

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

**September 12, 2023**

**Meeting held via ZOOM and in-person at the NEKWMD Office,  
224 Church St. Lyndonville, VT 05851**

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:37 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

**Present:** Nick Rivers (Albany); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Robert Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg in-person); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark in-person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton, UTG); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton in-person); Karen and Calvin Altland (Topsham); Anne Quirion (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture & Richard Degre (Westfield); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

**Absent:** Barnet, Cabot, Charleston, Concord, Derby, Glover, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Peacham, Ryegate, Stannard, and Victory

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

**Visitors** –Shannon Choquette, minutes clerk

**Updates to the Agenda** – none

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion to accept minutes of August 8, 2023, as printed. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion – The discussion regarding the driveway should reflect the area inside the fence. The phrase “not able to use” appears twice and should be deleted once. Topsham was not represented at the August 2023 meeting.

**2022 Surplus** – Paul suggests Board should move surplus to capital improvement fund. Paul will come back with recommendations at a later date for driveway repair inside the fence. Motion to move 2022 surplus (\$5,604.53) to capital improvement fund. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion approved.

**Updates** –

**Compliance-** Bloom Farm site on Crawford Hill Rd. in Charleston - Paul received complaints from neighbors regarding odors. Paul is working with neighbors and VT DEC to confirm if food waste is being processed on site. Bloom Farm is allowed to process a minimal amount of food waste onsite, however this issue is due to odors.

In August minutes, Paul mentioned he visited on July 19 but there was no evidence at that point. The complaint occurred within the past few weeks.

What do we do with our (NEKWMD) food waste?

NEKWMD food waste goes to Clouds Path Farm in Sheffield where they feed the material to chickens. The issue at Bloom Farm location is they have not received permitting from VT DEC and once they exceed the minimum allowable amount, they will need a permit. They cannot obtain a permit because VT DEC has determined the site to be un-permittable.

**Administrative Rules Update** – Executive Committee reviewed the Administrative Rules. The Executive Committee will meet in two weeks to start 2024 budget process, and the goal is to have a finished draft of administrative rules at that meeting. Paul needs to follow up with VLCT before finalizing draft.

**Financial** - Currently NEKWMD has a slight surplus for 2023. We have not seen any bump in tonnage as anticipated from flood debris. Paul is not sure what the mechanism is for tracking flood debris material to receive tonnage surcharge, but it may take some time to get data from towns.

What is the current outlook for the bailer needing repairs?

Currently the District has needed to get roll offs to send material to single stream MRF in Williston, and will possibly need a few more in weeks to come. Rather than receiving revenue for this material, we are paying to recycle it. We have had issues staying open to the public.

What is the outlook on getting the baler running?

Repair company has been on site in recent days and baler worked fine. We tested machine and hope that it will remain functional. We are also having backups with electronics recycling and foam recycling.

What is the timeline for sending materials out of the facility?

Shipping the material is not an issue, currently the difficulty lies in processing material.

Why are gross wages so high in August? Is this due to part-time staffing?

This has been due to some turnover and changes in staffing. Projections for gross wages may be slightly over this year.

What are the funds in the miscellaneous category being used for?

Paul will have to confirm what this is for, he will confirm with Michelle.

How much is now in the capital improvement fund?

Approx \$67,000. We paid back \$10k that we borrowed from the fund earlier in the year. We owe ourselves \$10k.

**Future In-Person Meetings** – There has been some interest in in-person meetings. We will be addressing this more in the coming weeks by surveying the Supervisors.

Should this be considered before budget meeting to add mileage into budget?  
This could be added after the initial drafting before December 15 deadline.

**Grants-** Paul is in the process of submitting for reimbursement of USDA grant for \$36,000 for foam densifier. In fall, NEKWMD can submit for SWIP grant of ~\$37,000. With these, we can pay ourselves back to cover what was spent out of the capital fund.

Organics grant – not much activity. One grantee contacted Paul about extending grant. DEC said it would be unlikely to offer additional extension. The grantee is concerned about getting reimbursement by end date of Dec 31, 2023. Reimbursement requests can be submitted up to the deadline for processing after the deadline. All work does need to be completed by December 31, 2023.

In this grant program, does the NEKWMD reimburse funds to grantee?  
Yes, grantee requests for reimbursement, NEKWMD gets money from DEC then makes funds available to grantee.

### **Programs –**

Foam – The NEKWMD is currently unable to transport foam to Canada due to lack of truck. Please make sure residents are removing tape from foam. There is not much contamination, aside from pipe insulation/pool noodle material. We receive questions about packing peanuts, however there are too many varieties for us to accept them from the general public.

Outreach coordinator is visiting facilities and delivering battery incident kits.

E-waste issues are persisting and e-waste is backing up in some facilities. We ask that attendants ask residents to hold onto e-waste.

Who takes e-waste?  
Good point recycling in Middlebury.

Are we not moving it because they are backed up?  
We are having trouble storing it in our warehouse, making it difficult to load the current trailer of e-waste. When we load a truck it's difficult getting Good Point to swap trailers in a timely manner (can take upwards of 1-2 weeks).

Do we have a load of Styrofoam that is worthwhile to ship?  
Our plan is to use our own box truck; however, current truck issues have hindered our ability to do so.

### **6. Other Business-**

Truck updates – One of 3 trucks has been out of service since June. We are working with Lyndon Truck Center, but the necessary part is on indefinite backorder. We have a rental truck currently to help meet our needs. EPA and VLCT can help identify funding sources like grants for a new truck. We could also look into a lease for the truck, which could cost upwards of \$700/wk.

Staff update – Corey Raymond is mostly back full-time.

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 7:20 pm

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette