

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

**August 8, 2023**

**Meeting held in person and remotely via ZOOM and  
at the Lyndon Training Room, 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); Paulette Routhier (Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone); Lila Stevens (Brownington); RD Eno (Cabot & Marshfield); Robert Sandberg (Corinth); Walter McNeil Jr. (Danville); Irene Dagesse (Derby); Kirwin Flanders (East Haven); Ken Johnston (Greensboro); Dustin Sanville (Irasburg); Steve Gray (Lyndon); Jan Clausung (Newark); John Narowski (Newbury); Steve Barrup (Newport Town); Gene Perkins (Ryegate); Jack Smith (Sheffield & Wheelock); Emily Cayer (Stannard); Elizabeth Hubbard (Sutton); Richard Stodola (Waterford); and Miriam Simonds (Westmore)

**Absent:** Barnet, Brighton, Brownington, Charleston, Concord, Granby, Guildhall, Holland, Jay, Kirby, Lunenburg, Morgan, Peacham, and Victory

**Staff present-** Paul Tomasi, Executive Director  
Corey Raynor, Outreach Coordinator

**Visitors** – Paul Hayes (Caledonian-Record) and Shannon Choquette (Minutes Clerk)

**Updates to the Agenda** – Lithium Battery Recycling Safety Kits for Call2Recycle, Introduction of Corey Raynor to Board of Supervisors

**Approval of Minutes** –Motion & 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023 as printed. Motion approved. Abstention by Cabot

**2022 Surplus** – 2022 ended with a surplus of \$5,604.53 Propose to use \$2,553.00 of surplus funds for upgrades to computer system to improve storage capabilities and provide offsite backup. Additionally, remaining 2022 surplus funds (roughly \$3,000) can be used to improve NEKWMD office driveway. Motion to approve to use 2022 surplus funds for IT updates, and to move remaining funds to capital improvement funds for purpose of driveway repairs.

Question: Why does the District not use funds from the IT line item on the 2023 budget?

Answer: Paul will review if current line item has been updated to reflect current budget.

Depending on amount remaining in IT budget, upgrades could be paid with 2023 budget and remaining surplus moved to Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion to approve moving 2022 surplus to capital improvement. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Discussion: There is a concern that Paul would not be able to use not able to use funds as District needs without Board approval. Paul stated this would not be a hindrance in utilizing the funds accordingly.

Motion and 2<sup>nd</sup> were withdrawn.

## Updates

**Personnel** – Corey Raymond is currently back only part time, not full time as of yet. Warehouse employees have been replaced. Currently, the District fully staffed. Paul may make additional staffing changes including adding additional part time employee. Budget is in good position to do this.

**Administrative Rules Update-** Executive committee reviewed administrative rules. Paul will edit as appropriate and get feedback from Executive Committee, and rules will be brought before the full board in October or November. Anyone who wishes to look at the copy provided by the League of VT Cities and Towns should request that from Paul.

**Compliance-** Paul participated at site visit at Bloom Farm July 19, 2023. No evidence that any composting activities were taking place near the road. Material near road and totes were removed, no odors detected. Some empty totes were onsite, and Bloom Farm stated they were still having issues with Lyndonville property. Otherwise no evidence of food waste on site. Bloom Farm states all material is being taken to certified facility in Lyndon. We are aware this is true, however we cannot determine if all of food waste is being sent there. Bloom Farm is still registered as hauler but do not have a registered facility. They are permitted to haul materials but not process at any location.

**Financial** – July expenses exceeded revenues by a small amount, year to date we are still operating in the black. Unsure how flood debris may impact District surcharge revenue. Cabot HHW was delivered to Middlesex, VT EPA HHW Flood Debris collection site.

Question: Who is paying for flood debris disposal.

Answer: For landfilled flood debris, towns are contracting with solid waste haulers (either private or state emergency contracted) to remove waste. Payments for flood debris disposal and any subsequent FEMA reimbursement must be undertaken by individual towns. Individual residents may also contract with haulers themselves. For flood debris HHW managed through emergency EPA collection program, towns bare no cost as the EPA covers 75%, and state pays remaining 25%.

Question: Why don't the revenues from tires match the expenses? Answer: There is generally a lag between receipts and when tires are removed from our site. These figures are typically pretty close at the end of the year. There are occasional instances of people dropping off tires without paying, but this is pretty rare.

**Grants** – District received approval from USDA Community Facilities Grant Program to purchase FoamCycle densifier. Town of Lyndon also provided funding through ARPA grant. District will release press releases as necessary. USDA reduced grant funding from proposed \$36,375 to \$36,000, leaving the District responsible for \$375.

Organics Grant – not many updates. Black Dirt Farm requested \$5,000. Eric Paris this far is only one to receive entire award requested. Roughly \$7,000 remaining in the grant funding.

Questions: How has/will the organics grant impact capacity in our region?

Answer: All facilities who applied for a grant were currently in operation. All grants were used to provide additional, not new, processing capacity.

Question: Do we currently need more capacity? What is compliance like for food scrap diversion? What's the big picture.

Answer: Compliance is spotty. Capacity is meeting demand. Far more material is out there that should be diverted. If all material was to be diverted, we may not have enough capacity.

**Other Business** – Call2Recycle Battery Safety Kits delivered to battery collection sites – State offered battery kits for battery safety, specificity for use in the event of a lithium-ion thermal runaway event. All facilities which accept batteries received this kit. Any facility receiving a damaged or defective lithium-ion battery should inform the District in weekly pick-up sheet.

Question: Should attendants be advised to leave the facility immediately and call the fire department in the event of a battery fire?

Answer: In any event where there is imminent danger, facility should be evacuated immediately, and attendant should alert fire department. However, even small lithium-ion batteries can also be punctured and cause a fire, and the kit adds an additional safety measure at battery collection sites.

In person meetings – Should the board resume in-person meetings? If so, how often? Annual in-person meeting proposed during summer, maybe twice a year. There is also the ability to use hybrid model. Proposal to use some of the surplus funds to improve zoom option. District can send out survey to see how often Supervisors wish to meet in person.

Motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved @ 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted, Shannon Choquette