

MEMORANDUM

TO: CSWD Board of Commissioners

FROM: Josh Estey, Director of Compliance and Hazardous Waste

DATE: January 14, 2020

RE: 2020 Rover Schedule

CSWD staff are considering amending the Hazardous Waste Rover schedule for calendar year 2020. Since its inception the Rover has conducted an annual collection event for each member municipality. Historically the ratio of trips at the Depot compared to trips at Rover events was in the 3:1 to 4:1 range. In 2019 that ratio jumped to 7:1. From 2014 to 2019 the Depot has seen a 25% increase in trips. In the same timeframe Rover trips have dropped by 23% (total HHW trips for the District have increased by 16%). To reallocate staff where the need is – at the Depot – staff has come up with two options for a reduced Rover schedule and are presenting those two options here, both for informational purposes and to solicit Board feedback.

Option #1 – 2-Year Rotating Schedule

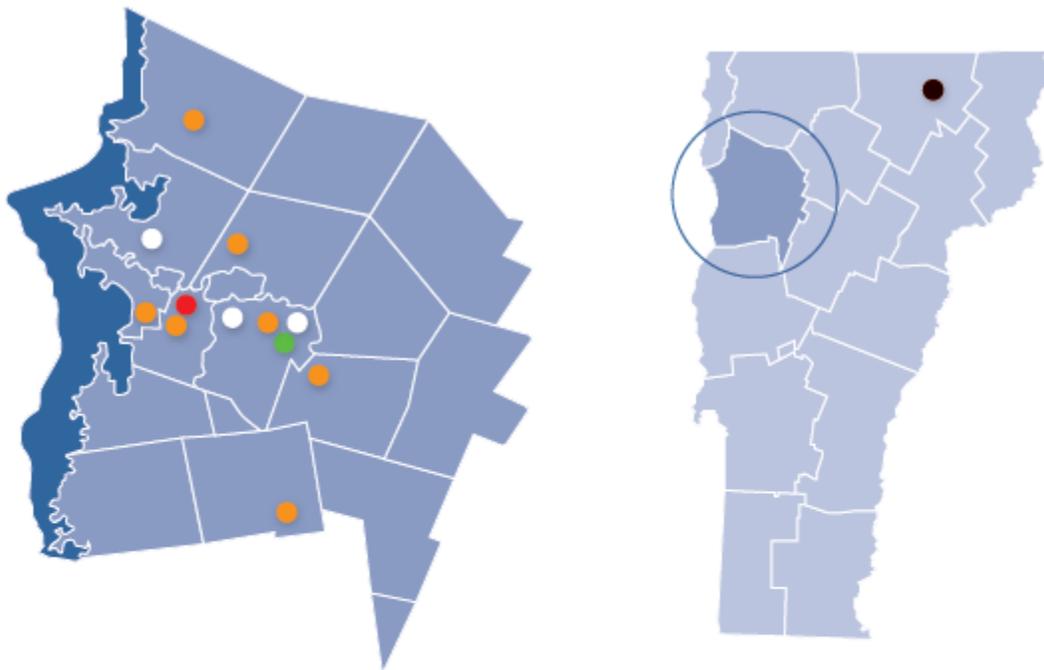
This option would keep Rover events at each member municipality on an every-other-year basis. This schedule would cut the current Rover schedule in half which would free up staffing at the Depot significantly while still delivering a service to each individual municipality. The schedule could be made to avoid weekends on or around major holidays. Considering safety, events could be scheduled to avoid the hottest parts of the summer, reducing the risk significantly for heat-borne illnesses which has increased significantly in the last number of years. The negative that we see with this option is that by cutting the schedule in half, but still visiting each municipality, we are both enabling and encouraging residents to hold onto their HHW for up to two years. There is no incentive to not wait for the Rover to come around under this option.

Option #2 – DOC-Only Schedule

Under this option the Rover would hold two events each year at each one of our six drop-off centers (the Rover does not conduct an event in South Burlington). One event would be held in the Spring and one in the Fall. This schedule would cut the Rover events from 16 to 12. In addition to all the positives listed under Option #1, there are others. For one, the DOCs provide our operators more control over an event since we are always operating at District-owned facilities. Having access to gates, landline communications, heating/cooling options, onsite facilities, etc. are extremely beneficial. Secondly, we would be operating in municipalities where emergency responders are all knowledgeable in our operations. In the event of another emergency/evacuation our first

response would be from agencies intimately familiar with our facilities. Thirdly, by offering an event at the same location multiple times in a year we are providing every resident two dates on which to get rid of their HHW. The last positive, which we think would be an unintended consequence, would be that by sacrificing the proximity of an event to some residents it would further drive up traffic to the Depot which is ultimately where we would like every resident to take their material. Theoretically if a Rover event is slightly less convenient to a particular resident year over year, the convenience of the Depot (open four days a week, generally less queuing time) may outweigh the location.

The map below has been included as a reference to show the geographic distribution of Rover events if Option #2 was selected.



CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

- CSWD DROP-OFF CENTERS
- CSWD ENVIRONMENTAL DEPOT
- GREEN MOUNTAIN COMPOST
- PRIVATELY OWNED TRANSFER STATIONS
- LANDFILL (COVENTRY, VT)