

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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Board of Supervisors
Quarterly District Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2015
Springfield Select Board Hall, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Vermont

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. Chair Forrest Randall called for additions to the agenda. Ham Gillett, Outreach Coordinator, asked to present a report.

1. Roll Call

Board members present included: F. Randall, Joe Fromberger, Frank Heald, Tom Kenyon, Wayne Wheelock, Gary DeRosia, Cynthia Gibbs, Derek Suursoo, and Chip Stearns. Also present: Tom Kennedy, District Manager; Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk; Ham Gillett, District Outreach Coordinator; and Jim Toher and Randy Dapron of Casella. Eight of thirteen towns in the District were represented - a quorum was established.

2. Discussion of recycling markets and Act 148 with Casella Waste

R. Dapron and J. Toher, both market area managers for Casella, spoke about the current state of recycling markets. J. Toher stated that recycling markets are "in a desperate state." Prices are down because supply and demand and increased transportation costs. Three mills in the Northeast have closed recently so there's a backlog of material to be processed by the remaining mills. So, they can increase prices and reject loads because of contamination. Newspaper volume has dropped. Previously, China had been accepting 80-90% of U.S. fibers but now they're building their own MRFs and supplying them.

Three glass recycling facilities have closed recently. Plastics prices have dropped because the price of petroleum has dropped. The average commodity revenue (ACR) was \$100/ton in 2006, dropped to \$50/ton in 2008 and went back up before dropping and leveling off at the 2006 rate. Casella believes that prices will drop again. Even baled, source-separated commodities prices will drop. Therefore, how do we continue to promote recycling in a state that says it's "free?" J. Toher explained that Cavendish is under an ACR formula. Casella charges an \$80/ton for processing ZeroSort. If there is revenue available after the processing cost is applied, Casella splits the revenue 50/50; presently, Casella gets \$10/ton and \$10/ton goes to Cavendish.

Question about Act 148: T. Kenyon asked about the requirement for parallel collection. J. Toher explained that Act 148 doesn't require that municipal solid waste (MS) and recycling be picked up at the same time. He also explained the variable-rate pricing concept. R. Dapron described the food waste processing facility being built in West Rutland by Casella. It should be operational in three months and will have an initial capacity of handling 27 tons/week. Casella received a grant for \$140,000 which covers the construction costs but not the additional \$20,000 for equipment. Casella will charge \$30-\$40/ton to accept the food waste plus \$30/ton to transport it to the facility.

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3. Approve Minutes of July 24, 2014 Meeting

F. Heald made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2014 meeting as presented. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor. J. Fromberger made motion to accept the record of the October 23, 2014 meeting as presented. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

4. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

B. Forguites was not present but T. Kennedy read Mr. Forguites' comments on the November 30, 2014 District financials as follows: "On the 'Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual' the percentage of Budget as of November 30th should be approximately 42%. Total Income is 40.2% and Total Expense is 39.1% so in both cases they are very close to average. The exceptions to the average are: #4003 – 'Pesticide Reimbursement' (amount depends upon State reimbursement); #6168 – 'Audit – Compilation' (expense comes early in the year and has a small installment still to be paid); #6633 – 'Compliance Investigator' (line item added to budget after it was drafted). As usual, the line item to watch is #4004 – 'Tip Fee Surcharge Regional' because that is the chief source of revenue for the District. As of November 30th is was at 44.4%."

"On the 'Balance Sheet' the District had a Checking Account balance of \$53,124.85 and a total Checking/Savings balance of \$499,897.39 as of November 30th. These balances are within the average balances for the District. Other line items on the Balance Sheet are normal and the Total Equity is \$109,305.66."

F. Heald made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

a) Ratify Casella Contract

T. Kennedy stated that he had forgotten to ask the Board at the July meeting to ratify Casella's amended contract, and at the October meeting there wasn't a quorum. The contract year is July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. This is the last year that the contract can be extended so the District will go out to bid in the spring. There is an escalator for fuel costs but the contract is silent on a decrease in fuel costs. G. DeRosia made a motion to ratify the Casella contract for the period beginning on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2015. F. Heald seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

b) Distribute draft FY14 Audit

T. Kennedy discussed some of the highlights of the audit. It was a "clean" audit. In the Management Letter on page three, T. Kennedy pointed out that the net income in 2014 was \$18,496.00; the program costs had increased from \$177,142 to \$182,964; and the fund balance had increased from \$118,000 to \$137,000. The capital reserve fund was at \$379,193.00. There were no issues associated with the audit. T. Kennedy asked the supervisors to vote on the audit at their next meeting, after they have had a chance to read it.

5. Tonnage Report

T. Kennedy stated that the District is having trouble getting haulers to report. The District is on par with where it was last year.

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6. Recycling Coordinator's Report

M. O'Brien talked about PaintCare offering to hold a one-day collection in our region because there are no retailers participating in the program between Springfield and Brattleboro. G. DeRosia suggested Westminster Central School as a possible site. C. Stearns said that possibly he could help the District find a new site in Rockingham for a household hazardous waste collection this year.

H. Gillett discussed the work he's been doing with businesses and schools to explain Act 148 Universal Recycling. He is meeting with select boards to answer questions about towns' responsibilities for complying with Act 148.

7. Discussion of Unit Based Pricing Ordinance

F. Heald asked about the ordinance adoption process as described in the District charter. J. Fromberger said that it was a 60-day period. T. Kennedy explained the requirement of Act 148 for haulers and transfer stations to charge by volume or weight for trash. He discussed the draft version of the UBP ordinance before the Board. He asked the Board's permission to send the draft to all the towns' select boards.

J. Fromberger made a motion to approve the draft District unit-based pricing ordinance as presented and instructed the staff to send the draft ordinance to the District towns for comments. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. All voted in favor. C. Stearns asked if a town could adopt its own UBP ordinance. T. Kennedy noted that he was told by counsel that towns can create their own ordinance if they want it to be stricter than the District's ordinance.

8. Discussion of Solid Waste Implementation Plan

T. Kennedy explained that solid waste district, alliance, group, and independent town has to have a SWIP. The District submitted its SWIP in December 2014 to the State for review.

9. Discussion of proposed schedule of recycling and waste disposal RFP

T. Kennedy stated that another request for proposals (RFP) for trash hauling needs to be sent out; it will include a recycling provision as well. He suggested that it be for single- and dual-stream facilities. Those facilities that are doing source-separated recycling have a relationship with the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRA). There will be two parts in the RFP. Are we going to allow haulers to bid on one or the other part or will they have to bid on both? J. Fromberger asked if that is permitted under the law. D. Suursoo and T. Kenyon like the idea of casting as wide a net as possible. F. Heald said that there is a hauler rate in the contract for independent haulers. T. Kennedy said he'd throw it in. C. Stearns suggested asking one or two or both.

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T. Kennedy said that a draft of the RFP would be sent to the Executive Committee for their February 9 meeting; they will send their comments to the full Board by the end of February. The release date of the RFP will be in mid- to late March and interested parties will have a month to respond.

10. Old Business - None

11. New Business

a) The Vermont League of Cities and Towns is hosting a workshop on Act 148 Universal Recycling on January 28 for municipalities.

b) The District is hosting a meeting for towns and haulers with Josh Kelly from the Agency of Natural Resources as speaker on February 19 in Hartland or Weathersfield. A flyer will be sent out about it next week.

12. Adjourn

At 7:40 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien
District Clerk

The next quarterly District meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., same location.