

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org

Board of Supervisors Public Meeting Thursday, July 22, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting (held remotely via Zoom, and in-person at Ascutney Professional Building)
due to COVID-19 pandemic

Meeting Minutes

At 5:00 p.m., Jeff Mobus, Chair, called the meeting to order.

1. Additions to the Agenda

Derek Suursoo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Jim Peplau seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

2. Roll Call

Those supervisors and alternates present via Zoom included: Joe Fromberger (Andover), Rebecca Lomachinsky (Baltimore), Derek Suursoo, (Chester), Scott Murphy (Ludlow), Jim Peplau (Reading), Scott Pickup (Rockingham), Jeff Mobus (Springfield), Brandon Gulnick, (Weathersfield and proxy for Reading), Paul Tillman, alternate (Weathersfield). Also present via Zoom: Matt Priestley, Alva Waste, and Julia Cavicchi and Abe Noe-Hays of Rich Earth Institute.

Those supervisors and the alternate present in-person included: David Bemis (Athens), Jay Blodgett, alternate (Chester), Cynthia Gibbs (Grafton), and Tom Kenyon (West Windsor). Also present in-person: Tom Kennedy, District Manager, and Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk and Recycling Coordinator.

Eleven towns were represented, and a quorum established.

3. Approve minutes of May 13, 2021 meeting

D. Suursoo made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021 meeting with two corrections. J. Peplau seconded the motion. D. Suursoo noted that on page two, Chester's alternate, Jay Blodgett, should have been included as present. D. Suursoo also noted that on page four, the second paragraph should reflect weighted voting with sixteen votes for the motion to award the three-year District contract to Casella Waste and fifteen weighted votes against the motion, with one abstention. All voted in favor of approving the minutes with the corrections; the motion carried.

4. Acceptance of May 2021 Treasurer's Report

D. Bemis made a motion to accept the May 2021 Treasurer's Report. T. Kenyon seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

- a. Approve closing the Peoples United Bank checking account and open a new checking account with Mascoma Bank with internet banking

J. Fromberger made a motion to approve closing the Peoples United Bank checking account and to open a new checking account with Mascoma Bank with internet banking. J. Peplau seconded the motion. T. Kennedy noted that this action was proposed for ease of administration, geographical closeness and for the option of internet banking. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

- b. Resolution to designate signers for all accounts (Claremont Savings Bank and Mascoma Bank)

P. Tillman made a motion to designate Jeff Mobus, Chair, Darlene Kelly, Treasurer, and Brandon Gulnick, Executive Committee member, as signers for the bank accounts. J. Peplau seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

5. Discussion and Approval of Facility's Management Plan

T. Kennedy explained that the three agenda items (#s 5, 6, and 7) were all mandated to obtain the State permit for the District's proposed permanent household hazardous waste facility in Springfield. The facility will need a variance for encroaching on the State's right-of-way by 3-4 feet, which is likely to be granted. J. Peplau made a motion to approve the proposed HHW facility's management plan. R. Lomachinsky seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

6. Discussion and Approval of Lease Agreement with Alva Waste Management

T. Kennedy stated that the lease agreement was developed originally by the District's attorney. T. Kennedy thanked J. Fromberger for his review and comments on the lease. J. Fromberger made a motion to approve the lease. J. Peplau seconded the motion. T. Kennedy noted that because of the use of grant funds, the State requires a minimum of a ten-year lease. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

7. Approval of Closeout Letter

T. Kennedy stated that because the District is a municipality, it doesn't have to escrow funds for closure (\$40,000) of the proposed HHW facility. J. Peplau made a motion to approve the closeout letter. T. Kenyon seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

8. Add installation of a biosolid dehumidification system at the Bellows Falls Sewage Treatment to the SWIP. Testimony was taken at the May 2021 Board meeting.

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D. Suursoo made a motion to add the installation of a biosolid dehumidification system at the Bellows Falls Sewage Treatment to the District's Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP). J. Peplau seconded motion. No discussion. All voted in favor; the motion carried.

9. Petition for Inclusion in SWIP of a Rich Earth Institute Urine Storage Depot at Rockingham/Westminster Recycling Center

A. Noe-Hays gave a presentation on Rich Earth Institute's proposal to add a urine storage depot at the Rockingham/Westminster Recycling Center and Transfer Station. He said that Rich Earth is currently the only community-scale business of its kind in the United States. The original site has been in Brattleboro since 2011 with 180 participants at present. The organization is funded in several ways: through government research monies, charitable and participant donations, and the rental of portable toilets. After minimal processing, the urine is given to farmers as fertilizer. Rich Earth provides an economic service and the process functions as pollution prevention. A. Noe-Hays suggested visiting www.richearthinstitute.org for more information.

10. Update on May 25, 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection

M. O'Brien stated that there had been 335 participants. Thanks to hiring an experienced flagger working with several volunteers, the traffic was kept off Fairground Road. The fall collection will be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Springfield Transfer Station.

11. Old Business – none

12. New Business

T. Kennedy stated that at a recent Executive Committee meeting, the members concurred that the District would try to continue to hold hybrid meetings, i.e., representatives could participate remotely via Zoom, or in-person. Both Executive Committee and quarterly District meetings will be hybrid. The District meetings will continue to begin at 5:00 p.m. T. Kennedy encouraged Board members to respond when asked to RSVP. J. Mobus thanked everyone.

At 5:51 p.m., P. Tillman made a motion to adjourn. J. Peplau seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien
District Clerk

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