

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

August 9, 2022

Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and

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

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:39 p.m. by Paulette Routhier, Treasurer

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany & Irasburg); William Douglas (Barnet – arrived late); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington), Bob Sandberg (Corinth), Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Brian Carroll (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Joe Noble (Holland & Morgan - arrived late); Dave Sanders (Jay); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark – in person); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gene Perkins (Ryegate – in person); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock - in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Richard Degre (Westfield), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Brighton, Charleston, Cabot, Concord, East Haven, Granby, Guildhall, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Norton, Peacham, UTGs, and Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record; Eliza Perreault, Cloud’s Path Farm

Updates to the Agenda – Eliza Perreault, Cloud’s Path Farm – Organics Grant.

Approval of Minutes - Question: Was there a State inspection? Answer: Yes, we are waiting for the results. Moved to approve minutes of August 9, 2022, 2nd, approved.

Organic’s Grant – Eliza Perreault, Cloud’s Path Farm, raised several concerns regarding the timing of the release of information, most notably the grant agreement and the contract. Cloud’s Path asserts that they did not receive the documents in time to get a contractor lined up for the construction season in 2022. They are interested in seeking an extension so that they have adequate time to compete their project in 2023.

Paul informed the Board that all grantees received the documents at the same time and that Cloud’s Path is the only grantee that had issues with the documents in question. Paul asked Eliza to provide a written request to extend the grant period so that they have more time to review the documents. Eliza agreed to send that to the District.

Charter Amendment Process – Paul explained that the Charter amendment process as outlined in our Charter is being followed and that notice of the proposed amendment was mailed to all District Supervisors and the Selectboards of all District Towns. The Board of Supervisors shall vote on whether or not to approve the proposed amendment at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 11, 2022. The proposed amendment must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Supervisors. Paul will reach out to our legal counsel to make sure the Board of Supervisors is counted accurately. The

main issue is, how do we count Supervisors that represent more than one town? Paul said it will be important to have as many Supervisors as possible attend the next meeting in order to vote on this issue. Even if the vote is in the affirmative, the Vermont legislature will still need to approve the amendment to our Charter, which is unlikely to occur prior to the 2023 budget vote. Therefore, the District's budget will be voted on by Australian Ballot in 2023. Question: There were originally 3 scenarios presented to the Board for voting on the budget – (1) status quo, (2) having the Board of Supervisors approve the budget, (3) have the Board approve it and send it to the towns for their consideration by the Selectboards. When did the Board decide to pursue the current option? Answer: The Board voted to pursue (2) at a meeting earlier in the year, but it was unclear at which meeting that occurred. There was some speculation this vote occurred in June 2022. Question: Can votes be sent to the District outside the regular meeting? Answer: The District charter does not allow for proxy voting of any kind. Question: Does the meeting need to be in person? Answer: No. Question: Do we have contact information for all Supervisors so they can be contacted regarding the October meeting? Answer: Yes

Administrative Rules Review – Jill Muhr from VLCT has finished reviewing our *Administrative Rules* and has provided us with recommended changes. I will be working with the Executive Committee to draft a version to bring before the full Board. Paul offered to give a current copy of the *Administrative Rules* to any Supervisor interested in reviewing them.

Executive Committee Budget Working Session – The Executive Committee typically has a meeting with the Executive Director between the September and October meetings to draft the budget for the ensuing calendar year. This year's meeting shall be held on Tuesday, October 4 at 5pm in the District office. A notice will be sent to all Supervisors.

Updates –

Financial – The District financial situation is pretty good. Surcharge revenues remain strong as do recycling markets remain strong; however, cardboard pricing is expected to drop \$20/ton – from \$140/ton to \$120/ton. Paul expects the District to end the year with a surplus albeit less than what exists currently. Question: What do markets look like going into fall and winter? Answer: Difficult to predict at this point. Paul does not anticipate changing any fees for anything at this point, but won't know for sure until more work is put into the budget process.

Information Technology Upgrades - The District recently had an evaluation conducted of our information technology systems – computers, servers, etc. Since these systems used to be maintained by a former employee, much of it has been neglected. We have suffered a ransom ware attack previously and were lucky enough to have had the proper back-ups in place, but our systems become more vulnerable to attack as time passes and necessary precautions aren't instituted. Paul suggested that the District is 10-15 years behind other organizations in terms of IT security, and it's just a matter of time before we get hit with some sort of attack. Paul experienced about a month-long period without access to email, which hampered productivity. Paul would like to move forward with the upgrades, but since the issue was not warned and the Board did not receive a copy of the proposal, action on this item will be delayed until the October 11, 2022 meeting.

Expanded Polystyrene Recycling – Processing the material is somewhat problematic in that it requires 2 people. We may be able to contact the manufacturer and see if they have any tips for speeding up the process. We are still not ready to accept materials from other facilities. We need to determine what type of collection containers will be necessary. One thing we are realizing is that some people are breaking their Styrofoam into pieces before bringing it to us. We want to discourage folks from doing that as it

creates a mess and makes it more difficult to process. We also need to inform people that packing peanuts are not acceptable. The reason for not accepting packing peanuts is that there are multiple varieties made of various different material many of which are not plastic. Question: Does the District have an idea of how this program will look at the individual recycling centers. Answer: That's what the District is currently trying to determine, and that system will be shared with the sites before introducing foam collection at any additional locations. The District is currently using "supersacks" to collect foam in Lyndonville, but we aren't convinced this is the best way to collect the material. Question: How much material do we need before we can ship it? Answer: 1,000-1,500 lbs or approximately 2 pallets worth. Question: Does the material need to be white? Answer: No, but there are restrictions on what we can collect. We cannot collect foam board or packing peanuts.

Organics Grant – Paul stated that he would like to move forward with the organics grant and bring it to completion as quickly as possible, but understands Cloud's Path's frustration with the process that has taken way too long.

Other Business - Question: Is the District collecting electronics again? Answer: Yes Question: Why are leaking totes being placed back at facilities? Answer: The District needs to do a better job of getting them out of circulation. Recycling centers need to use more sawdust. Sawdust can be placed in the bottom of the container to absorb liquids. Cardboard can also be placed under leaking totes. Cloud's Path has recently procured a plastic welder and has offered to fix containers as time permits. The local option for repairing damaged totes is no longer available to us.

What do facilities do when they are inundated with materials? Facilities need to stop accepting materials when they reach capacity. It is unfortunate for the public, but it makes the District job of servicing the facility much more difficult.

What is the status of the new Greensboro facility? No change.

Paul mentioned that folks can come by the facility on a Tuesday or Thursday to look at the new foam machine in action. The District will film the process and put it on our website.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 7:44pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the September 13, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.