

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

April 12, 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 – joined late); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick); Bruce Rumball-Petre (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Bob Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Timothy Dailey, Sr. (Groton); Joe Noble (Holland & Morgan); Dave Sanders (Jay); Hilary DeCarlo (Kirby); Steve Gray (Lyndon); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs - joined late); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock in person); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Sue & Calvin Atland (Topsham); Gaston Bathalon (Troy); Jacques Couture (Westfield); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore).

Absent: Barnet, Charleston, Corinth, Cabot, Concord, East Haven, Granby, Guildhall, Lunenburg, Maidstone, Marshfield, Newark, Peacham, Ryegate, Victory, and Waterford.

Staff present- Paul Tomasi, Executive Director

Visitors – Amy Ash -Nixon, Caledonian-Record; John Malter, Mad River Resource Alliance

Updates to the Agenda – None.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of March 8, 2022, 2nd, approved.

Expanded Polystyrene Presentation – Mr. Lou Troiano, Foam Cycle, presented the Board with a slide show on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Foam recycling. Various types of EPS can be recycled and is generally broken into 2 categories – packaging and food service containers. Foam Cycle would provide the NEKWMD with a machine that would remove the air (90% of volume) from the foam and create an ingot that can be palletized and shipped to market. The densifier machine would allow the amount of foam that would typically fill a 100 cubic yard trailer down to 3 pallets worth of condensed foam. There are markets in Quebec and New Jersey for the densified products. The end result is the savings in landfill space needed to throw away EPS. It also helps prevent the material from entering the environment. Foam Cycle will provide the densifier at no charge for a six-month trial. This trial would allow the NEKWMD to pursue funding for the \$48,500 piece of equipment. Some questions asked by the Board included: Is the material hot when it comes out of the machine? Yes, but it cools quickly. Is there any type of emissions or odors created by the densifier? Slight odors – recommend fans for air movement. No harmful emissions. Does the material need to be manually fed in to the densifier? Yes, the machine can process 200 lbs of foam per hour. What does it cost to operate and how long will it last? Electrical costs will be provided at a later date to Paul from Lou. Minimal maintenance is required for the operation of the equipment – estimated to last 10 years or more. Are there different sizes of densifiers? The extruder is one size. Has anyone thought of using the output in a 3D printer? Ohio State University is currently studying those possibilities. After 6 months, what is the cost of the unit, and is

grant money available to pay for it? There are several granting authorities that the NEKWMD can pursue. The cost of the machine at the end of the trial is \$48,500. Can foam be accepted from non-member towns? The Board would need to decide this. Lyndonville would be the initial primary focus with other towns considered. Can different foams be comingled? Yes, with limitations on specific types. Are there numbers regarding the amount of this material in the State of Vermont? Not that we are aware of. The primary reason to pursue this is to keep it from being released into the environment. What were the results of the Newbury pilot project a few years ago? Paul will look into this. Will we be collecting a material that might not be around in a few years? More foam is being used in shipping than previously, so the market will most likely be around for years to come – pharmaceutical companies and food delivery companies are using more and more. There is no time table for implementation. Supervisors are encouraged to send Paul additional questions.

Annual Meeting/Election of Officers – Current officers are Nick Rivers (Albany), Chair; Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville), Vice Chair; Gene Perkins (Ryegate), Clerk; Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield & Brunswick), Treasurer; Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock), Member-at-Large; Steve Barrup (Newport Center), Member-at-Large; and Joe Noble (Holland & Morgan), Member-at-Large.

Motion was made and 2nd to re-elect the Executive Committee as it was for 2021 and listed above. Motion passed.

Motion was made and 2nd to identify the Caledonian Record as the newspaper of record. Motion passed.

Motion made and 2nd to meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Motion passed.

Charter Amendment Process – Paul explained there are 2 ways to amend the budget approval process. (1) the proposal in 2016 simply had the Board of Supervisors approving the budget following any input from the public. This method is the method by which most District approve their budget, and (2) use the Chittenden Solid Waste District charter language, which send the proposed budget to the member towns and allow them (the Selectboard) to cast one vote for or against the budget. This was the method outlined in a recent email from the Secretary of State’s office. This method is only used in Chittenden County.

Paul will bring the 2 written proposals before the Board at the next meeting. The Board can then select which option they would like to move forward. This would begin the process as outlined in our Charter for amending the Charter. The previous vote in 2016 to pursue this failed by one vote 32-11. 33 were needed to gain the 2/3s threshold. Paul recommends that each Supervisor run this by their Boards of Selectmen. Question: What’s the driving force behind this proposal to amend the Charter? Many Towns have our budget as the only Australian Ballot initiative, so they need to have someone keeping their polls open until 7pm at night – long past the end of Town Meeting. COVID has also driven the desire to make this change.

Updates –

Financial – Paul provided the Board with an update of how the 2021 surplus was spent. The Board allocated \$70,698.00 and \$70,381.35 was spent. The 2021 surplus was allocated across 5 items – Disability & Life Insurance, Telephone System Upgrades. HHW Clamshell, Extra Baler Payment, and Line of Credit Pay-Off. Only the phone system upgrades have not been performed yet. The remaining items have been paid.

The District entered a deficit for the year in March. Expenses were extremely high due to a number of factors – primarily due to a third pay period in March and the timing of several quarterly payments. It is not uncommon for the District to run in the red early in the year. Recycling markets are still very strong entering April and are expected to remain so.

Organics Grant – Contracts are in place with Black Dirt Farm (Stannard) and Tamarlane Farm (Lyndon). Cloud’s Path and MarJo Acres are in receipt of contracts and are reviewing them.

Other Business – Compost contamination. Towns are concerned about the zero-tolerance requirement from the compost contractor. Some towns are willing to pay the higher fee. Paul pointed out that the point is not the higher fee, but the cleaner material. All local contractors essentially have the same requirements. The point is to keep making improvements. We understand the requirements are strict, but it is very important to keep this waste stream as clean as possible. The District has signs ordered to help and will be distributing them as soon as they are available. The District will be providing outreach during the next few months in the form of site visits. It was mentioned that environmentally friendly PLU stickers could solve this problem and perhaps this should be pursued through the VT legislature.

Plastic film collection. There will be no collection of plastic film in calendar year 2022. The District will revisit the program in early 2023. We have one more load of plastic film remaining on site to be shipped.

Lyndon Host Town Agreement. The Lyndon Selectboard has approved the agreement.

Motion to adjourn, 2nd, approved @ 8:20pm

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi

There is a video/audio recording of the April 12, 2022 meeting. It is available upon request.