

Southern Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District



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Board of Supervisors Public Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Remotely held due to COVID-19 pandemic

Public Hearing on FY22 Budget and Work Plan

Joe Fromberger, District Chair, opened the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. Tom Kennedy, District Manager, explained details of the FY22 Budget. J. Fromberger asked for questions or comments from members of the public. Hearing none, he asked T. Kennedy to discuss the FY22 Work Plan, which he proceeded to do. J. Fromberger asked again for questions or comments from members of the public. There were none. At 6:15 p.m., J. Fromberger closed the Public Hearing.

Second Public Hearing on Draft 2021-2026 Draft Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

Joe Fromberger, District Chair, opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. T. Kennedy explained the two purposes of the District's SWIP:

1. It lays out the rules of procedure for facilities that want to be accepted in to the SWIP, and
2. It describes the District's obligations to the State of Vermont and how the District will fulfill them, for example, the Universal Recycling law and other solid waste laws.

T. Kennedy noted that this is the second and final public hearing for the 2021-2026 SWIP.

J. Fromberger asked for comments or questions from the public. Hearing none, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

At 6:20 p.m., J. Fromberger called the meeting to order.

1. Additions to the Agenda

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

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2. Roll Call

Those supervisors and alternates present on the call included: Joe Fromberger (Andover), Rebecca Lomachinsky (Baltimore), Bruce McEnaney (Cavendish), Brendan McNamara, alternate (Cavendish), 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), and Tom Marsh (Windsor). Also present: Tom Kennedy, District Manager, Mary T. O'Brien, District Clerk and Recycling Coordinator, Jim Toher, Casella Waste, Matt Priestley, Alva Waste, Shelagh Connelly, President, Resource Management, Inc., April Sargent, Project Assistant, Resource Management, Inc., and Robert Wheeler, Chief Operator, Bellows Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Ten towns were represented, and a quorum established.

3. Election of Executive Committee: Officers and Three (3) Exec. Committee Representatives *Currently serving: Chair – Joe Fromberger; Vice-Chair – vacant; At-large – Bruce McEnaney, Scott Murphy, and Derek Suursoo*

J. Fromberger asked T. Kennedy to conduct the election for Chair. T. Kennedy subsequently asked for nominations for Chair. D. Suursoo made a motion to nominate J. Fromberger as Chair. T. Kennedy asked if there were any other nominations. T. Marsh made a motion to nominate J. Mobus as Chair. Nominations were closed. T. Kennedy called for a vote. Four towns voted for J. Fromberger; six towns voted for J. Mobus. J. Mobus was elected Chair and began running the meeting.

B. McEnaney nominated B. Gulnick for Vice-Chair. S. Murphy nominated D. Suursoo for Vice-Chair. J. Mobus asked for other nominations. Hearing none, he closed the nominations and called for a vote. Five towns voted for B. Gulnick; five towns voted for D. Suursoo. J. Fromberger stated that there is no weighted voting in elections and that tie votes are considered non-effective (i.e., as if there had not been a vote). Therefore, J. Mobus called for another vote to see if anyone would switch their vote.

B. Gulnick nominated T. Marsh for Vice-Chair. T. Marsh nominated B. Gulnick for Vice-Chair. D. Suursoo nominated J. Fromberger for Vice-Chair. J. Mobus asked for more nominations. Hearing none, he called for a vote. One town voted for T. Marsh; four towns voted for B. Gulnick; five towns voted for J. Fromberger. J. Fromberger was elected Vice-Chair.

J. Mobus stated that there would now be the election of the three at-large members of the Executive Committee. J. Fromberger nominated the current slate of at-large members: S. Murphy, B. McEnaney, and D. Suursoo. J. Mobus asked if there were any other nominations. T. Marsh nominated B. McEnaney, S. Murphy, and B. Gulnick. Hearing no other nominations, the members voted. Five towns voted for S. Murphy, B. McEnaney, and D. Suursoo. Five towns voted for B. McEnaney, S. Murphy, and B. Gulnick. Tie vote. J. Mobus called for another vote. Four towns voted for B. McEnaney, S. Murphy, and D. Suursoo. Six towns voted for B. McEnaney, S. Murphy, and B.

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Gulnick, J. Mobus congratulated B. McEnaney, S. Murphy, and B. Gulnick on being elected as at-large members.

Appointment of Clerk and Treasurer

Currently serving: Clerk – Mary T. O'Brien; Treasurer – Darlene Kelly

B. McEnaney made a motion to appoint Mary T. O'Brien as Clerk. S. Murphy seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor. B. McEnaney made a motion to appoint Darlene Kelly as Treasurer. S. Murphy seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor.

4. Discussion and Approval of Three-Year Contract for Trash Hauling Services for the Five (5) Municipal Transfer Stations in the District.

S. Murphy made a motion to award the three-year contract to Casella Waste. Not hearing a second, J. Mobus asked if there was another motion. D. Suursoo made a motion to award the three-year contract to Alva Waste. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. S. Murphy asked why members were not accepting the Executive Committee's recommendation of Casella Waste. B. Gulnick responded that Alva Waste is the less expensive option for Weathersfield. J. Mobus concurred that that was also true for Springfield. D. Suursoo stated that since Chester is tied financially to the Springfield Transfer Station, he would also have to vote for Alva. J. Fromberger cautioned the Board to remember that the Executive Committee negotiated on behalf of the entire District, not for individual towns.

J. Mobus noted that it was his understanding that any town could choose to not accept the contracted company. J. Fromberger confirmed that that is true but that the negotiation was for the District as a whole. S. Murphy asked for T. Kennedy to comment on the situation. T. Kennedy stated that historically the District has only received one or two responses to the request-for-proposals (RFPs). He likes doing things as a District. He understands that pricing may change if towns choose to contract with the waste haulers individually. P. Tillman asked for a definition of why either hauler is better for the District. T. Kennedy replied that the difference between the two bids boils down to the distances trucks have to travel from the various transfer stations. J. Fromberger noted that if the District does not contract with Casella, individual towns will be at a disadvantage. S. Murphy stated that Casella currently has a depth of resources that Alva does not have yet. B. Gulnick asked for input from towns that were at the Executive Committee meeting when the recommendation to contract with Casella was made. J. Toher and M. Priestley both spoke on behalf of their respective companies.

S. Murphy called the vote. J. Mobus repeated the motion on the floor as being to award the three-year District contract to Alva Waste. He called on T. Kennedy to do a roll call for the vote. Six towns voted against the motion; four towns voted in favor; one town abstained. The motion failed. S.

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Murphy made a motion to award the three-year District contract to Casella Waste. J. Fromberger seconded the motion. D. Suursoo noted that votes on contracts should be weighted. J. Fromberger confirmed that, except for elections, the voting is weighted. T. Kennedy stated that with weighted voting, there were sixteen votes against the motion, and fifteen for the motion. The motion failed with weighted voting as well.

J. Mobus repeated the motion on the floor as being a motion to award the three-year District contract to Casella Waste. He called for a vote. Six towns voted for the motion; three towns voted against the motion; one town abstained. The motion carried; Casella Waste was awarded the District's three-year contract.

5. Discussion and Approval of FY22 Budget and Work Program

S. Murphy made a motion to approve both the FY22 budget and FY22 work plan as presented. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor.

6. Discussion and Approval of FY22 Contract with Mount Ascutney Regional Commission

T. Kennedy noted that the proposed contract is the same as last year's with a few minor changes: the dates, the name change from Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission to Mount Ascutney Regional Commission, and the notice of termination from 15 to 60 days. D. Suursoo made a motion to approve the contract. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor.

T. Kennedy asked if the Board would allow the discussion of the Bellows Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility's pilot installation to move up on the agenda because the speakers had been waiting for an hour to give their presentation. No objections were voiced.

7. Discussion and Approval (for SWIP) of Bellows Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility Adding a Pilot Installation of a Biosolids Dehumidification System

A. Sargent answered various questions about the biosolids. S. Connelly stated that the biosolids are required to meet federal standards. The nine-month pilot project is almost ended. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is ready to approve the permit for the project. J. Fromberger made a motion to approve adding the Class A dried biosolids system in the footprint of the Bellows Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility to the District's SWIP. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor. The motion carried.

8. Discussion and Approval of the 2021-2026 Solid Waste Implementation Plan (SWIP)

B. McEnaney made a motion to approve 2021-2026 Solid Waste Implementation Plan. D. Suursoo seconded the motion. S. Murphy asked if the SWIP would include the new system at the Bellows Falls Wastewater Treatment Facility. T. Kennedy affirmed that it would, with an amendment. All voted in favor. The motion passed.

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9. Approve Minutes of January 28, 2021 Meeting

D. Suursoo made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting as presented. S. Murphy seconded the motion. No discussion. All voted in favor.

10. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

D. Suursoo made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. B. McEnaney seconded the motion. J. Fromberger noted that he had not received the Treasurer's Report. J. Fromberger abstained; all others voted in favor. The motion carried.

11. Update on HHW Collections and Permanent Facility

T. Kennedy stated that the next HHW collection will be held on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 with a second event tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 21. He noted that the permitting process for the permanent HHW facility is taking longer than he had anticipated. T. Kennedy has already submitted numerous draft documents to the State for a preliminary review. He will have the Executive Committee review them and then send them to the full Board.

12. Old Business - none

13. New Business - none

14. Adjourn

At 7:49 p.m., D. Suursoo made a motion to adjourn. B. McEnaney seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. O'Brien
District Clerk

