

## MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Commissioners  
From: CSWD Staff  
Date: May 14, 2020  
Re: Program Updates

1. Solid Waste Management Fee (Jon) – From a budget perspective, revenue recognized is 0.7% above budgeted revenues for the first eight months of the fiscal year. Last month saw a 29.3% drop from last April's actuals. We are at 97.5% of the YTD budget and 78.8% percent of the total FY20 adopted budget. Please refer to accompanying charts.
2. Solid Waste Disposed (Nancy) – Trash tonnage through the third quarter of FY20 was up 2.4% compared to the same period of FY19. Of the overall tonnage, the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) component was down 4.2%, the Construction and Demolition Debris portion was up 38.1%, and the Alternative Daily Cover portion (fee is 25% of the full rate) was down 33.7%. The pounds per capita per day MSW disposed was 3.00 through the third quarter of FY20 which is down from 3.15 in the same period of FY19. Please see attached charts.
3. Organics Diversion Facility (Dan) – April food scrap inputs measured 226.3 tons. This is 314.2 tons below the same period last fiscal year and brings our YTD numbers 6.6% below budgeted amounts. This makes April 2020 the lowest food waste month since 2013 and the lowest April since 2011. Tonnages from the big haulers were all down significantly while small haulers that serve mostly residential accounts showed an uptick in tonnages. Usage of the self-serve drop off at the Organics Diversion Facility was up 256% over the 12-month average.

One silver lining to the current pandemic is that the demand for compost and related garden soils is unprecedented. Compost and garden mix sales have far exceeded budget expectations and will result in a very strong finish our ODF revenues for the year – despite the fact that tip fee revenues will be significantly off. Total sales thru May 14<sup>th</sup> totaled \$522,397. This exceeds our FY20 sales budget by \$114,575 or 28%. With more than a month remaining in the fiscal year, the delta between projections and actual sales will continue to grow. ODF staff have done a tremendous job answering the increased demand and fulfilling orders despite all of the additional challenges of operating in this time of significant disruption.

4. Marketing (Alise) Marketing has been busy updating the website as operations and communications to the public change, as well as handling all social media and info@cswd.net questions and comments. Generally, comments have been supportive. Staff created signage for the Williston Drop-Off Center, Green Mountain Compost and the Environmental Depo to reflect new requirements and conditions. The website added 13,672 new visitors during April. Jon Shenton has been hired as CSWD's new Marketing Creative Specialist. Starting May 18 Jon will be applying his 30 years of experience to a wide array of graphic design and communications projects.

*Media Mentions for April:*

- 4.2.20 Milton Independent – [CSWD Milton closure linked to illegal dumping](#)
- 4.8.20 VT Digger - [State recommends delaying food scraps ban, changes to recycling rules](#)
- 4.8.20 VPR - [Chittenden Solid Waste District opposes proposed change to recycling rules](#)
- 4.9.20 E-Scrap News - [Processors react as household collections collapse](#)
- 4.9.20 St. Albans Messenger - [Solid waste district close St. Albans site "until further notice"](#)
- 4.22.20 Milton Independent - [CSWD's Essex site to hold leaf, yard debris collection weekends](#)
- 4.26.20 WCAX - [Vermonters flood CSWD yard debris drop-off after warm weekend](#)

Outreach & Communications (Michele) – Outreach Coordinators (mostly Robin) continued to staff the Hotline remotely and added additional Saturday coverage through April to answer questions and concerns about new COVID-related operations. We've continued to provide print resources, particularly Move In/Move Out packets for landlords, and provide "line-tending" education for customers in line at GMC and DOCs during critical need. Other outreach has been adapted for the new remote, no-contact landscape, including:

- Sales of backyard Soil Saver composting bins and Green Cone digesters via phone orders and appointments for pickup at GMC. We've sold 41 Green Cones and 213 Soil Savers in FY20 as of 5/15.
  - Rhonda and Ethan's Backyard Composting Webinar: <https://youtu.be/5AJvv3vOeRE>. More than 100 people registered, with 60+ attending live on May 13.
  - Michele's quick videos of what is/isn't accepted under COVID DOC restrictions: [https://youtu.be/p57hbN\\_R6qs](https://youtu.be/p57hbN_R6qs), <https://youtu.be/qh49qkuN7bk>
  - Rhonda's Plastic Pollution Prevention Webinar (in partnership with ECHO): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5goB8pU8ug>
  - Rhonda's Zoom classes and Video lessons for students, including this K5 version of a "3R's" series in the works for all K12 ages: <https://youtu.be/vdWU13ISFwc>
  - Ethan has continued to field inquiries from businesses preparing for the July 1 food waste deadline.
5. Compliance (Josh/Jeannine) – Obtained local land use permit from Richmond for lighting upgrades (LED and one additional light) and repositioning of buildings. Working with Operations on potential upgrades at Essex re lighting and reuse of reuse.
6. Hinesburg Drop-Off Center (Josh T, Sarah) –Stewart Construction will be out in late May to complete the final tasks on site to finalize site construction. District staff is finalizing the point-of-sale system and signage. The facility opening has been delayed due to the global pandemic and staff will communicate information as it is made available .

7. Legislation (Jen) – There has been a legislative proposal from ANR to delay the food scrap ban until January 2021 and also to give ANR authority to suspend the landfill ban on applicable waste streams if insufficient markets exist or to protect human health or the environment as a result of a state of emergency declared by the Governor. I testified in the House Natural Resources & Fish and Wildlife committee several weeks ago against the proposal. The committee decided to not take any action at that time. The proposal and discussions have moved over to the Senate Natural Resources Committee where they have been taking testimony this week. Many of the witnesses that support the proposal are using COVID-19 arguments with other reasons, mostly financial, to delay the ban and also allow recyclables to be landfilled.

8. Trends/In the News/What We're Watching –

Recycling Rates: <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2019/12/03/a-closer-look-at-container-and-packaging-recycling-rates/>

Curbside Recycling Study: <https://recyclingpartnership.org/stateofcurbside/>

As Recycling Dwindles, Supply Chains Are Buckling: <https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-05-05/supply-chains-are-buckling-as-coronavirus-hurts-recycling>