



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

19 Gregory Drive, Suite 204
South Burlington, VT 05403

EMAIL info@cswd.net

TEL (802) 872-8100

www.cswd.net

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025
Time: 6:15 p.m. or immediately following the public hearing
Place: **Hybrid Meeting - ZOOM Meeting or In-Person at CSWD Administrative Office**
19 Gregory Drive, South Burlington

***** (E) Indicates enclosures (H) Indicates handouts (D) Discussion Only**

1. (E) **Agenda** (6:15 p.m.)
2. **Public Comment Period** (6:15 p.m.)
3. (E) **Consent Agenda** (6:20 p.m.)
 - 3.1 Minutes of September 24, 2025
 - 3.2 Program Updates
 - 3.3 Executive Director Update
 - 3.4 Finance – Fund Balances, Reserves, & Warrants
 - 3.5 Burlington Electric Department Wood Waste Depot Contract
4. (E) **Solid Waste Implementation Plan Draft** (6:30 p.m.)
5. (D) **MRF Project Update** (6:50 p.m.)
6. (D) **CSWD Identity and Image Alignment** (7:00 p.m.)
7. **Other Business** (8:00 p.m.)

Possible Action could occur on any agenda item, although not initially noted. If you need an accommodation, please call the District at 872-8100 upon receipt of this notice. All times listed are an estimated start and duration.

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE PUBLIC – REMOTE ACCESS**

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025
Time: 4:00 P.M.
Place: ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

IMPORTANT:

CSWD will hold a hybrid Board of Commissioners Meeting. The virtual meeting is accessible by computer or phone. Members of the public, joining the meeting remotely, may join by clicking the link below. Following the meeting a recording will be available upon request.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar!

When: Aug 11, 2025, 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Board of Commissioners Special Meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82206970838?pwd=9894sjRX5TrGwR1lqlauDIWz2RUEXT.1>

Passcode:968490

Phone one-tap:

+16465588656,,82206970838# US (New York)

+16469313860,,82206970838# US

Join via audio:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

For those without internet access, call 802-872-8100 ext. 247 and leave a message to register for the meeting. A call- in number will be provided to you prior to the meeting.

Participants will be in listen only mode. Call in controls include: *6 – toggle mute/unmute and *9 to raise your hand.

DRAFT
CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
19 Gregory Drive South Burlington
MEETING ROOM
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
September 24, 2025

***Hybrid Meeting via Zoom.**

PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS:	Bolton	-----
	Burlington	Lee Perry
	Charlotte	Ken Spencer
	Colchester	Lauren Eagan
	Essex	Alan Nye
		Wendy Duncan, Alt.
	Essex Junction	Mike Sullivan
	Hinesburg	Rick McCraw
	Huntington	Barb Winters
	Jericho	Tom Joslin, Alt.
	Milton	Betsy Paret
	Richmond	Andrew French
	Shelburne	Margaret Wiener
	So. Burlington	Alison Lazarz, Alt.
	St. George	-----
	Underhill	Paul Ruess
	Westford	Katie Frederick
	Williston	David Howell
	Winooski	Bryn Oakleaf

STAFF: Sarah Reeves, Jen Holliday, Jon Dorwart, John Balparda

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Melloni, Esq.

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order & Agenda
2. Public Comment Period
3. New Board Member Introduction
4. Consent Agenda
5. FY25 Year End Financials
6. Diversion Report
7. MRF Project Update
8. Executive Session
9. Commissioner Doug Taff Remembrance
10. Other Business

1. CALL TO ORDER & AGENDA – Accepted as presented. P. Ruess called meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – No comments were made by the public.

3. **NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION** - P. Ruess introduced Betsy Paret and by David Howell.
4. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Approves as presented.
5. **FY25 YEAR END FINANCIALS** - J. Balparda reviewed the FY 25 Year end results and noted that CSWD outperformed the prior year and the budget. He noted that income exceeded FY 24 by \$3.9 million and the budget by \$2.9 million. \$1.5 million was because of the State of VT grant for the MRF project. He noted that expenses exceeded FY 25 by \$739,000 but were below budget by \$1.2 million. He noted the Net position of CSWD ended in a positive \$11.1 million in cash and 4.3 months of designated cash for operating expenses. He explained that tipping fees make up the majority of CSWD's revenue totaling \$6.9 million or 36.8% and the solid waste management fee makes up 20.6% of total revenue at \$3.9 million, while sale of material totals 17.9% or \$3.4 million. J. Balparda reviewed the expenses totaling \$14.9 million and reviewed the drivers, which are materials management, payroll, and equipment and fleet. The Board recognized the improved financials and level of detail presented. It was also noted that the Finance Committee has reviewed this report in greater detail. Staff was also recognized for making investment changes, resulting in a minimal risk/higher profit return on investments, which was also discussed in greater detail at the Investment Committee Meeting.
6. **DIVERSION REPORT** – J. Dorwart reviewed the ***2024 Diversion & Disposal Report***. This report is used to help track and evaluate how well members are utilizing CSWD and private sector facilities, programs, and overall opportunities to reduce and divert their waste from the landfill; to fulfill State reporting requirements, and for communication purposes. J. Dorwart explained the solid waste metrics used. He summarized the following:
 - a 4.3% increase solid waste generation over 2023, related to population increase.
 - MSW tons disposed decreased by 3.3% and tons diverted increased by 13.8%.
 - C&D tons disposed remains at a historical high & tons diverted was 0.6% higher than 2023.
 - MSW diversion rate remained high at 54.7% and increase of 3.5% over 2023 and recovery rate for mandatory recyclables rebounded from 2023.
 - the per capita per pound rate is up from 2.79/lbs/cap/day to 3.17. The drivers are increase in food residuals, yard waste/ wood, glass and textiles, and revised methodology to calculate estimated backyard composting, tire recycling and increased due to better reporting.
 - Tire recycling increased due to better reporting.

J. Dorwart said that CSWD's diversion rate is one of the best performing communities in the nation. SWANA shows diversion rates have been flat, with problem areas being organics and multi-residential housing, which are similar challenges faced in Vermont. He also noted with all the success, there is more work to be done and over 124,196 going to the landfill could have been recovered. Trends show this to be a slow process with great progress.
7. **MRF PROJECT UPDATE** – S. Reeves said that following the Williston DRB meeting, CSWD revised MRF plans based on recommendations from the Conservation Commission. CSWD's engineer turned the building 90 degrees and provides more of a buffer for the habitat

disturbance area, which increases the drive allowing for additional queuing space to the scale. The redesign disturbs slightly less acreage. This change also required redesigning stormwater, which is now four smaller ponds, rather than two larger ones. All changes have been submitted to the Town of Williston as of this morning and previous conversations with town staff have us confident that we have met all requests. CSWD will go back to the Conservation Commission this month and the DRB on 10/14/2025. She noted some lighting changes and some additional planting that will be needed to shield the PGA bunker that is on the side of the building but feels very good about the redesign. If CSWD receives DRB approval, and with favorable weather, CSWD hopes to break ground in the first two weeks of November. Pouring concrete will depend on the weather and temperatures. An additional cost of \$27,000/month for storage unit for the equipment is in place due to the delay in the build.

- 8. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion by P. Stabler, Second by A. Nye that the Board of the Chittenden Solid Waste District go into Executive Session to discuss real estate negotiations, and pending civil litigation to which the District is a party, 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 to permit authorized staff, and other invited interested parties to be present for this session. VOTING: All Ayes. Motion Carries.**

The board entered executive session at 7:37 p.m.

Motion by P. Stabler, Second by A. Nye to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the meeting.

The board exited Executive Session at 8:00 p.m.

- 9. QUASI-JUDICIAL PROCESS –** P. Ruess explained that the Board will have a special meeting held in mid-October that will be a slightly different than our normal meeting and he feels it will be important to have counsel prepare the board for this process. T. Melloni explained that the Vermont Constitution is the notion that government exists for the people, and that public officials are servants of the public, with the basic premise the Vermont Legislature adopts the Open Meeting Law. The Open meeting law states that whenever a quorum of a public body gets together to discuss business it has to be done in a meeting that is open to the public so that they can attend and participate and can speak on those matters. He noted two exceptions to those open meeting law:

- A) **Executive Session** - Executive Session requires a vote for things where premature general public knowledge would clearly place the District, at a substantial disadvantage, such as contract negotiations. There is another category of Executive session as it relates to employees, hiring of a public official, or can go into disciplinary with a public employee, or their employment would be terminated. Any action coming out of Executive Session must be done in open session and on the record, which is when Roberts Rules is followed and includes a motion, a second, and a vote
- B) **Quasi-judicial process** – The board can also act in a quasi-judicial manner (jury and the judge) related to compliance issues, where evidence is presented under oath, witnesses are cross-examined, evidence can be challenged, and the results and decisions are subject to an appeal. The board can then move to a deliberative session, where only the board members and attorney is present to deliberate. An example would be when a business is not in compliance with our solid waste management ordinance, and this is brought to the Executive Board. An immediate decision is not necessary. A motion is not required to go into deliberate session and a decision is

not immediately needed following the deliberate session. In a quasi-judicial process, which includes going into deliberative session no others can be present, other than the board and the attorney, no motion is needed to go into the deliberation, and a vote on the record is not needed when coming out. The board can note that a decision has been reached, and a decision will be issued and written as a matter of public record but does not need to be done immediately following the meeting.

T. Melloni said that when dealing with a personnel case, the board can enter Executive session for things like a grievance, disciplining, or terminating and an employee's wrongful conduct, and the hiring of a person (not quasi-decision – no appeal) a grievance could that it was violating the persons rights as part of a protected class because they are being differently. A termination would fit because of breach of contract, without due process or cause. It was noted that if the board felt they needed more time for deliberation another meeting could be held another meeting. T. Melloni responded that this is possible. Board members that don't attend the first deliberation should not sit in on a second meeting because they've missed the first meeting. If a Commissioner is present, then that alternate should not be in attendance for the deliberation.

10. COMMISSIONER DOUG TAFF REMEMBRANCE – S. Reeves shared deep condolences regarding the passing of Doug Taff. Doug served as the Hinesburg Commissioner on CSWD's Board from 2010 to 2022. She highlighted Doug's service to CSWD and the Board shared remembrances of Doug's work.

11. OTHER BUSINESS - No business.

12. Adjournment – Motion by A. Nye, Second by A. Lazarz to adjourn the meeting. Voting: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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 _____.

Board Secretary

#3.2

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners
From: CSWD Staff
Date: October 16, 2025
Re: Program Updates

- Solid Waste Management Fee and Disposal (Jon and Becky)
 - From an FY26 budget perspective, the SWMF was 1.5% above projected revenue as of September. FY26 revenue was 0.3% higher than FY25 for the same period. Please refer to accompanying charts.
 - Trash tonnage for the first three quarters of FY26 was down 0.1% compared to FY25. Of the overall tonnage, the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) component was down 1.9% compared to FY25, the Construction and Demolition Debris portion was down 8.8%, and the Alternative Daily Cover portion (fee is 25% of the full rate) was up 44.4%. The pounds per capita per day MSW disposed was 2.81 for FY26 compared to 2.86 for FY25. Please refer to accompanying charts.
- Organics Recycling Facility (Dan) –
 - As of the early fall season sales have been brisk with overall YTD sales totals outperforming recent years. Increased demand for topsoil and some one-time large projects have led the increases.
 - In anticipation of another high-volume “leaf season,” staff have put in extra time processing existing yard waste and working with the state to pilot different processes for handling the increased volumes of material.
 - First Quarter billed food scraps for the first quarter totaled 1106 tons - exceeding totals of the prior fiscal year by 3%. Q1 totals are below budgeted amounts by 15 tons or 1.4%.
- Materials Recovery Facility (Josh) – See below.
- Marketing, Communications & Outreach (Alise & Beth) - See attached Marketing, Communications & Outreach Update
- Drop Off Center (Brian)
 - September 2025 Drop-Off Center Total Trips: 28,151
 - Williston: 4,946
 - Essex: 8,063
 - S. Burlington 7,181
 - Milton 4,260
 - Burlington 1,625
 - Hinesburg: 2,076

- Environmental Depot (Josh) – The quarterly Depot visitation summary will be provided at the November board meeting.



Chittenden Solid Waste District

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TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Reeves
DATE: October 16, 2025
RE: Executive Director Update

September 19 - PRESENT

Not much to update on this month due to my several days of business/personal travel. I'm sure things will ramp up next month!

- **NEW MATERIALS RECYCLING FACILITY PROJECT:**
 - The Williston DRB approved our application for a discretionary permit at their meeting on October 14. The decision becomes “written” when the DRB meets next and approves the minutes of the October 14 meeting.
 - We are working with our construction partner, ReArch, on a groundbreaking event tentatively scheduled for Thursday November 13 to coincide with America Recycles Day.
- **COMMISSIONER EMAIL**
 - A reminder to please use and check your cswd.net email for all District-related communications. The main purpose of having and using a District email address is to ensure that all business-related communications can be easily retrieved if needed. If you're having difficulty accessing the cswd.net email, please reach out to Jon Dorwart for assistance at jdorwart@cswd.net
- **QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM COMMISSIONERS**
 - Leaf and Yard Drop: Commissioner Sullivan received a question from a constituent, asking if CSWD would ever consider opening a leaf and yard drop spot that would be “open 24/7 like they have in Franklin County”. I responded that I wasn't aware of any facilities that accepted waste 24-hours per day, seven days per week but that I'd confirm with my counterpart at the Northwest Solid Waste Management District. The NWSWMD has a partnership with Hudnak Farms in Swanton to accept food scraps, leaves, brush, branches and yard waste from residents of the District. The farm has a generous acceptance window, seven days a week, from 8am to 7pm. The acceptance area is usually unstaffed, except during heavy leaf season, which may have inadvertently led Commissioner Sullivan's constituent to assume that the drop spot was open “24/7”. This is not the case. I explained to our Commissioner that I believe operating an unstaffed facility, even for leaf drop, could present liability concerns for CSWD.

November 2025

- November 3-7: Sarah vacation
- November 5: Finance Committee meeting, 5:00pm
- November 6: Mandatory all facility training, 8:00am - 11:00am; Facilities will open at 11:30am
- November 10: Executive Board, 5:000m
- November 11: Veterans Day, all facilities closed
- November 19: Full Board, 6:00pm
- November 26: DOCs, Environmental Depot, ORF close at Noon; Admin office open regular schedule
- November 27: Thanksgiving, all facilities and offices closed

To: Board of Commissioners
From: John Balparda, Director of Finance
Date: October 2, 2025
RE: **August 2025** Fund Balances, Reserves, & Warrants

DEFINITIONS

Funds – a claim on resources (or equity), primarily cash

Reserves – excess cash plus positive working capital, or less negative working capital

Excess Cash – the amount by which cash on hand exceeds the total fund balances

Working Capital – current assets (readily converted to cash) less current liabilities

Fund Type – classification of the fund; Designated and Restricted types are relevant for CSWD

- Designated funds are “ear marked” by management for a stated purpose
- Designated category is further classified by internal or external purpose
 - Designated for Internal Purposes – greater flexibility around usage
 - Solid Waste Management Fund
 - Operating Fund
 - MRF Project Capital Fund
 - Capital Fund
 - Designated for External Purposes – while not Restricted have more constraints around usage
 - Facilities Closure Fund – total estimated costs to close each facility operated by CSWD; reported to the State annually
 - Community Clean-up Fund
- Restricted funds are amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by regulation, agreement, or external resource providers
- Restricted category is further classified by timing
 - Restricted – no definitive time frame – Landfill Post Closure Fund
 - Temporarily Restricted – has definite timeframe – Debt Service Fund

FUNDS WATERFALL

As each priority fund reaches its carry amount, any remaining revenue flows (“waterfalls”) to the next priority fund in order, as listed below:

Funds Subject to Funding Priority Waterfall		
Fund Type	Fund Name	Carry Value
Designated for Internal Purposes	Solids Waste Management Fund	3 months of budgeted administrative expenses
Designated for Internal Purposes	Operating Fund	3 months of budgeted operating expenses
Designated for Internal Purposes	MRF Project Capital Fund	No set minimum, intended to close the projected MRF project shortfall (currently \$4.2M)
Designated for Internal Purposes	Capital Fund	100% the Next year’s Capital Expense Budget
Undesignated	Undesignated Fund	Any revenue above and beyond waterfall requirements

These funds are NOT subject to the waterfall. They are evaluated annually and are set by a specified calculation.

Funds Using a Set Calculation		
Fund Type	Fund Name	Carry Value
Designated for External Purposes	Facilities Closure Reserve	Calculated cost of facility solid waste termination
Designated for External Purposes	Community Clean Up Fund	Current balance due to communities
Restricted	Biosolids Fund	Total of funds received plus interest
Restricted	Landfill Post Closure Fund	Estimated worst case cost to achieve functional stability
Temporarily Restricted	Debt Service Fund	100% of upcoming year’s debt service

FUND & RESERVE BALANCES

Cash Reserves	Fund Balances	Allocated Cash
32103 - Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 866,001	\$ 866,001
32105 - Operating Fund	\$ 2,729,314	\$ 2,729,314
32106 - Capital Fund	\$ 2,545,500	\$ -
32107 - MRF Project Capital Fund	\$ 3,718,094	\$ 3,718,094
32201 - Facilities Closure Fund	\$ 1,506,983	\$ 1,506,983
32202 - COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000
33001 - Landfill Post Closure Fund	\$ 990,700	\$ 1,000,000
33002 - Biosolids Fund	\$ 419,975	\$ 419,975
34100 - Debt Service Fund	\$ 390,400	\$ 390,400
	<u>\$ 13,261,966</u>	\$ 10,725,767
Total CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT		\$ 11,122,075
Excess (Shortfall) Cash Reserves		\$ 396,308
Working Capital		
Total - 11001 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		\$2,050,746
Less:		
Total - 20100 - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		\$821,939
Total - 20200 - CREDIT CARD PAYABLE		\$4,205
Total - 20400 - ACCRUED TAXES		\$1,250
Total - 20600 - ACCRUED EXPENSES		\$441,571
21662 - Capital Lease Payable - current		\$106,590
Total - 20670 - UNEARNED REVENUE		\$1,786
Subtotal		<u>\$1,377,341</u>
Working Capital		\$673,405
Total Reserves		<u>\$1,069,713</u>
<i>KPI - 3 Months of Cash on Hand for Operating</i>		
Quarterly Average Cash Burn		\$1,223,079
Months of Cash Designated for Operating		3.8
Prior Month - Months of Cash Designated for Operating		4.5

Aging Category	Current	30 Days O/S	60 Days O/S *	90 Days O/S	>90 Days O/S	Total
Subtotal	\$ 2,026,541	\$ 64,475	\$ (41,649)	\$ 1,389	\$ (10)	\$ 2,050,746
% of Total	98.8%	3.1%	-2.0%	0.1%	0.0%	100.0%
<i>KPI - Total A/R Outstanding for less than 60 days = 90%</i>						
% A/R O/S <60 Days		101.96%				
* Allowance for Doubtfull Accounts (Gardener's Supply \$75K) included in 60 days category						

AVERAGE MONTHLY CASH BURN

Warrant Date	Warrant Amount
6/10/2025	388,966.69
6/24/2025	869,254.94
MRF Exps	(70,949.71)
Subtotal	1,187,271.92
7/8/2025	652,841.89
7/22/2025	979,116.59
MRF Exps	(196,450.08)
Subtotal	1,435,508.40
8/5/2025	356,618.90
8/19/2025	792,580.89
MRF Exps	(102,742.58)
Subtotal	1,046,457.21
Total	3,669,237.53
Monthly Avg	1,223,079.18

The following warrants have been reviewed by the Finance Committee and disbursements have been issued since the last submitted Finance Memo:

Warrant Date	Warrant Amount
9/3/2025	957,916.21
9/16/2025	422,889.41
9/30/2025	770,248.61
MRF Exps	(108,978.28)
Subtotal	2,042,075.95

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Sarah Reeves, Executive Director
DATE: October 10, 2025
RE: Contract extension, Burlington Electric Department – McNeil Wood Waste Depot

For over twelve years CSWD has had a contractual agreement with the Burlington Electric Department (BED) to host a wood waste depot at BED's property in Burlington at the site of the McNeil Generating Station. The arrangement has been beneficial for both parties, in that BED utilizes the clean wood materials brought to the site as fuel for the McNeil station and Burlington residents and landscapers have a local option for collection of leaf and yard waste. This arrangement also allows CSWD to apply for and receive from the Department of Environmental Conservation a waiver from the requirement specifying that solid waste facilities that accept municipal solid waste must also accept leaf and yard debris. The proximity of the McNeil Wood Waste Depot, located at 111 Intervale Road in Burlington, to the CSWD Drop Off Center located at 339 Pine Street satisfies the convenience of service requirement for solid waste facilities.

CSWD provides hauling services for the leaf and yard waste component of the material collected and delivers the material to the ORF. BED utilizes the clean wood component of the material collected. The location is heavily utilized by Burlington residents and local landscapers, and the leaf and yard waste collected at the site provides 18% of the Organics Recycling Facility's annual feedstock of this material. Given the size constraints of the DOC on Pine Street, CSWD would not be able to accommodate acceptance of both leaf and yard waste and clean wood at the location as currently configured, and so we rely on the wood waste depot for this service.

The cost of the contract is \$60,000 per year, payable in quarterly installments. BED is responsible for staffing and maintaining the site, capital requirements, permits, utilities, and insurance. BED does not charge a tipping fee for materials sourced within Chittenden County.

The current Agreement and the allowed extensions expire December 31, 2025. I am recommending implementing a new Agreement for a period of three years under the same terms and conditions as the current Agreement, with two 1-year options to renew at the same terms and conditions and at the mutual agreement of the parties. The new Agreement would be effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners authorizes the Executive Director to execute a Contractual Agreement with the City of Burlington through its electric light department known as Burlington Electric Department for the operation of a Wood Waste Depot located at the McNeil Generating Plant in Burlington, in an amount of \$60,000 per year for a term to expire December 31, 2028.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Joey Catania, Compliance & Safety Manager
DATE: October 17, 2025
RE: 2025 Pre-Approved SWIP

SYNOPSIS

Solid Waste Implementation Plans (SWIPs) help Vermont communities meet the goals of the Vermont Materials Management Plan (MMP) and Act 148, the state's recycling and composting law.

To meet these requirements, CSWD develops a five-year Solid Waste Implementation Plan that puts State and District priorities into action. The plan focuses on reducing waste, promoting reuse and recycling, expanding composting, ensuring safe hazardous waste disposal, and educating residents, businesses, and institutions about responsible waste management.

Board approval will be requested for CSWD's 2025 SWIP at the November 19, 2025, Board meeting. Should any Board members have questions or comments, please reach out to jcatania@cswd.net.

CURRENT STATUS

CSWD's 2025 draft SWIP was pre-approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on August 12, 2025.

CSWD launched a [webpage](#) on August 21, 2025, and warned and held two public hearings (9/24/2025 & 10/22/2025) to allow members of the public to comment on the 2025 draft SWIP.

Below is a summary of the comments that CSWD has received on the SWIP to date:

- **Fee Structure Misaligned with Values:** Residents feel penalized for producing less trash and more recycling, calling for a system that rewards waste reduction instead.
- **Reuse Undervalued:** Concerns about usable items being thrown away, especially since free sheds have closed. Calls for on-site reuse options and stronger reuse policies, not just recycling.
- **Retail Wastefulness:** Large corporations are discarding salvageable products. Commenters want mandatory resale or donation policies and fewer tax breaks for wasteful practices.
- **Recycling System Improvements:** Questions about MRF upgrades, potential conflicts with bottle redemption efforts, and the negative impact of glass in single-stream recycling.
- **Public Education Needed:** Requests for better info on how and where to recycle film plastics, including their long-term impact if landfilled.
- **Positive Feedback:** One commenter praised the quality and environmental commitment of the waste management plan.

These comments have not triggered any needed changes to the 2025 draft SWIP, as pre-approved by DEC, but they will be a factor for CSWD staff in agenda setting for the coming SWIP term.

The public comment period will close on October 24, 2025.