

CVSWMD – Community Services Project – Advisory Committee – November 30, 2016 Meeting Notes

Participants: Rob LaClair – Barre Town; John Brabant – Calais; Seth Gardner – East Montpelier; Carl Etnier – East Montpelier; Jon Jewett – Hardwick; Liz Scharf - Middlesex; Betsy Ziegler – Plainfield; Jessica Martin – Williamstown. CVSWMD Staff: Cathleen Gent, Bruce Westcott

Recap from Materials Sent in Advance of Meeting

Cathleen and Bruce briefly reviewed the materials sent out to committee members earlier in November. Liz Scharf noted that her name was not included in the August 30 meeting notes. The advisory committee posed questions to staff about programs, Act 148 requirements, and potential services and offered individual ideas about CVSWMD programs, solid waste district governance, and recyclable materials.

Voter Survey – Barre Town

Rob LaClair shared the results of a survey conducted by Barre Town outside the polling area on November 8 (voting day). Representatives from other towns indicated an interest in doing similar surveys in their towns. Cathleen will get a copy of the Barre Town survey from Assistant Town Manager Elaine Wang and distribute it to the full committee.

Top Priorities for CVSWMD Programs in 5 to 10 Years

The advisory committee reviewed the summary priority sheets distributed previously by staff and then engaged in a process of writing down the top three and the lowest three priorities for two questions: solid waste challenges faced by the region over the next 10 years and how CVSWMD should address those challenges. *[A summary of priorities for both questions is attached.]*

The committee discussed the challenges associated with doing long-range planning when CVSWMD has no assurance that member municipalities will remain with the district, based on state statutes overseeing governance. Several members brought up the effect of weight-based voting within CVSWMD governance, since larger municipalities may have different perspectives. There was committee consensus that CVSWMD should accept materials (for a fee) from out-of-district residents.

Elements in CVSWMD Plans

Cathleen briefly discussed the general concepts for rural/core areas, types of services, and materials collected. Committee members individually completed a “Paying for CVSWMD Services” questionnaire, indicating what they would be willing to pay to recycle specific hard-to-recycle materials or Household Hazardous Waste. *[A summary of responses is attached.]*

Next Steps and Wrap Up

The Advisory Committee agreed to meet one more time to review specific program plans, with cost estimates, based on the priorities articulated by the committee to date. Staff will follow up with dates.

