

Minutes

CVSWMD Program Oversight Committee (POC)

CVSWMD Office, 137 Barre Street, Montpelier, VT

Monday, July 20, 2015

1. Convene meeting: Lee Cattaneo convened the meeting at 5:02 PM with committee members Gerhard Postpischil, Mia Moore, Anita Krauth, and Laura Zeisel along with Cathleen Gent (Planning Analyst) and Carl Witke (Operations Manager). Ellen Gershun was absent. Cathleen Gent took notes.
2. Approve Meeting Minutes – June 3 – *Anita Krauth made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Laura Zeisel. The minutes were approved unanimously.*
3. ARCC FY16/Short-Term Plan – Cathleen Gent and Carl Witke presented an overview of the FY16 ARCC plan, which includes a mission statement, goals and objectives for the year. Carl Witke pointed out that the plan provides a formal set of benchmarks and milestones for staff to meet during the year. Lee Cattaneo asked about the previous Styrofoam initiative. Carl Witke discussed the reasons why staff did not pursue the purchase of a densifying machine last year (staff time for processing materials and space limitations). He also said that CVSWMD unsuccessfully applied for a grant from the National Food Packaging Association earlier this year. Cathleen Gent added that staff will evaluate the purchase of a densifier as part of the FY16 plan. The POC commented on specific objectives. Lee Cattaneo requested that additional information be added to the “Maintain Education Program and Plan for Expanded Future Role” objective regarding the current range of volunteer opportunities at the ARCC. The POC discussed FY15 materials tonnage. The POC had a general discussion about the mission of CVSWMD. *Laura Zeisel made a motion, seconded by Anita Krauth, to recommend the ARCC FY16/Short-Term Plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption, with an expanded education program objective. The motion passed unanimously.* Carl Witke left at this time.
4. Facility Planning Update – Cathleen Gent briefly reviewed her memo dated July 16, 2015 regarding facility planning activities. The POC discussed the draft Outreach Plan for Expanded Facility. Laura Zeisel said that she met with the Plainfield Selectboard last month and plans to provide updates to the town every 3-4 months, to keep town officials informed about the progress. Mia Moore suggested that Board members should serve as ambassadors for CVSWMD’s work in general and for the facility, since they are members of the community. She suggested that the Board members post social media messages and email neighbors and friends about CVSWMD projects and updates within their communities. Other POC members agreed with that idea. The POC also discussed the proposals from consultants for focus group facilitation. *Laura Zeisel made a motion, seconded by Mia Moore, to recommend to the Executive Board that Barry Lawson Associates be hired for the work, with Option B (Barry Lawson and one staff note taker). The motion passed unanimously.*
5. FY17 Program Planning – Cathleen Gent briefly reviewed her memo dated July 16, 2015 regarding FY17 Program Planning. The POC reviewed each program area. Lee Cattaneo said that it is important that there not be discrepancies in the level of services to different communities within the CVSWMD district, specifically the smaller towns. Cathleen Gent mentioned that CVSWMD has been informally informed that we received a USDA Grant specifically to provide more outreach services to rural communities, which will help address that concern. Laura Zeisel suggested that CVSWMD pick up additional materials during the HHW events. Laura Zeisel asked staff to provide user data by town to Board members for the ARCC and other programs for Board outreach purposes. The POC discussed the Tire Dumping Mitigation Program. Several members like the “cradle to grave” labeling so that it is possible to track what happens with tires over time. The committee recognized that a statewide tire program would be needed for that type of labeling. The POC asked about the Bulky Waste Grant that CVSWMD just received and Cathleen Gent said she will get details about that program from Leesa Stewart. The POC discussed the Clear Bag Pilot Project. Several members said they are highly skeptical that the program will work because it is not a true pilot program (for instance, with one town getting services and one town not getting services) and there are no clearly defined purpose, outcomes, or data-gathering parameters. The POC decided to send it back to the Executive Board (or wherever the idea originated) to provide better information before they will consider the program. The POC will have one final review of the FY17 Program Plan during the September 2 meeting. By that time, there should be clearer direction about the business organics program.

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6. Municipal Recycling Container Grant Program – Cathleen Gent provided a short update about how the new CVSWMD grant program is working. Anita Krauth said that the new state requirement for municipalities to provide recycling containers does not really apply when towns follow a “pack it in, pack it out” policy in recreation areas and facilities since there are no waste containers. Cathleen Gent said that Montpelier has already received its reimbursement. Mia Moore left the meeting at this time.

7. CVSWMD Ordinances – Lee Cattaneo said that he is working on a draft document for the POC to review at the next meeting. The document will combine all CVSMWD ordinances into a new single volume. Cathleen Gent provided a brief overview regarding the request by Casella for CVSMWD to consider reducing or eliminating the surcharge fee for Construction & Debris (C&D) materials diverted from the waste stream. The POC discussed the request, which would require a change to Section II of the Surcharge Ordinance. The POC asked for additional information for the September 2 meeting as follows: 1) With Act 148, can C&D continue to be used as cover for landfills? Cathleen Gent will check with Leesa Stewart (and ANR, as needed) to answer that question. 2) The POC would like Casella to provide additional information about how the company would use C&D, in other words, what are the alternative uses rather than placing the material in the landfill. For instance, would Casella use the C&D as landfill cover, as road bedding, brought to a recycling facility for reuse, or other productive purposes? The POC would like to get an estimate of the volumes of C&D and the expected levels of C&D for each of the alternative uses. Cathleen Gent will follow up with Casella to get that information.

8. Next Meeting – The POC decided to meet at the regularly scheduled meeting on September 2, unless there is a special reason to meet in August. Cathleen Gent will follow up with POC members if that is the case.

Lee Cattaneo adjourned the POC meeting at 6:37 PM.