Director's Report 12-5-2022

Well things have been a bit quieter for district operations over the past month as our as we enter this late fall slump in waste activity. However, the in the office and behind the scenes things are getting busier. This week we welcome a new staff member to the NWSWD team when Alison Corn joined us as the new Program Coordinator. She will oversee Outreach and Education, and communicate how to reduce waste, promote our services, and engage the community as we continue handle our resident’s waste materials in a way that focuses on keeping valuable resources out of the landfill. Alison has a background in

We had hoped to also be welcoming a new food scrap collection driver this week as well. Despite having a candidate accept and offer and fill out some paperwork. They ultimately did not work out and we are back to square one. The NWSWD has been largely operating just one or two employees short of optimal for the past few months. This has not had any large impacts on our operations but has meant overtime for some employees. We will begin the process again and hope to fill this position as soon as possible. We recently were able to hire a temporary roll off driver to assist while Mark, our primary driver, is out with knee surgery. We are closing in on filling these remaining positions, but this episode shows how important quality, reliable, and healthy team members are!

To follow up on other staff situations, Pam and I continue to map out the future of the Finance department. First, we will be developing a job description for a position to assist Pam and recruiting and hiring to fill that position. Simultaneously, we will be creating a transition plan for the future of the department. Pam doesn’t have immediate plans to retire, and we would all be happy to have her around for a long time. However this is a plan so we can be prepared for when that day comes.

Looking forward to waste related action in the Vermont Legislature, there are two bills that will hopefully benefit Vermont’s waste system. Both bills create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, and both were introduced in the last biennium. The first would create a system where the manufacturers of hazardous products will contribute to the HHW collection system in VT. The other which is being drafted and will be introduced in the Senate, will make producers responsible for the recycling of all packaging and printed material in Vermont. Both bills will build on the systems that exist in Vermont but make manufacturers and brands more responsible for the products and packaging they sell.

District Staff are looking forward to using the relative quiet of winter to contemplate how we can improve what we do to make it more convenient to keep a wider variety of material from going to the landfill. As always, we value your suggestions and input.

Onward - John