

DRAFT

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT
IN-PERSON/ZOOM MEETING
October 25, 2023 - Regular Meeting**

PRESENT**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Bolton	-----
Burlington	Lee Perry
Charlotte	Ken Spencer
Colchester	Liz Hamlin Volz
Essex	Alan Nye
Essex Junction	Mike Sullivan
Hinesburg	Rick McCraw
Huntington	-----
Jericho	Leslie Nulty
Milton	Henry Bonges
Richmond	Andrew French
Shelburne	Margy Wiener
So. Burlington	Paul Stabler
	Allison Lazarz, alt.
St. George	-----
Underhill	Paul Ruess
	Dan Steinbauer, alt.
Westford	Katie Frederick
Williston	Kelton Bogasky
Winooski	-----

STAFF: Sarah Reeves, Amy Jewell, Jen Holliday, Josh Estey, Donna Cushman

OTHERS PRESENT: N/A

AGENDA:

1. Agenda
2. Public Comment Period
3. Consent Agenda
4. Waste Diversion & Disposal Report
5. Educational topic – solid waste management fee
6. Executive Session
7. Other Business

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1. **CALL TO ORDER and AGENDA** Chair Paul Ruess called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD** - No discussion.
 3. **CONSENT AGENDA** – request to pull 3.1 and 3.2.
M. Weiner asked about processes to determine compliance banned material fees. J. Estey said CSWD approaches that in several different ways including load checks, whereby hazardous waste or white goods will be issued a banned materials fee. When

10% of the load is recyclable or food scraps, the load is contaminated. He noted that we also do spot checks based on complaints, or information from the outreach team. We also do construction site visits. We can issue a violation.

Question about the webinar series. S. Reeves noted that in the winter months, we stop the tours and provide this as an alternative. Requested that they be made available to the public online.

Correction to minutes: R. McCraw minutes page 2, section 4 – the Environmental Depot first bullet last sentence are recorded, “which” should be recorded. Second bullet, “nonviewable facility” reworded to “a facility that is not easily visible from the main road by passing traffic.”

Accepted with corrections as noted.

P. Ruess said that with no objections to 3.1 and 3.2 then they will be approved as amended.

4. WASTE DIVERSION & DISPOSAL REPORT

J. Dorwart presented the 2022 Waste Diversion & Disposal Report. The purpose of the report is to track and evaluate programs, fulfill state requirements, and provide information for communications. This information is material collected in Chittenden County. He reviewed the 2022 data to 2021. The notable highlights of 2022:

- waste generation disposed is down 0.1%,
- msw disposed is down 2.5% with tons diverted increasing by 2.6%,
- c&d tons disposed increased to highest in 10 years and tons diverted was slightly lower than normal but 2.1% higher than 2021.
- msw diversion rate remained at 55%
- mandatory recyclables recovery rate decreased very slightly.

He emphasized that this is a long-game and not a race and overtime our diversion rates have increased significantly. He noted that ½ of what is sent to the landfill about ½ could be recovered, but that we are diverting. Solid Waste generation will increase. He noted that following the economic impacts of covid-19 with a strong economy, diversion rates are increasing, and the amount of msw and c&d diverted are inline with 2019 totals. Recyclables and organics make up a large quantity of recoverable material that is being disposed, as much as 60,000 tons, when recoverable c&d is included. Without changes to the current solid waste management system, including additional policies, education, enforcement, markets and facilities, it is expected that solid waste generation will continue to increase along with currently divertible waste being sent to the landfill.

Discussion: What materials are the low hanging fruit that CSWD should focus on?

S. Reeves said that organics continues to be the biggest opportunities, where almost 30% of material being thrown away could be composted. L. Nulty asked if CSWD had data on what segment of the population the food scraps being landfill are coming from. S. Reeves noted that ANR will do a waste compensation study that will provide some data. K. Spencer asked about the confusion with blue bin recycling and the bottle bill and whether CSWD would support a bottle bill that would take materials away from the MRF, but also get rid of the glass issue. J.

Holliday explained that the proposed bottle bill (to include wine bottles) would not move the needle on the landfill diversion rate. She noted that wine bottles are currently in the proposed bottle bill with a lead time because of a different distribution system and labeling process; retailers requested additional time implementing the new process so the bottle bill has been delayed a year after expansion of materials. P. Ruess appreciates the information provided.

5. EDUCATIONAL TOPIC – SOLID WASTE MANGEMENT FEE

S. Reeves presented the solid waste management fee (SWMF) educational topic to the board. SWMF a per-ton fee on Chittenden county generated material sent to the landfill. It is currently \$27/ton and makes up about 21.27% of CSWD's total revenue. She reviewed the Charter wording authorizing the use of a solid waste fee and CSWD's ordinance. All Districts charge a management fee. Some have a solid waste management fee and some do a per capita fee. CSWD's SWMF funds district activities including administration, outreach and communication, IT, compliance, maintenance and roll-off and partially funds DOC's, Environmental Depot, and ORF. She noted that when we say subsidized, we mean partially funded by solid waste management fee. She noted that customers who have a hauler see that fee incorporated into the hauler bill, but not shown at a separate line item. A. Nye noted that in 2012 the haulers didn't want us to keep raising it a little each year, so we raised it \$5/ton and was accepted by the haulers. S. Reeves noted that CSWD's costs are increasing and it will be proposed that this increase in FY 25.

It was requested that CSWD's mission statement be included in future presentations and included for viewing at Board meetings.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION – MOTION BY K. Bogasky, Second by P. Stabler that the Board of Commissioners of the Chittenden Solid Waste District go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with the City of Burlington regarding the Flynn Avenue property, 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, other invited interested parties, and the Solid Waste District attorney to be present for this session.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

Motion by A. Nye, Second by P. Stabler to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 7:44 p.m.

Other Business. Allison Lazarz asked whether we have had any conversations with TerraCycle as another opportunity to divert material from the landfill. S. Reeves is familiar with the company who has partnered with Casella and explained that they are a private company, who send out boxes, for collection of very specific items, which are turned into another item. She said they have not reached out but that can be investigated.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by A. Nye ; seconded by M. Sullivan. VOTING: All ayes. Motion passes.
Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Amy Jewell, 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 Williston.

Amy Jewell, Secretary