

# Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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**Board of Supervisors  
Quarterly District Meeting  
Thursday, July 28, 2016  
Springfield Select Board Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Springfield, Vermont**

## MINUTES

Forrest Randall, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### 1. Changes to the agenda

No changes to the agenda were offered although Tom Kennedy did note that George Murray, the consultant hired by the District, would be on the phone to discuss his recently completed report.

### 2. Roll Call

Those Board supervisors present included: Derek Suursoo, Chester; Forrest Randall, Springfield; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Cynthia Gibbs, Grafton; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; David Bemis (alternate), Athens; John Denner (alternate), Ludlow; Bruce McEnaney, Cavendish; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Chip Stearns, Rockingham; and Ed Morris, Weathersfield.

Others present included: Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk and Recycling Coordinator; Bob Forguites, District Treasurer; Jim Toher, Casella Waste; and Lisa Ransom of Grow Compost of Vermont.

A quorum was achieved with twelve towns represented.

### 3. Approve minutes of April 28, 2016 meeting

T. Kenyon made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. D. Suursoo abstained; all others voted in favor.

#### 4. Acceptance of May 2016 Treasurer's Report

B. Forguites explained various aspects of the Budget vs. Actual report. At the end of May, 92% of the way through the fiscal year, the District's income was at 81.8% and expenses were at 78.4%. Income was ahead of expenses by about \$2,800.00 but wouldn't stay that way because of expenses coming up in June, before year end. Also, there is presently a decrease of about \$25,000.00 in tipping fees and there won't be that much received in June to make up all of the decrease. However the Board's budget had anticipated a \$14,000.00 shortfall with a plan to use the reserve fund equity balance to make up that difference. On the Balance Sheet, cash is running higher than normal but that will change by the end of June.

J. Fromberger made a motion to accept the May 2016 Treasurer's Report as presented. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

#### 5. Discussion of composting programs provided by Casella

T. Kennedy explained that due to the requirements of Act 148 Universal Recycling, institutions now have to divert food waste. The Executive Committee knows that the District cannot create a composting facility; Casella and Grow Compost of Vermont came to the meeting to discuss their plans to divert food waste in the SWWC District. J. Toher explained the desirability of creating a hub of businesses to make a food waste pickup route feasible. He noted that it is a volume-generated business. Casella has created an ORF (organics recycling facility) to create a slurry from food scraps to feed an anaerobic digester which in turn generates electricity. L. Ransom talked about the multi-tier nature of her business: food scraps into compost; food scraps sent to an anaerobic digester; and food rescue. Grow Compost goes into schools, businesses, prisons, and hospitals to train people to divert food scraps "cleanly." Her company supplies 48-gallon totes that are exchanged weekly with clean totes. Only food scraps are accepted – no compostable flatware or cups, etc. Presently, Grow Compost works in central Vermont but is planning to expand. The business will take used vegetable oil but not grease trap residue. Vegetable oil should be kept in a separate container. Casella and Grow Compost will do consolidated billing.

J. Toher talked about recyclables being at the whim of the commodities market. Cardboard is coming back up in price but some recycled paper mills are closing down. Glass is a negative contributor to the ACR, so if it's pulled out, the ACR will increase.

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SWWCSWMD

July 28, 2016 minutes

p. 3

## 6. Discussion of Transfer Station Infrastructure Report by George Murray

G. Murray was on the phone; he discussed various aspects of the Report. Weathersfield and Rockingham depend on the Windham Solid Waste District (WSWD) for transportation and processing of their recyclables but WSWD has had financial and service issues and is getting pressure to go to a single-stream system. Cavendish has gone single-stream. G. Murray suggested that the District and Town of Springfield use crushed glass under a concrete slab like Brattleboro did as a demonstration project. Brattleboro's crushed glass is used by concrete contractors for the most part. In Putney, crushed glass has been used instead of sand under sewer and water lines.

G. Murray talked about Springfield's system of weighing every bag of trash and how that could lead to workman compensation cases for repetitive motion injuries. He noted that fees charged are inadequate across the state to cover the true cost of disposal and that revenues are not covering everything that they used to cover. He thinks that WSWD will stop taking dual-stream recycling in the six months, so the District meet with WSWD to determine what their plan is so that Rockingham and Weathersfield don't suddenly find themselves without a place to ship recyclables (as they did when WSWD decided to stop accepting #3-#7 plastics). J. Fromberger stated that the Report will only be useful if the District does something.

G. Murray suggested that the bidding process for the MSW contract start earlier, adding the recyclables component. Lebanon landfill now takes organics but accepting it from a larger area is unknown. For crushed glass, finding an outlet is key. T. Kennedy said that the District is going out to bid in January with a request-for-proposals (RFP) and will see if someone will bid on collecting recyclables. T. Kennedy and the Executive Committee will meet with town managers to discuss the Report and also what WSWD is going to do. B. Forguites agreed with D. Suursoo that the Report doesn't say anything that we didn't already know but that it is good to have it in a report format.

7. Discussion of USDA Grant Award for recycling and composting educational outreach

T. Kennedy described the USDA grant that the District applied for and won.

8. Recycling Coordinator's Report

M. O'Brien spoke about a national trend to divert glass from single-stream recycling because of the havoc it wreaks on equipment at material recovery facilities (MRFs), how it contaminates bales of paper, and how MRF-generated glass is contaminated to the point that most glass recyclers will not buy it.

9. Old Business: none

10. New Business: none

11. Adjourn

At 7:27 p.m., J. Fromberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien  
District Clerk

The next quarterly District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the same location.