

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT  
SOUTH BURLINGTON CITY HALL  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
December 21, 2005**

**PRESENT**

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Bolton	-----
Burlington	Steve Goodkind
Charlotte	John Hammer, III
Colchester	Dirk Reith
Essex Junction	-----
Essex	-----
Hinesburg	Thomas Nostrand
Huntington	-----
Jericho	Bert Lindholm
Milton	-----
Richmond	Mary Houle
St. George	-----
Shelburne	Gene Cloutier
So. Burlington	Paul Stabler
Underhill	-----
Westford	Bill Leach (Chairman)
Williston	Mike Coates
Winooski	-----

**STAFF:**

Tom Moreau  
Jim Ticehurst  
Tony Barbagallo  
Amy Jewell  
Thomas Melloni, Esq.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Don Hallock, Northeast Waste Services (NEWS)  
Paula Mouser, Landfill Oversight Committee  
Paul O'Leary, O'Leary & Burke  
Ben Siebecker, Shaw Environmental  
Andy Potter, WCAX

**AGENDA:**

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda and Public Comment Period
3. Approval of Minutes (September 14, 2005 & October 26, 2005)
4. Finance
5. Second Amendment: Northeast Waste Services Agreement
6. Regional Landfill
7. Waste Diversion Strategies
8. Health Insurance
9. Amendment: Residuals Management (Biosolids) Agreement

10. Program Updates
11. Other Business
12. Executive Session
13. Adjournment

Chairman Bill Leach called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. AGENDA and PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no changes to the agenda or comments from the public.

**3. APPROVE MINUTES**

a) September 14, 2005

**MOTION by Mike Coates, SECOND by Mary Houle, to approve the 9/14/05 minutes as written. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

b) October 26, 2005

**MOTION by Paul Stabler, SECOND by Mary Houle, to approve the 10/26/05 minutes as written. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

**4. FINANCE**

a) Finance Committee Report of Warrants

The warrants were approved by the Finance Committee. There were no questions from the Board.

b) Bank Balances as of 11/30/05

Staff reported the interest rate on investments fluctuates with the market rate.

c) FY06 First Quarter Financials

Staff reported there is a surplus of \$263,000 as of the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 due to the MRF and Hazardous Waste programs (both doing well). The Hazardous Waste program receives a subsidy, and if the subsidy is not used, then the money shows up as a surplus. The solid waste management fees are reflected under Finance. Future Projects (regional landfill) and Finance excluding the solid waste management fees are two areas with issues. The bond payment is due January 2, 2006 and that will not impact the surplus. Also, the markets at the MRF are getting "soft", but tonnage is good. Net assets increased from \$12.6 million to \$13.3 million due mainly to the transfer of money into reserve accounts.

d) FY07 Preliminary Budget

Staff reported there will be no assessment to member towns by CSWD. The January board meeting will be the public hearing on the preliminary budget.

**MOTION by Dirk Reith, SECOND by Mary Houle, to approve the preliminary budget for FY07 as presented.**

**DISCUSSION: Staff noted October's CPI was applied to the FY07 budget.**

**VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

**5. 2nd AMENDMENT: NORTHEAST WASTE SERVICES AGREEMENT**

Staff reported a subdivision of the AIG insurance company purchased Northeast Waste Services (NEWS). The lease of the transfer station must be amended to reflect the change. A stipulation has been included in the amendment stating NEWS will grant CSWD an option to buy back the transfer station when/if CSWD is operating the regional landfill and has instituted some control over the flow of waste in Chittenden County. Bert Lindholm asked if doing partial flow control will impact the agreement. Tony Barbagallo explained flow control is one method, but what must occur is nearly all of the waste for disposal generated within the district must go to the landfill.

**MOTION by Paul Stabler, SECOND by Mary Houle, to approve the second amendment to the BTS transfer station lease with NEWS as presented and authorize the General Manager to sign the appropriate documents. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

**6. REGIONAL LANDFILL****a) Landfill Design and Permitting Costs To Date**

Tony Barbagallo reported cost to date for design work for Site 21 is \$205,123 (32% of the not-to-exceed total). Site 21 includes the Hinesburg Sand & Gravel (HS&G) property plus adjacent properties on Redmond Road (residences and VELCO). The Executive Board authorized the General Manager to expend up to \$60,000 to cover extras in the design work that may occur. Expanding onto other properties in addition to the HS&G land continues to be investigated. For this work, \$45,367 has been spent to date.

**b) Conceptual Design Proposal**

Staff stated approval of the conceptual design of the regional design is needed before the design plan can be released to the public for comment. Ben Siebecker, consultant from Shaw Environmental, reviewed the conceptual design. The design addresses the geology and ground water flow on the site. The layering of the sands and clay at the site make it perfect for a landfill because the remaining common sand can be used for cover and the glacial till protects the bedrock and aquifer. Additional borings to the ones done in 1991 were done because the footprint of the landfill was expanded and assurance was needed the ground was stable enough to support a perimeter wall. Mathematical models will be done to determine where liquids will flow if there is a leak in the landfill. An underdrain will be installed. The landfill will be 66 acres in size and have a capacity of 9.5 million tons (35 year life). There will be a wet groundwater drainage system that is also capable of capturing any leakage from the landfill. The proposed height elevation will be 610' above sea level. The design calls for a perimeter wall of 70' high on the north end and 30' high along a portion of Redmond Road. The wall is higher on the north side due to the slope of the land. There will be berms of five foot to 30' in height on the south and east sides of the landfill (the circumferential highway will abut the east side of the landfill). There will be a 1.1 million gallon tank for leachate storage (30 day capacity) located at the north end of the landfill. The storage tank is a contingency because the plan is to recirculate leachate. The gas flare will burn methane initially, but when it is economically feasible and an electricity generating facility is built, electricity will be generated. It is estimated the density of garbage will be 1,500 pounds per cubic yard. Typically household trash amounts are fairly level, but construction and demolition (C&D) debris amounts change.

The base liner system was reviewed (two membranes and two leachate collection systems). The liner system exceeds current state requirements of two geocomposite layers (with the CSWD regional landfill, there will be an additional layer of clay). The landfill will be phased cell-by-cell (i.e. each cell is 11 acres of lined landfill area). The concept of a lined landfill has been around for nearly 20 years with a 30 year post-closure plan for the entombed waste, but now with methods such as recirculation of leachate being employed to extend the life of the landfill and protect the environment, the EPA wants the landfill built so it does not leak indefinitely. The clay on Site 21 appears to meet permeability requirements for the clay liners being proposed.

There was discussion of the perimeter wall and vegetation on the wall facing for aesthetic purposes. The slope of the landfill will be 3:1 (horizontal:vertical). There will be a visible buffer (trees planted on the "benches" of the landfill slope) to screen operations.

There was discussion of the volume of water impacting the glacial till. Ben Siebecker stated the water will be drained off. Water will be pumped into a settling pond to eliminate silt and sediments then into the stormwater drainage system. The stormwater management system (two parts) was briefly reviewed. The northern portion of the site will drain north into Redmond Brook and the southern portion will drain into the Winooski River. Water quality and storage are designed for the 100 year storm. There are wetlands on the site (delineated and mapped). The Class 2 wetlands are not impacted. The Class 3 wetlands will be impacted, but these are generally low value wetlands. Due to the fact that no class 2 wetlands are proposed to be impacted, a wetlands permit from the State of Vermont is not required. Wetlands impact will be included in Vermont's Act 250 review. However, since the impacted wetland area exceeds one acre, an Army Corps of Engineers Individual Wetland Permit will be required. A system of priorities (avoidance, minimization and mitigation) will be followed with regard to the wetlands. Mitigation will be done at some point. The cost of mitigation has to be determined as yet.

Tony Barbagallo reviewed sight lines (a viewpoint from Route 2A looking toward Martel Hill on Mountain View Road will be added) and tree plantings (will help hide the landfill from full view). In addition to the landfill, there will be a Drop Off Center in Williston as well as a maintenance building, special waste management building, recycling area, and scale house. Commercial trucks and large loads going to the landfill will go to the scales then onto the site.

The bioreactor system to recirculate leachate was discussed. The system will likely be a cross between pipe injection and direct application. The result will be a decrease in leachate treatment costs and an increase in absorption of moisture, waste settlement, landfill capacity, and gas generation.

Staff reported the cost estimate for the conceptual design of the entire landfill based on 132,700 tons/year, inflated 3% each year, with construction beginning in 2008 and waste acceptance in 2009 is \$80 million (all six cells in 2004 dollars). The cost is approximately \$1 million per acre to line the landfill. With phasing (doing the landfill one cell at a time), the initial bonding amount is approximately \$22 million. The average tip fee could be as low as \$65/ton. The regional landfill tip fee is expected to be substantially lower than the fee at the transfer station. The average tip fee difference is \$87 resulting in a savings of \$815 million over the 35 year life of the regional landfill.

Public participation to obtain input on the design and address concerns is anticipated, stated Mr. Barbagallo, adding this will also be an opportunity to educate the general public on the overall benefits to the community of the regional landfill. First contact will be town officials, departments, boards and commissions, then the haulers, regional organizations (MPO, RPC, VPIRG, CLF) and the general public. There was lengthy discussion of the matter of public participation. Mike Coates suggested information on the landfill be given to the public, but soliciting public input/comments on the design may bring problems (the current situation with the circumferential highway was cited). Professionals in the field have been hired to do the design, continued Mr. Coates, and board members have been appointed by their townspeople to represent their voice/decision with regard to CSWD activity. The public should be shown the cost of transporting trash off site versus to the regional landfill (wear/tear on roads, air/noise pollution, dirt/dust) so the benefit of a regional landfill is clear. Dirk Reith suggested public input be limited to aesthetics, not technical design matters. John Hammer suggested only comments, not input, be solicited. It was mentioned informing the public in all areas of Chittenden County may ensure continued support of the project down the line. It was suggested a subcommittee could be formed to outline the public process or the task could be assigned to the Landfill Oversight Committee. Chairman Leach spoke in support of an informational meeting for the general public and stakeholders showing past, present, and future activity regarding the regional landfill. The public should be told their comments will be considered, but not necessarily incorporated, said Mr. Leach. There was further discussion of the approach with the public at this point (before the permit process begins) and whether information on what has transpired with regard to the regional landfill or asking for input on next steps should be sought. Tom Moreau expressed concern the project could be thrown off track by going into some broader solid waste areas before permits are secured. The CSWD Board has already taken action in support of a regional landfill and the Board represents the public, stressed Mr. Moreau, stating his preference to apply for the permits for the landfill and then begin the public process. Bert Lindholm summarized the decision is whether staff should embark on the public participation process concurrent with the conceptual design/permit process or pursue permitting and hold public meetings at a later date. Paul Stabler suggested the two activities be decoupled (i.e. seek approval of the conceptual design and give further thought to the public process). Tony Barbagallo observed with a wider range of comments there is higher potential for redesign. Tom Moreau suggested staff pursue the conceptual design process, facilitate meetings with stakeholders, and prepare a mock presentation to the public for review at the next board meeting.

**MOTION by Dirk Reith, SECOND by Paul Stabler, to accept the conceptual plan for a regional landfill on Site 21 as presented. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

#### **7. WASTE DIVERSION STRATEGIES**

Due to time constraints, Tom Moreau suggested the discussion of balancing recycling and landfilling trash be postponed until the next meeting.

#### **8. HEALTH INSURANCE**

Amy Jewell reported the Health Savings Account (HSA) option of the High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) through VLCT has been offered to CWSD. There is a \$1,500 deductible for the single person plan and a \$3,000 deductible for the family (more than one person) plan. The

premium and deductible must be paid. CSWD can not pay more than 50% of the deductible, but can pay all or part of the premium. The HSA can be set up by the employee at the bank of their choice, and the balance can be rolled over from year to year. Prescription costs must be paid upfront by the employee then reimbursed. Employees will have to do their own tax reporting. CSWD needs to educate employees on the terms of the plan, but the notice about the insurance option was received very late from VLCT (late November with a reply needed by the first of the year) so there has not been enough time to do this. Also, all employees will have to switch to a different Vermont Health Plan if anyone wants to go with HSA (so ultimately a few employees can impact all employees).

The Board expressed concern about the lack of time to adequately inform employees before making a decision, and the ability of a few employees to decide for all employees. Gene Cloutier stated his experience with his own business has been the trend is toward employees having ownership of their insurance coverage. Staff suggested the fee structure to offer HDHP/HSA be outlined to the employees and if a majority vote in favor of adding the plan, then the coverage be offered in 2006. There was further discussion of the matter by the Board.

**MOTION by Gene Cloutier, SECOND by Bill Leach, to remain with the current health insurance plan at the present time. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

**9. AMENDMENT: RESIDUALS MANAGEMENT (BIOSOLIDS) AGREEMENT**

Tom Moreau explained the need for a three month extension of the Biosolids agreement (to review the contract language covering several issues that were identified).

**MOTION by Gene Cloutier, SECOND by Mike Coates, to grant a three month extension (to March 31, 2006) of the Residuals Management Agreement as recommended by staff. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

**10. PROGRAM UPDATES**

The Board received written briefs on various program activities at CSWD. There were no questions/comments.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION by Paul Stabler, SECOND by Dirk Reith, that the Board of Commissioners of the Chittenden Solid Waste District go into Executive Session to consider pending civil actions and contract negotiations where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the District, its member municipalities, and other public bodies or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage, and further, to seek and discuss the advice of attorneys on various legal issue where premature public knowledge could adversely affect the outcome of such civil action against the District, and to permit staff and the Solid waste District attorney(s) to be present for this session. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.

**MOTION by Bert Lindholm, SECOND by Gene Cloutier, to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting.**

**DISCUSSION: Bert Lindholm felt the District should recognize the employees who helped find the missing diamond ring in the trash dumpster at the Drop Off Center. Tom Moreau will send the employees a letter of recognition.**

**VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

Executive Session was adjourned and the regular meeting reconvened at 10:50 p.m.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Mike Coates, SECOND by Gene Cloutier, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 p.m.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mike Coates, Secretary/Treasurer*