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To: CSWD Board of Commissioners
From: Joshua Estey, Director of Compliance
Date: March 17, 2022
RE: 2022 Rover Schedule

Prior to the 2020 Rover season CSWD staff made the decision, based on some site safety concerns in specific towns and an overall downward trend in utilization, to reduce the number of annual Rover events from 18 to 12 (going from one event annually in each member town to two events at each District-owned Drop-Off Center (DOC)). The move to all District-owned facilities gave Rover staff the site control that is often so critical at mobile collection events. After COVID cancelled the 2020 Rover season and cut the 2021 season in half, six events were held in the second half of 2021. While there was concern that the hiatus was going to result in extreme utilization of the Rover, what staff experienced was a return to mobile collection events that looked a lot like they did right before the pandemic.

Three things have happened since the last Rover event in 2021. First, the Richmond Drop-Off Center closed, eliminating a Rover site; Second, staffing shortages (especially for seasonal workers) have affected the program resulting in a need to manage personnel differently in order to accommodate both a Rover event and regular Saturday appointments at the Depot; and Third, staff heard the desire for the Rover to come back to each town. To satisfy that desire, and in recognition of ongoing staffing challenges, we developed a four-year schedule that would see the Rover visit every member town in rotation:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Milton	Milton	Milton	Milton
Essex	Essex	Essex	Essex
Hinesburg	Hinesburg	Hinesburg	Huntington
Williston	St. George	Charlotte	Shelburne
Richmond	Jericho	Bolton	Underhill
Burlington	Winooski	Colchester	Westford

As shown in the above schedule, the Rover would visit three of the same locations each year serving three geographical regions of the county – Milton (north), Essex (central), and Hinesburg (south) except in year 4, when Hinesburg shifts to Huntington. The other three events each year would rotate

on a four-year basis between the remaining twelve member municipalities. Year two in the schedule above represents the Rover schedule for this calendar year.

While we acknowledge we are losing some of the site control that made the DOC-only schedule so appealing, staff thinks the benefits to returning collection events to each member town balances the safety concerns. Specifically, every municipality has a segment of their population that faces transportation challenges – some more concentrated than others. By returning to a schedule of visiting each town we are better able to serve those populations.

And while four years seems like a long time to wait between events, there is a commonly accepted metric in the household hazardous waste community called generation periodicity. This metric tells us that based on the most common items residents generate, the need for a disposal option pops up only once every 7.4 years*. Obviously, there are exceptions to this rule, and it primarily applies to property owners and not the rental community, but by also holding events in Essex, Milton, and Hinesburg annually, we believe we are serving our communities more than sufficiently (not to mention the year-round Environmental Depot), and in a broader way than the schedule proposed in early 2020.

Specific dates for the six Rover events this year have been made public and are listed below; they have been posted on our website and distributed via our various communication channels. We are excited at the proposition of this new schedule – excited that we can reinstate a much-desired, and much-appreciated, service to our member communities while alleviating some of the staffing challenges that we have experienced in the past and acknowledging the ever-increasing utilization of the Environmental Depot by our customers.

SITE	DAY	DATE	HOURS
MILTON DOC	SAT.	4/30/2022	8AM-330PM
ST. GEORGE TOWN CTR.	SAT.	5/14/2022	8AM-12PM
ESSEX DOC	SAT.	6/4/2022	8AM-330PM
WINOOSKI COMMUNITY CTR.	SAT.	9/10/2022	8AM-12PM
HINESBURG DOC	SAT.	9/24/2022	8AM-330PM
JERICO HIGHWAY GARAGE	SAT.	10/1/2022	8AM-12PM

*This metric was developed in part by David Nightengale, a nationally recognized leader in HHW management whose consulting firm, Special Waste Associates, specializes in working with local HHW collection programs. He worked with several HHW collection facilities and the National Paint Product Stewardship Council (a subset of the Product Stewardship Institute) to develop this metric. I encourage you all to read a write-up about the metric in the November 2020 issue of Waste Advantage Magazine (the following month’s publication discusses CSWD’s program as it relates to the metric and is also recommended).