



Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Bridgewater • Hartland • Norwich • Pomfret • Sharon • Strafford • Thetford • Vershire • West Fairlee • Woodstock
PO Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030 • (802) 674-4474 • www.guvswd.org

[Final]

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

4:30 PM

Norwich Town Hall

Norwich, VT

Board members present: Steve Willbanks (Strafford), Lynn Bertram (Bridgewater), Mary Gavin (Sharon), Dave Ormiston (Hartland), Jim Masland (Thetford), Neil Fulton (Norwich), Gene Craft (Vershire)
Staff present: Tom Kennedy and Ham Gillett

Neil Fulton asked if there were any additions to the agenda. None

1. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2018

Steve Willbanks made a motion to approve the minutes; Mary Gavin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

2. Receive the May 2018 Treasurer's Report

Tom Kennedy reviewed the FY 2018 (July 1-June 30) financials with the Board, beginning with the Profit and Loss statement. He stated that income for FY 2018 was \$695,962.23, which was \$20,703.23 more than budgeted. Reimbursement for pesticides from the VT Department of Agriculture and the sale of composters were the two income items that exceeded the original budget. Mr. Kennedy credited the compost sales to Ham Gillett's excellent outreach and training efforts. Expenditures for FY 2018 were \$680,081.65, which was \$8,513.65 more than budgeted. The major outliers on the expense side were solid waste auditor costs and compost and recycling bin expenses. The District ended the year with a net income of \$15,880.58. Mr. Kennedy also highlighted the following items that were not budgeted: costs associated with the construction of the compost facility, the lease option for the proposed solar facility which Green Mountain Power decided to not construct, and the sale of the former office building on Mill Street. The District ended FY 2018 with a net income of \$128,242.78. On the Balance Sheet, Mr. Kennedy stated the District's cash position of \$254,802.84 on June 30, 2018. The receivables were high due to end of the FY 2018 billing, but Mr. Kennedy has no concerns and reported that the District had a good strong fiscal year, overall.

Mary Gavin made a motion to receive the Treasurer's Report; Steve Willbanks seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

3. New Business

Compost Facility Expansion

Tom Kennedy reported that the Administrative Committee met with Grow Compost and advisor, Lawrence Miller to discuss the feasibility of the District creating a facility for the collection and transfer of packaged food products from regional grocery stores. Grow Compost would contract with a large dairy farm in Maine that has contracts with Hannaford grocery stores. Grow Compost would collect material from these stores and load the material into a trailer in North Hartland. The packaged material would then be transferred to a de-packaging facility and then to an anaerobic digester, both currently sited on the farm. This project has two important aspects: 1) it would begin to address the issue of dealing with packaged foods in Vermont. Packaged food will be banned from the landfill beginning in 2020. 2) De-packaging of the materials is an expensive process due to the labor cost associated with manually removing the packaged materials, or the cost of purchasing a de-packager for an estimated \$300K to \$600K. The Administrative Committee is in the early stages of discussing contract terms with Grow Compost. The Board of Supervisors is interested in the project and directed the Administrative Committee to continue their discussions with Grow Compost.

Related to this potential endeavor, Tom Kennedy told the Board that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has issued a grant proposal for new or expanding food scrap processing projects. The total grant amount is \$975,000.00 with a maximum of \$500,000.00 available per project. The grant has a 60% cash match requirement. Mr. Kennedy asked the Board for permission to apply for up to \$250,000.00 in grant funds for the construction of an organics transfer station. He stated that the District is under no obligation to take the funds if the grant application were successful. If the District decided not to move forward with the project, the District would notify DEC that they were withdrawing the application.

Lynn Bertram made a motion for the District Manager to prepare a grant application for \$250,000.00 for the construction of an organics transfer facility and to authorize the Chair to sign the application.

Mary Gavin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Discussion of Storm Water Issues

Mr. Kennedy reported that the regional storm water coordinator informed him that an operational stormwater permit is required at the North Hartland compost facility site.

In addition, the District has had an ongoing erosion problem on one of its crop fields located on Mill Street. The erosion issue is growing worse and Tom Kennedy would like assistance from a stormwater specialist in addressing both of these issues. He highly recommended Evan Fitzgerald, having worked with Mr. Fitzgerald on a number of projects. Mary Gavin made a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the contract with Fitzgerald Associates; Lynn Bertram seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Recycling Coordinator's Report

Ham Gillett distributed his report to the Board members and summarized the contents. (See attached.) The Chair complimented Ham on his report.

5. Old Business

None

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Kennedy



Greater Upper Valley Solid Waste Management District

Bridgewater · Hartland · Norwich · Pomfret · Sharon · Strafford · Thetford · Vershire · West Fairlee · Woodstock
PO Box 320, Ascutney, VT 05030 · (802) 674-4474 · www.guvswd.org

Recycling Coordinator's Report

September 19, 2018

Household Hazardous Waste and Special Collections

GUV collaborated with the Town of Hartford again for an August 4 HHW collection at the Hartford Transfer Station. 73 GUV residents and 68 Hartford residents participated. This was the first time we have held a summer collection event. We are undecided whether this is a good time of year for such an event, given the relatively low turnout.

Speaking of low turnouts, our collaboration with Central VT SWMD August 11 HHW event in Bradford yielded participation by 12 GUV households. This turnout was in spite of A-frame signs, posters, list serve, website, town newsletter, and Facebook postings. In 2019 we will hold a fall event in Thetford (location TBD) which will fulfill the 15 mile radius requirement for Vershire and West Fairlee as well as Thetford, Norwich, and Strafford.

Our final 2018 HHW collection was held at the Woodstock Town Garage on September 15, with 74 GUV and 13 Hartford participants. It was evident than many people are doing large clean outs of material that has been stored for years. 55 of those households had never previously participated in a HHW collection. This is great news for our local environment, indicating that proper disposal is increasingly on the minds of residents and businesses alike.

We held a BIG trash, electronics, scrap metal, and bulb collection at the Hartland Elementary School on September 8. 25 households participated after promotion with A-frame signs, posters, school newsletters, website, Facebook, and list serves. Although GUV attempts to site these collections in every district town we believe that some locations may not be worth the time and expense. The low attendance on the 8th might indicate that Hartland's close proximity to the Hartford Transfer Station eliminates the need for another special collection there.

Other Outreach

- Circulated battery recycling A-frame between Strafford, Thetford, and Norwich facilities resulting in noticeable increase in battery drop-off
- Assisting new Norwich transfer station manager, Paul Albee, with recycling rules and regulations
- Organized initial battery taping and packing at Norwich Transfer Station by Norwich Energy Committee
- Retrained Woodstock Pharmacy staff member in proper battery preparation
- Established and promoted battery recycling in 5 gallon bucket outside of Sharon town office building. This was based on a similar highly successful system at Damon Hall in Hartland and the Windsor municipal building.
- Arranged for battery bucket to be placed at Bridgewater Town Garage
- Working on bucket placement at Pomfret Town Hall. This will mean that every GUV town now has a battery drop-off location, which will keep more batteries from the landfill.
- Prompted Strafford and Thetford recycling center staff to increase food scrap pick up by Cookeville Compost during warm weather (maggots and stench.)
- Site visit to Grow Compost/GUV facility
- Met with Grow Compost staff re. school food scrap collection procedures and collaboration
- Met with Hartland ES re. food scrap separation/composting. Delivered 10 classroom food scrap buckets
- Called all GUV school nurses re. mercury containing blood pressure cuffs at request of ANR

Professional Development

- Read Resource Recycling and Municipal Solid Waste magazines
- Attended ANR school outreach meeting in Montpelier
- Attended Recycling Summit at DHMC
- Phone call-in for Universal Recycling Law stakeholders meeting and VT Product Stewardship Council meeting
- Phone call w/ USDA Rural Development following grant proposal rejection in order to increase chances of future grant awards
- Researched possibility of hosting a GUV “Repair Café”

Other

- VT Call2Recycle Battery Challenge from 9/6 to 12/31. This is a competition between solid waste districts to increase battery recycling.
- From Waste Today Magazine: "Last year, the citizens of Vermont were the country's most engaged battery recyclers because the state was the first to adopt a producer-funded stewardship plan. Vermont's population is only 0.2 percent of the contiguous U.S. (623,657), but its residents recycled 134,500 pounds of batteries—roughly 880 percent more batteries than expected."