

DRAFT

**CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT – Administrative Office
Investment COMMITTEE MINUTES
Zoom Meeting 5:20 p.m.
Wednesday, June 14, 2023**

FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENT: Leslie Nulty, Paul Stabler, Rick McCraw
Other Board members present: Paul Ruess

CSWD STAFF PRESENT: Nola Ricci, Sarah Reeves, Amy Jewell,

AGENDA ITEM:

1. Agenda
2. Public Comment Period
3. Consent Agenda – Minutes from 3/15/23
4. Update on Investment Process
5. Adjourn

Leslie Nulty called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Agenda # 1. No changes to the Agenda.

Agenda #2. Public Comment Period – No public in attendance

Agenda #3. Consent Agenda –P. Ruess requested a review of the minutes, where a sentence needs clarity. The minutes will be brought back to the next investment committee meeting.

Agenda #4. Update on Investment Process - L. Nulty reviews N. Ricci’s memo to begin discussion. L. Nulty expressing concern over \$800,000 in a 3-month treasury bill term which will need to roll over on June 22nd. N. Ricci notes that this will not roll over immediately and that some of this is from the closed landfill reserve; typically, the needed amount at the end of each fiscal year is between \$100,000 and \$200,000. N. Ricci suggests that we re-invest for six months with the current treasury bond above 5% but that we wait until the books are closed so that we have a comfort level with the amount that we can invest. Discussion was held on the timing of the securities maturing and necessary action need to be taken. S. Reeves said that at a recent meeting the Board authorized the Executive Director and Finance Director to execute the investment strategy as determined by the Investment Committee acting as advisors. S. Reeves indicted that we will wait until the books are closed for FY 23 before re-investing.

a) **Biosolids Reserves** - S. Reeves requested input from the committee regarding the investing in the biosolids reserve, where CSWD member towns provide the money and CSWD is investing on their behalf. S. Reeves asked if the interest earned should go back to that reserve, which currently is not happening. P. Stabler noted storm clouds on the horizon for biosolids and recommended placing the interest returns into the biosolid reserve. S. Reeves noted another use by the members could be to use the investment returns to offset the members’ contract management fees. Other options include financing a study regarding PFAS mitigation in sludge.

L. Nulty asked if the contract offers guidance. S. Reeves said it does not. P. Ruess notes that, ethically, CSWD are stewards of their money and if we asked member towns, they might ask for the money back. Alternatively, towns might suggest that it be kept in the reserves. CSWD might keep some funds for management costs, but CSWD must be a good steward of member town funds. L. Nulty agrees with P. Ruess regarding the town reserves. P. Stabler notes his opinion to keep funds in the reserve due to market volatility.

b) **Closed Landfill Reserve** - S. Reeves asked if we want to direct some of the other interest earned into the closed landfill reserve. She noted that the closed landfill fund will have a shortage and that there are several options, which could be to increase the Solid Waste Management Fee in FY 25 or put earned interest into the fund. P. Stabler said he prefers putting the interest in the fund versus raising the SWMF.

L. Nulty requested information regarding the order of magnitude regarding potential costs and liabilities associated with the closed landfills and asked that this be brought back to the board before making a decision. S. Reeves will bring back further information to the Board for review.

R. McCraw said that he is less familiar with CSWD's closed landfill and costs; he and potentially other Board members would like some background understanding including an explanation of the liability. S. Reeves asked Jeannine McCrumb to prepare a memo regarding the closed landfill. Staff will follow up with a brief update, which would be helpful for every board member.

Adjourn. Motion by P. Stabler, SECOND by R. McGraw to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Amy Jewell

I agree that this is an original copy of minutes and they have been approved by the Finance Committee at the meeting held via Zoom.

Amy Jewell, Secretary