

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

May 12, 2020

Meeting held via ZOOM

The meeting was called to order @ 6:10 p.m. by Nick Rivers; acting-Chair

Present: Nick Rivers (Albany, Irasburg); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, & Maidstone); Bruce Rumball (Brighton); Lila Stevens (Brownington); Ben Davis (Cabot, Marshfield); Pat Austin (Charleston); Bill Humphrey (Concord); Bob Sanberg (Corinth, Topsham); Walter McNeil (Danville); Fran Batchelder & Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Jack Sumberg (Glover); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Tim Dailey Sr. (Groton); Joseph Noble (Holland); Gaston Bathalon (Jay & Troy); Rebecca Hill-Larson (Kirby); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Claude Phipps (Newbury); Newport Center (Steve Barrup); Gina Vigneault (Norton & UTGs); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Richard Stodola (Waterford); Yves Daigle (Westfield); Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

Absent: Barnet, Granby, Guildhall, Lunenburg, Morgan, Newark, Peacham, Stannard, Victory

Staff present- Paul Tomasi

Updates to the Agenda – Membership in the Vermont Solid Waste District Manager’s Association will be placed on the agenda for June’s meeting.

Approval of Minutes- Moved to approve minutes of April 11, 2020 2nd. There was some discussion regarding when Kirwin Flanders (East Haven) joined the April meeting. Paul confirmed the time as 7:10pm – no corrections to the minutes were necessary. *Motion Approved*

Annual Meeting of the District – The Annual meeting of the District, which is usually held in April, was delayed until the May meeting. It was moved and 2nd to hold the monthly meetings of the NEKWMD Board of Supervisors on the 2nd Tuesday of every month in the Lyndon Public Safety building at 7pm. The Board acknowledged that meetings may still need to be held via Zoom until face-to-face meetings could resume. The motion passed.

Election of Officers:

The following individuals were nominated and approved as officers for 2020: Nick Rivers (Albany) – Chair; Walter McNeil (Danville) – Vice Chair; Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, & Maidstone) – Treasurer; Gene Perkins (Ryegate) – Clerk; Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock) – member-at-large; Steve Barrup (Newport Center) – member-at-large; and Joe Noble (Holland) – member-at-large. The officers will serve as the Executive Committee.

Compost Grant - Paul explained some of the details surrounding the compost grant awarded the District by the Agency of Natural Resources. The intent is to increase the capacity to divert food scraps and organics from commercial entities. While the grant can be used throughout the Northeast Kingdom, there is a clear need to expand capacity in Orleans County. Several supervisors mentioned possibilities for sites and requested that Paul provide them with the siting criteria so they could approach some of the potential candidates. Ideally, the grant funding would be used to fund a project or projects on public land with a private operator. We might be able to enter into a long-term contract with a private entity to use private property, but this situation would not be ideal.

Updates: Financial- Paul provided the Board with an overview of our financial situation. It's still too early to tell the impact of the pandemic on surcharge revenues, but so far surcharge revenues have not varied greatly from previous years. While expenses exceeded revenues by approximately \$16,750 for the month of April, April was a difficult month for us because of 3 pay periods occurring in one month. Virtually all of the April deficit can be attributed to the 3rd payroll.

Operational- Paul provided the Board with updates regarding facilities throughout the District and directed all to our website for the most up-to-date information regarding changes in facility hours and acceptable materials. As of the date of the meeting, only 3 facilities have remained closed or continue to limit their hours of operation – Albany, Newport Center, Wheelock, and Westmore. Newport Center and Wheelock are due to reopen the weekend of May 16, 2020. Albany and Westmore are open, but their hours remain reduced. Paul agreed to send Board members a link to a video produced by the Northeast Resources Recovery Association (NRRA), which features an epidemiologist explaining the low probability of transmitting the COVID-19 virus through contacted surfaces and recyclables.

Legislative Update - Testimony has occurred in the Senate Natural Resources Committee regarding delaying the organics ban, which is scheduled to take effect on July, 1, 2020; and granting the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources the ability to suspend recycling activities under certain circumstances. Pat Austin and Paul Tomasi continue to monitor and attend committee meetings when possible. It is unclear at this point, what, if any, action the legislature may take on these issues as hearings continue.

Other Business- Paul raised the possibility of meeting in person for the June meeting. Several other venues in Lyndonville were discussed as possibilities – venues that could accommodate a large group while maintaining social distancing. Paul will look into these possible venues and asked Board members to provide individual feedback prior to the next scheduled meeting. Meeting in person may also depend on when Vermont's State of Emergency is officially lifted.

Note: Although it was intended to have a full audio recording of this meeting, I did not convert the file immediately following the meeting and could not find the recording afterwards. This situation shall be corrected for any future meetings held via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn @ ~7:20pm
Respectfully submitted, Paul Tomasi