

**NORTHEAST KINGDOM WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

August 10, 2021

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

The District Office at 224 Church Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851

The meeting was called to order @ 6:41 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Pat Austin (Charleston & Holland); Bob Sanberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Fran Batchelder (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Steve Barrup, (Newport Town); Claude Phipps (Newbury); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTGs); Gene Perkins, (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield, Wheelock); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Brighton, Concord, Cabot, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Morgan, Newark, Peacham, Victory, Sutton, Topsham, Waterford, and Westfield.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Updates to the Agenda – None.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of July 13, 2021, 2nd. Minutes approved.

NEKWMD Organics Infrastructure Grant – Paul explained the summary of project budgets to the Board. Since the District has taken so long to approve projects, all bidders were asked to re-submit their project budgets to reflect any increases in price. All 4 bidders submitted updated budget, which were shared with the Board.

It was moved and 2nd to approve the updated budget figures for the Cloud's Path proposal (\$28,312.00) and the Tamarlane Farm proposal (\$31,510.00). Motion approved.

Paul attempted to summarize the other 2 projects – Black Dirt Farm and Mar-Jo Acres. Paul explained the reasons for the increase in Black Dirt Farm's proposal. He mentioned that several items from their original proposal were rejected by the District and/or VT DEC. However, they also saw price increases for some of the items in their original proposal. The original ask was for \$165,065. The committee reviewing the proposals, originally approved costs totally \$102,500. The state rejected the \$10,000 for insulating and heating their shop, which lowered the eligible costs to \$92,500. With the \$24,000 cost increases for modified ASP containers, the total project budget now stands at \$116,500. It was suggested that Tom Gilbert from Black Dirt Farm attend the next meeting to explain the ASP system in greater detail. A request was made to obtain photographs of the "modified ASP containers". Paul said he would request those and distribute them to the Board. A suggestion was made to contact Tom Gilbert during the current meeting. It was pointed out that information on how the system works was included in the justification requested from and sent by Black Dirt Farm. It was suggested to approve parts of the Black Dirt proposal and revisit the rest next month. Paul explained that would be administratively burdensome with having to issue multiple contracts. More information will be requested from Black Dirt for the next meeting.

Paul apologized to the Board for not having more information regarding the Mar-Jo Acres proposal. Their updated proposal will be distributed to the Board in advance of the next meeting.

Ordinance – Paul explained to the Board that the information provided for the meeting consisted of the section of the Ordinance that needed to be amended in order to facilitate the changes that require private facilities to register and report. The language was taken from a 2000 version of the Ordinance. There is no new language except that the changes reference private facilities only. Paul explained that the District already gets reports, and in many cases, generates the reports for the public facilities in the District. A motion was made and 2nd to approve the amendments to the Ordinance Motion passed. It was agreed that the amended Ordinance would be implemented as soon as it became effective. Paul had suggested that it be implemented at the first of the year (January 1, 2022)

Lyndon Property Tax – It was decided that the Board did not need to go into Executive Session to discuss this matter. Paul informed the Board that the issue was being mediated and that those discussions would commence on Thursday, August 12, 2021. Nick Rivers (Chair), Walter McNeil (Vice Chair), and Paul Tomasi (Executive Director) will be attending on behalf of the District. Paul emphasized the need to clarify the District's tax status. Paul felt that once that was accomplished, we could pursue a host town agreement with the Town of Lyndon without a mediator. Paul explained that the District's original draft of a host town agreement was rejected out-right by the town. There was negotiation. That original draft was meant to be a starting point for negotiations. Paul was asked what distinguishes the Lyndon facility from other facilities. The list includes the following: (1) Lyndon doesn't have to pay to have their recyclables hauled, (2). Greater access than any other town 31 hours/wk compared to the next closest town (Wheelock) at 16 hours/wk, (3) Leaf and yard waste drop-off, (4) Freon-containing appliance collection and processing, (5) Tire collection, and (6) Household hazardous waste services by appointment. Paul explained the food waste drop-off survey in response to a question regarding how many of the users were Lyndon residents. Surveys conducted in 2 consecutive years yielded nearly identical results – 89% of users identified themselves as Lyndon residents. Paul reviewed some of the history of what the Town used to pay to participate in District programs.

Financial – Paul informed the Board that the District is having one of its best years financially in 10-15 years. Markets remain strong and increasing. Paul explained that revenues were up and expenses were down. Paul told the Board that there may be an outlet or 2 for our bales of plastic film. He's been in touch with 2 brokers regarding this material. Paul informed the Board of the receipt of a new truck. The truck is working well. We are awaiting the grant reimbursement from VT ANR for approximately \$60,000 to apply to the truck loan balance. There was a question regarding the receipt of a \$15,000 grant. Paul mentioned that this grant was a direct result of the SEP resulting from the Chittenden SWD glass settlement. The money is to be used to place cold storage somewhere in the NEK to store food for redistribution to those in need. There was some concern regarding the truck repair line item. There was a question regarding the line of credit. The bank change allowed us to extend the payback period. The plan would be to not extend the payback period and perhaps pay it off sooner. There was some discussion regarding a cautious approach to next year's budget because of the volatility in markets. The District typically begins the budget process in September.

Public Meeting Requirements – Once the governor lifted the state of emergency in mid-June, 2021, the temporary exemptions to the open meeting law expired. In person meetings are not necessarily required; however, public bodies must make a space available for the public to attend meetings. We have decided to make available a computer station in our office for that purpose. We hope to be able to invest in some technology that would allow us to return to the Lyndon Public Safety building (PSB) in

the not-too-distant future. Paul will follow up with the Town to see what the capabilities are in the PSB. Paul will try and gather more information for the next meeting or a future meeting.

Compost Collection Contract – Paul informed the Board that our compost collection contract is due to expire at the end of 2021. An RFP will be issued in September, the Board will select a contractor, and the new contract will become effective on approximately January 1, 2022.

Other Business – None.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 8:07pm
Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

Note: There is an audio/video recording of the August 10, 2021 meeting. It is available upon request.