

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

**July 13, 2021**

**Meeting held remotely via ZOOM**

The meeting was called to order @ 6:44 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Chair

**Present:** Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Pat Austin (Charleston); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Fran Batchelder (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Joe Noble (Holland, Morgan); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Steve Barrup, (Newport Town); Claude Phipps (Newbury); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTGs); Gene Perkins, (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield, Wheelock); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

**Absent:** Barnet, Concord, Cabot, Corinth, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Newark, Peacham, Victory, Stannard, Sutton, Topsham, and Westfield.

**Staff present-** Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

**Updates to the Agenda** – There was a request by Steve Gray to discuss the possibility of resuming in-person meetings. It was decided we would discuss this under other business.

**Approval of Minutes-** Moved to approve minutes of June 8, 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes approved.

**ANR Infrastructure Grant (Truck)** – Paul reviewed the summary sheet of all 4 proposals that were submitted. The costs were all within \$8,500 of one another with a high of \$102,921 and a low of \$94,344. All proposals met the basic requirements stipulated in the Request for Bids (RFB). The proposal from McDevitt Trucks Inc was the only one that included a vehicle we could take possession of immediately. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to accept the proposal made by McDevitt Trucks Inc. in the amount of \$99,954. Motion passed.

There was some discussion regarding whether or not the District should pursue an extended warranty. No motions were made in that regard. Paul explained to the Board the reasons for pursuing a vehicle now and not waiting to purchase a lower priced vehicle that we would take possession of in 2022. Two reasons were cited: (1) avoidance of rental fees when we have a truck in the shop, and (2) avoid having to pick up recycling from facilities after dark in the winter months.

There was a motion made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to enter into a loan agreement for the new truck with the Passumpsic Savings Bank for the entire \$99,954 for a three-year period. The motion passed.

The District does have a grant agreement in place with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation to offset 60% of the cost of a new vehicle (up to \$100,000). This will be factored into the agreement with the Passumpsic Savings Bank.

**Plastic Film** – No progress was made since the last meeting regarding our bales of plastic bags and ag-film. Paul recommended to the Board that we stop accepting plastic film immediately with a drop-dead date of August 1, 2021. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to stop accepting plastic film effective August 1,

2021. After further discussion the motion was rescinded. A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to stop accepting plastic film immediately.

Discussion ensued regarding contacting the press and developing a “fact-sheet” that can be handed out to residents at facilities.

The motion passed.

**NEKWMD Organics Infrastructure Grant** – Paul explained to the Board that he hasn’t had the time to dedicate to this project because of staffing issues that have forced him on to the truck to do recycling pickups. Paul recommended that perhaps a committee could be formed to address some of the contractual issues so that bidders do not have to wait an entire month for the various approvals.

A motion was made and 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the contracts for the various proposed projects as long as they (the contracts) were approved by VT DEC. It should be noted that the projects themselves need to be approved by the Board before a contract is finalized. Motion approved.

### **Updates:**

**Financial** – Markets for most materials are still increasing. Paul explained how busy most facilities are and that sale of recyclables were strong as well as revenues from the surcharge.

There was a question about forklift expenses. Paul explained that we needed to replace and engine cover, seat assembly, and seat on one of the forklifts. This accounted for nearly all of the money spent on forklifts in 2021.

**Ordinance** – An older version of our Ordinance will be used to include language that would require facilities to report monthly to the District. This will be placed on the agenda for next meeting if time allows.

**Other Business** – In-person meeting possibilities – Steve Gray mentioned the possibility of meeting at a local church within a few hundred yards of the District facility. He said they would be willing to allow us to try it in August and then we could discuss a rental fee going forward. There was also some discussion about returning to the Lyndon Public Safety building across the street from the District. There was a suggestion made to look into the possibility of holding hybrid meetings that people could attend in person and/or on-line. Paul will look into the technology necessary to allow that. Paul also suggested a meeting schedule that would only require the full Board to meet in person 3 or 4 times per year. Paul will bring more information to the next meeting for the Boards consideration. There was some discussion about using this as an opportunity to reach out to towns and strengthen our attendance. Paul will investigate any guidance the Secretary of State’s office might have on the subject.

Paul wanted to discuss the Town of Lyndon property tax issue, but internet access was disrupted and Paul was kicked out of the call. Nick Rivers was also lost from the call. In his absence, Steve Barrup entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 8:05pm  
Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

*Note: There is an audio/video recording of the July 13, 2021 meeting. It is available upon request.*