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To: Board of Commissioners
From: Sarah Reeves and Jen Holliday
Date: 11/10/22
RE: MRF Bond Election Results and Next Steps

The MRF bond vote was an **enormous** success. Despite the unexpected and significant challenge of not being able to mail our ballot with the General Election ballot, nearly 31,000 Chittenden County voters went to the effort of either requesting our ballot from their town clerk or through the My Voter web page or came out to the polls to vote. Even more impressive was the overwhelming support we received with 82% of the voters that voted in favor of the MRF bond and every member town supporting CSWD on this initiative. We are reassured by these results and filled with much gratitude that our public trusts and supports CSWD and the work we do.

Below are the unofficial results. We are still waiting for a few towns to provide us with the certified results.

	CSWD BOND VOTE ELECTION RESULTS			OTHER INFO	
	YES	NO	TOTAL	# of Registered Voters*	% Registered Voters Voted
Bolton	194	53	247	850	29%
Burlington	6,751	1,051	7,802	34,422	23%
Charlotte	999	182	1,181	3,249	36%
Colchester	1,524	539	2,063	11,963	17%
Essex Town	1,362	367	1,729	8,061	21%
Essex Jct. City	1,264	287	1,551	7,859	20%
Hinesburg	669	143	812	3,611	22%
Huntington	461	114	575	1,601	36%
Jericho	919	184	1,103	4,126	27%
Milton	1,065	441	1,506	8,500	18%
Richmond	1,077	253	1,330	3,351	40%
Saint George	102	37	139	570	24%
Shelburne	2,142	424	2,566	5,984	43%
South Burlington	3,451	663	4,114	16,000	26%
Underhill	599	149	748	2,463	30%
Westford	300	107	407	1,598	25%
Williston	1,425	354	1,779	7,892	23%
Winooski	972	119	1,091	5,212	21%
Total	25,276	5,467	30,743	127,312	24%
PERCENT	82%	18%			

* Secretary of State website August 2022

The Bond Vote Campaign played a pivotal role in the success of this election which focused on effective messaging to get out the vote and the need for a new MRF. Staff worked with Leonine Public Affairs from late May right up to election day across all communication and media channels and provided in-

person presentations and tours to inform voters. In addition, a CSWD MRF website landing page, fact sheet and frequently asked questions were also developed to help educate the public. Below is a summary of these efforts.

CSWD MRF Bond Vote Campaign Summary	
June 1, 2022 - November 8, 2022	
Media Mentions (Television, Radio, Print, Op-Eds, Letters to the Editor)	40
Presentations (Rotary, TEUC, Selectboards, Public Hearing & Public Forums)	20
Front Porch Forum Post (some county wide)	37
Social Media Posts (number only reflects original posts not shared and retweeted)	32
Digital Advertisements: Google and Facebook ads	
Total impressions (June 1 - November 10):	2,224,971
Video Views	459,192
Total Clicks	7,559
Postcard Mailings (2) Total # of voters sent to	107,000
MRF Tours	26

Project Timeline

Finalizing the building design and permitting will start in January 2023. As a reminder, in June the Board approved Van Dyk Recycling Solutions as the equipment provider for the new MRF, and staff will meet with VDRS in December to finalize the contract. The construction contract will be issued in 2023, with the RFPs being developed over the next several months. Groundbreaking and construction will begin in fall 2023 and continue into 2024. Equipment installation will begin in mid- to late 2024 and continue into spring of 2025. Acceptance testing will begin in spring of 2025, with full commissioning of the MRF in late spring 2025. We anticipate the ribbon cutting to occur in July 2025.

Financing

The financing path remains the same as discussed with the Board this summer. CSWD has been approved to borrow up to \$22M, and we will work with the Vt Municipal Bond Bank and the Closed Loop Fund for long-term borrowing needs. Grant funds will be requested from the EPA through the federal Infrastructure law (SWIFR grant program). We are forming a staff committee to produce and submit a grant application for the maximum allowed under the program. We are also finalizing details with The Recycling Partnership for their grant program and will then know “what’s left” to be funded through CSWD capital reserves to complete the funding needed for the \$26M project. If we are awarded an EPA grant, we will strive to offset the amount funded through the Municipal Bond Bank.

Staff is excited to move forward with this project and inspired by our community’s commitment to recycling.