

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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**Board of Supervisors
Annual District Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017
Springfield Select Board Hall, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Vermont**

Meeting Minutes

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

1. Changes to the agenda - none

2. Roll Call

Board supervisors present included: Forrest Randall, Springfield; Derek Suursoo, Chester; Cynthia Gibbs, Grafton; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Frank Heald, Ludlow; John Denner, (alternate) Ludlow; Bruce McEnaney, Cavendish; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Gary DeRosia, Rockingham; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; David Bemis, Athens

Others present included: Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Ham Gillett (District Outreach Coordinator), substituting for Mary T. O'Brien (District Clerk and Recycling Coordinator); Bob Forguites, District Treasurer; Jeff Hook and Norm Hook, Jeff's Rubbish Removal; Matt Priestly, ALVA Waste; Jim Toher, Casella Waste; Josh Kelly, VT DEC/ANR

A quorum was achieved with ten towns represented.

3. Approve minutes of July 27, 2017 meeting

F. Heald made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2017 meeting. G. DeRosia seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Acceptance of August 2017 Treasurer's Report

Bob Forguites said the Treasurer's Report will not be presented until the next quarterly meeting.

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5. Discussion of hauling requirements for curbside collection of organics

Tom Kennedy introduced Josh Kelly with a brief explanation for Josh's presence at the meeting.

Josh K. gave background to the Act 148 legislation and an update on potential changes to the law in the upcoming 2018 legislative session. There has been pushback from some haulers regarding the requirements for organics hauling, particularly pertaining to rural residential curbside collection. Due to that pushback, the hauler requirement to offer curbside collection was postponed from July 1, 2017 to a tentative date of July 1, 2018. Some SWWC District haulers were prepared for the 2017 deadline and others were not.

Josh confirmed that the original required "tiers" for commercial organics separation based on tonnage remain in place.

It was pointed out that smaller haulers are already having difficulty adjusting to the recycling regulations and that adding organics collection adds to their financial and logistical burden. Tom Kennedy stated that the District has been promoting backyard composting through its series of workshops.

6. Discussion of potential decline in prices for recyclables

Josh K. briefly described China's recent initiative to reject significant amounts of recyclable material from all other countries which will have a profound effect on material prices. This will cause recyclable processing costs and hauling fees to rise.

It was suggested that the state needs to fully educate the public about this change as it will affect every Vermonter. The haulers will need support from the state in their efforts to deal with customers. Josh K. stated that, to start with, a letter is being sent to all districts regarding the issue.

Other comments included the fact that a number of residential customers are still not recycling; commercial accounts are being lost to competitors who do not require recycling; education from the state regarding Act 148 was late; more help is needed in educating the public about the existing law; there appears to be more roadside dumping of trash and recyclables. On a positive note, Tom Kenyon stated that HHW collections have been a success in terms of keeping materials out of Green Up Day trash.

7. Outreach and Recycling Coordinator's Report

Ham Gillett stated that Mary O'Brien's report would be distributed to all supervisors.

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Ham gave a brief outreach update, focusing on the benefits reaped from the recently ended USDA Rural Development Grant which funded much of the last year's outreach and education to a broad spectrum of District residents and businesses.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business – None

10. Adjourn

At 7:01 p.m., J. Fromberger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. D. Suursoo seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Ham Gillett

For Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk

The next quarterly District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the same location.