

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

**February 14, 2023**

**Meeting held remotely via ZOOM and**

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

The Board meeting was called to order @ 6:35 p.m. by Nick Rivers, Board Chair

**Present:** Nick Rivers (Albany & Irasburg); William Douglas (Barnet); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Fran Batchelder & Irene Dagesse (Derby); Timothy Dailey, Sr. (Groton); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausing (Newark in person); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue & Calvin Altland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy & Jay); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Jacques Couture (Westfield), and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

**Absent:** Brownington, Cabot, Corinth, Charleston, Concord, East Haven, Glover, Granby, Greensboro, Guildhall, Holland, Kirby, Lunenburg, Marshfield, Morgan, Newbury, Peacham, Ryegate, and Victory

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

**Visitors** – Amy Ash-Nixon, Caledonian-Record; Jennifer Griffith, NEWMOA

**Updates to the Agenda** – none

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion & 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023. Motion approved.

**NEWMOA Presentation – Old Landfills** – Jennifer Griffith of NEWMOA shared a 40-minute slide presentation on the importance of identifying and maintaining old landfills. NEWMOA and the NEKWMD have been working on several documents to assist towns in inspecting and maintaining old landfills. These materials will be distributed to all member Town once they have been finalized. The Board may want to weigh in on how the distribution occurs. To be discussed at a future meeting.

**2023 Budget Vote** – Since the previous action by the NEKWMD Board was to approve the budget for further action by the voters via the Australian Ballot system of voting, the NEKWMD Board decided to take up the matter of acting on the 2023 proposed budget at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 14, 2023. A public hearing will be scheduled prior to the meeting to receive oral and/or written comments on the 2023 proposed budget. Question: What actions/processes are we operating under to approve the 2023 proposed budget? Answer: Although our charter amendment is moving forward, it has not been passed and will definitely not pass prior to Town Meeting Day. The Legislature did, however, pass H42, which the governor signed into law effective immediately. This bill extended provisions which were granted to municipalities during COVID. Allowing the NEKWMD Board to approve the budget was part of H42. There will be no Australian Ballot vote on the NEKWMD 2023 budget. Question: Do the Supervisors have any responsibility for informing their towns about the closed landfills in their town and the contents of this evening's presentation? Answer: It is likely that information concerning closed landfills will come through the District. The State will not be notifying towns. The

Board may wish to discuss this matter in greater detail once all of the materials from the grant have been finalized.

## **Updates –**

**Financial** – For the month ending January 31, 2023, the District is running a budget deficit of \$42,245.42. It is typical for the District to run a deficit at the beginning of the year because of expenses for the previous year being paid in the new year and some annual and quarterly bills due in January. The District has recently submitted a grant reimbursement request to the State for \$37,000, which should help the financial position by the end of February. Question: What was spent in line item #35 (Dues & Subscriptions)? Answer: The dues listed are annual dues for either NRRA and/or the District Manager’s Association. Question: What are the expenses in line item #36 (Education/Outreach)? Answer: Most of that expense is for an annual membership to Front Porch Forum. We have reduced our radio advertising to help offset that cost. Question: What are the expenses under line item #41 (miscellaneous repairs)? Answer: This entire expense was for the repair of our glass dumpster in 2022. The container was purchase years ago from the Towns of Jay and Troy before they built there current recycling center. Because it has been used to transport glass, it needed a very comprehensive overall, which should extend its life another 5 years or so. Purchasing a similar container new would cost over \$25,000.

**USDA Grant** – The District is still waiting on a decision from the USDA regarding the grant for the purchase of the foam densifier. A decision is expected in April 2023. They have informed us that we have submitted everything necessary for the grant.

**Organics Grant** – The evaluation committee established by the Board met and set some deadlines for submitting grant agreements and proposals for an additional \$7,100. The deadlines for both are set for Friday, March 31, 2023. We are still hoping to have Cloud’s Path enter an agreement prior to the March 31, deadline.

**Clothing** – Apparel Impact has been placing containers in District communities. Lyndon and Ryegate have received containers and other should be in place in the next couple of weeks.

**Compliance** – The District has been dealing with NEK Community Compost for some time. They have been operating in some form or another in Westmore, North Troy, and Lyndonville over the course of the last couple of years. They are currently operating out of West Charleston. They initially resisted efforts to be audited by the NEKWMD. They rebranded themselves as Community Waste Systems and have subsequently changed their name to Blume Farm LLC. Their West Charleston location has been visited by the VT Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Conservation. They consented to an audit of their 2022 activities, which was conducted on Wednesday, February 8, 2023; and they consented to a site visit by the NEKWMD on Thursday, February 9, 2023. Their operations initially placed 2 piles of organic material within 100 feet of the road. They have since begun to manage their organic material down a road/path that is well over 100 feet from the road to an enclosure containing approximately 75 chickens and 4 goats. The District has instructed them to move the 2 piles near the road to the fenced enclosure prior to the material thawing. They were given a deadline of March 31, 2023. They were informed the District will revisit the site once they have indicated they have moved the 2 piles. The District emphasized that because of the current colder temperatures there is no nuisance, but once the weather warms up and those piles thaw, the Town, District, and the State will be visiting the site and it is likely a nuisance will be present if they do not move the materials before warmer temperature arrive. They agreed to move the piles as soon as possible and inform the District of when that has been completed. The current management area appeared to be working well. They are feeding

their materials to chickens and there is an electric fence surrounding the food waste management area. Question: What towns are they conducting business in? Answer: According to their registration application they are providing service in Troy, Derby, Glover, and Lyndon. Does Blume Farm deliver organic material to any other composting facility? Answer: They had been delivering materials to Eric Paris' Farm in Lyndon, but stopped doing so in December of 2022. It is unclear where the materials they hauled in December were delivered. We suspect some material may have gone to the Lyndon residence and some went to the West Charleston location. They did indicate during the site visit that all materials picked-up currently are being delivered to the West Charleston location. Blume Farm LLC is currently registered with the District and the State as a hauler and as a facility with the District. The State is still trying to determine whose jurisdiction Blume Farm LLC falls under – Agriculture or Environmental Conservation.

**Annual Report** – The District is working on the 2022 Annual Report. We anticipate having it completed before Town Meeting (March 7, 2023).

**Other Business** – Question: Does the District have enough foam to ship the material to market? Answer: Yes. We are exploring the possibility of hauling the material ourselves in order to generate a little more revenue. We want to make sure we have everything in order prior to crossing the border. Question: Can residents purchase foam pellets for insulation? Answer: No. The processed material isn't in pellet form and cannot be utilized for that purpose.

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 8:01pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the February 14, 2023 meeting. It is available upon request.