to 2,500 tons due to the loss of Suputo), 5,000 tons of manure, and 5,500 tons of leaves. Compost and topsoil are the end products which are sold. Initially CSWD subsidized the Intervale Compost Program, but after two years of CSWD operating the program it is becoming self sustaining.

Tom Moreau reviewed attributes of various composting systems (windrows, aerated static pile, and in-vessel). Windrows were used by the Intervale Compost Program. Windrows require a lot of labor, fuel, and a large space. Byproducts are leachate and odors, both of which are costly to deal with and undesirable. Vermont is currently developing regulations for composting facilities. Staff is trying to anticipate the regulations which will likely be based on regulations in eight other states with new composting regulations in place. Staff is proposing an aerated static pile for composting because the operation is under a cover on an impervious surface for 28 days. Leachate will not be generated. The pile will be covered with finished compost for odor control. Manure for feedstock will be kept undercover. Leaves can be stockpiled outside. Food waste will be dumped and mixed inside a building. The investment for a composting facility at the Williston site is \$560,000 and \$684,000 on the Livak site with \$138,000 (Livak) to \$182,000 (Williston) recoverable in buildings and equipment for a net capital investment of \$380,400 in Williston or \$545,400 at the Livak site in Richmond. The money is currently in reserve funds. At the Williston site, land will have to be cleared and utilities brought in, but this would have to be done for the landfill anyway so the land can be used after the composting operation ceases in five years. At the Livak site land has to be leveled (not cleared), but the site will not be used after the composting operation stops. There is an additional operating cost in a lease payment at both sites (Livak is \$10,000 and Williston is \$4,000 due to the potential need to lease agricultural land for application of leachate or for transportation to dispose of leachate elsewhere). Total preliminary cost of construction and operation for the Livak site is \$653,428 and the Williston site is \$560,377.

Aerial photographs of the Williston site were shown. Other considerations for a site included the number of neighbors nearby, access, wetlands, and utilities. Mike Wiesel commented on the significant investment in a potentially temporary (five year) site. Tom Moreau pointed out the composting operation could possibly stay on the Williston site after five years. CSWD does not have the money to purchase the Livak site, but a longer term lease could potentially be negotiated. Steve Goodkind suggested a private operator handle the operation on a CSWD owned site. Tom Moreau said at this point in time the tonnages are too small in Vermont (privates may not interested in capitalizing process). Bert Lindholm calculated total cost of the composting facility is approximately \$684,000.

Revenue from the Intervale Compost Program was about \$1 million per year so in five years there will be an 87% return which is very good.

Stephen Brooks asked about the proposed landfill on Redmond Road in Williston in relation to the composting operation. Paul Stabler explained the landfill site has not been designed as yet and can be modified. Composting technology is continuing to evolve. There was further discussion of the composting site. Mr. Stabler noted additional discussions with the Town of Williston about the operation are needed. Alan Nye mentioned the wetlands on Redmond Road causing limitations. Mark Brooks asked about moving the buildings and equipment if/when the composting operation is relocated after five years. Tom Moreau said staff is researching movable buildings. Thomas Nostrand asked if the nature of the landfill is changed with biosolids removed. Tom Moreau confirmed it is best to run organics through an anaerobic digester and capture the methane.

The consensus of the Board is to move forward with plans for composting and investment of approximately \$500,000 in a composting facility. The Board should be involved in the recommended decision by staff on the site.

8. BOARD MEETING TIME

Amy Jewell reported the results of the survey on meeting time and serving light fare at meetings was of the fourteen members who responded the majority preferred starting the meeting at 6 p.m. and serving sandwiches.

MOTION by Dirk Reith, SECOND by Thomas Nostrand, to change the start time of the monthly CSWD board meeting to 6 p.m.

DISCUSSION: Alan Nye pointed out the earlier start time may be difficult for the public who might want to attend. Also, the food expense should not be incurred. Michelle DaVia suggested the public comment portion of the meeting be held later on the agenda. Bert Lindholm suggested the change in start time be a six month trial and then re-evaluate. Tom Moreau noted the meeting schedule is part of the annual organizational meeting held in June each year. There were no further comments.

VOTING: all ayes except two nays (Essex – Alan Nye, Shelburne – Mark Brooks); motion carried.

9. PROGRAM UPDATES

The Board received written briefs on CSWD programs/projects.

Gas to Energy Contract

Paul Stabler reported the Executive Board amended the contract with Ed DeVarney on methane gas conversion to energy. Mr. DeVarney will pay a set amount each month for the electricity he should be generating.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

VLCT Leadership Wellness Program

Amy Jewell announced under Jennifer Getty's guidance CSWD received the VLCT Leadership Wellness Program Award and was reimbursed \$8,600 (this is the third consecutive year CSWD has had the highest score). CSWD also received the Governor's Award for Wellness.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Alan Nye, SECOND by Dirk Reith, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

M.E.Riordan, Recording Secretary

I agree that this is an original copy of minutes and they have been approved by motion of the Board of Commissioners at the _____ meeting held in _____.

Michelle DaVia, Secretary/Treasurer